

ADVICE FOR A NEW CHRISTIAN

Our hearts are filled with joy in a young lady's obedience to the gospel this past Tuesday evening. After a wonderful week of Bible camp, she decided to put her Lord on in baptism. It was my privilege to baptize her into Christ. Now that she is a Christian, what advice can be given to help her, as well as others, in her Christian walk?

Read the Bible every day. There is no substitute for it. This is the way you allow God to speak to you. Listening to the preacher or Bible class teachers, or reading devotional material is beneficial; but none of these things can take the place of your reading God's precious word for yourself. Set aside some time to read your Bible. Your schedule may vary over the next few years, but allot some time each day to read, maybe before you go to bed at night or when you first get up in the morning. Keep a pen and paper near; so, you can write down questions for further study or some of your thoughts. Maybe get a little notebook to record some of your thoughts, much like people do with diaries. Paul commanded the young man Timothy, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Tim. 2:15). The Psalmist wrote, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." (Psa. 119:9). The Bible will keep you from sin, but sin will keep you from the Bible. When you see yourself slipping, go back to the Bible.

Pray every day, several times a day. This is the way you talk to God. David wrote, "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice." (Psa. 55:17). Since the Jews' day began in the evening, David began his day with prayer. So, begin your day in the morning with prayer. You know, we sing a song, "Ere you left your room this morning, did you think to pray?" Some days we get off to bad starts because we neglect to begin them with prayer. Each morning thank God for another day to live and serve him. For the Christian, prayer should become as natural as breathing. Paul commanded, "Pray without ceasing." (I Thess. 5:17). That means keep on praying. Daniel prayed regularly three times a day. We read, "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and

gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." (Dan. 6:10). Jesus spent much time in prayer. So should we.

Be faithful in attending the services of the church. Some in Paul's day turned back to the ways of the world or to their former lives; so, he wrote, "Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? (Gal. 4:8-9) Again, to others he said, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Heb. 10:24-25).

Always set a good example. You have always been a good girl, but now that you are a Christian, your life should reflect Christ. Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 5:14-16). This includes your words and actions.

Be careful about your dress. You can dress pretty and still be appropriate. Paul wrote, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. (1 Tim. 2:9-10). We live in a sex-oriented world, but do not lower your standard of proper dress to keep up with the fashions of the day. They will come and go. If you have doubts about whether something is too tight, too low, too short or too bold, ask your dad or your grandpa. They know how boys and men think. Do not let your clothes or lack thereof be the cause of a boy's or man's evil thoughts. Jesus said, "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. (Matt. 5:28). A man must control his thoughts, but don't you give him reason to think wickedly. When others see you let them see a modest and pure young lady in Christ.

You have now made the greatest decision in your life; that is, becoming a Christian. If you follow the natural course of most, you will marry; and if God blesses your union, you will have

children. The second most important decision in your life is who shall you marry. I do not mean you have to know his name right now, but what kind of man do you want to marry? Though marriage is a few years away, it is important that you be thinking of the kind of husband you want and what kind of father you want for your children. May I advise you to go slow and search for a Christian. Will he be pure? Will you marry a man who has saved himself for you? Marry someone who can help you go to heaven and who will help you with the rearing of your children. Will he be a man who puts Christ first? Will he bring up the children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4)? Will he set a good example himself? Will he lead your home as God has directed?

Of course, in thinking of what kind of man you marry, do not forget the importance of your being the right kind of wife for him. Save yourself for that special man. You will never regret arriving at the marriage altar as a virgin. If you do and your future husband also is pure, there will be no need to worry about whether or not either one of you will give the other some terrible disease. Go into your marriage with no regrets of the past. Then you can wear your white wedding dress with honor.

One other thought for now. Always have a heart that can be touched with the gospel of Christ. Though David lived under the law of Moses, he is described as a man after God's own heart. What that expressions means completely, I may not know; but surely it must include the idea that David's heart never became hardened by sin. Did he sin at times? Oh, yes. But the truth convicted him of his sins, and he repented of his sins in deep sorrow. Read Psalm 51. Jesus said, "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." (Matt. 5:4). As a member of the family of God, you will sin, as we all do. Repent and asked God to forgive you as you turn away from the sin (I John 1:7-10; Acts 8:22). We do have an Advocate, one who will plead our case to our heavenly Father (I John 2:1-2).

May God bless you richly in your Christian walk and may we all meet on shores eternal where we bask in the sunlight of God's eternal love.

Ben F. Vick, Jr. from *The Informer*

BIRTHDAY

Chelsea Nelson, 07-23.

ILL

Sunday: Gary Cole; Louise Dodson. **Wednesday:** Gary Cole; Millie Robertson. Joe Tigner had knee replacement surgery at Olathe Medical Center on July 19. He is in Room 218-2. Kathleen Camp continues to recover from her foot surgery at her apartment.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

BAPTISM

We rejoice that Lauren Brown was baptized into Christ Sunday July 15, 2007 following our Sunday PM worship. We are thankful for her decision to obey the Gospel and pray for her a long and useful life of service in Christ.

OUT OF TOWN

Melissa Cole was in Missouri on a camping trip last weekend. Chris Edwards was in Chicago on business last weekend. The Parish family was away last week. The Carter's returned from their vacation last week.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDIES

Plan to attend each night of our **Family Bible Studies**, "*Neighbors for Jesus*" **July 23-27 at 7 PM** each evening. Jim O'Connor will teach the adult classes which will be broadcast live via **OABS.ORG**.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 38; Sunday PM, 33; Wednesday PM, 41.

Those To Serve

July 22, 2007

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas
SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
OPENING PRAYER John Carter
PRESIDE..... Gary Cole
ASSIST.....David Parish
ASSIST.....Allen Scott
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Dodson
CLOSING PRAYER.....Jeremy Keifer
LORD'S SUPPER..... Gary Cole

WEDNESDAY 25th

SONG LEADER.....Ted Thrasher
INVITATION George Thomas

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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