ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

We appreciate all of the compliments that we receive concerning our bulletin. Several have been heard recently that are very encouraging! The Spiritual Sword publication is also receiving many commendations. Brother Alan Highers continues his fine editorship of this publication. It goes into all of the United States, but it also goes into 97 foreign countries! These articles are used in many Bible classes, both in the local Bible school programs and in personal teaching of private classes. We highly commend this publication! It is only $8.00 per year. We do not know of anywhere $8.00 could better be spent. If you desire to subscribe, please call our office today.

A recent question has come to our attention concerning whether we will know others in Heaven. All we know about Heaven is what we read in the Bible. It is a wonderful thought that Heaven will be a joy to Christians in every way. There will not be anything that will tempt us to sin or cause us sorrow, pain, or death (Rev. 21:4). And we are assured that we will know Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Matt. 8:11). Since we will know these, we believe that we shall also know each other. It will not be by the outward appearances by which we have known each other here (I Cor. 15:50), but it will be by personality by which we are identified. We will not have the same relationships that we had on earth, such as being married, etc. (Matt. 22:23-33). What comforting thoughts the Bible gives for our understanding!
That Righteousness Exalteth a Nation?

This is not a “chimney corner” Scripture but is found in Proverbs 14:34. The full text reads, “Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people.” The word “exalteth” indicates continual action, meaning righteousness keeps on exalting a nation as long as it is practiced! The Psalmist said that all of God’s commandments are righteousness (Psa. 119:172). The apostle John said in the New Testament, “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous” (I Jn. 3:7). Those who obey the commandments of the Lord are righteousness, but those who disobey are unrighteous and sinful (I Jn. 3:4). God’s plan for making men righteous today is found in the Gospel (Rom. 1:16-17). The Gospel declares that man is made righteous before God by faith (Rom. 10:17), repentance (Lk. 13:3, 5; Acts 2:38), confession of the name of Christ (Rom. 10:9-10), and baptism into Christ for the remission of sins (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27). Man continues to be righteous, in harmony with the grace of God, by doing the works “which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:8-10), as he or she denies “ungodliness and worldly lusts” and lives “soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Tit. 2:11-12). Actually, only individuals can be Christians. But when men speak of a “Christian nation,” we understand they speak of a nation in which men seek to honor God and His Word. Can this be said of America today? Indeed, there are many faithful Christians in this great nation of ours, who strive to uphold the principles of righteousness. But there are many who are trying to tear our nation apart! It is enough to give great concern to thinking people! In 1962, prayer was banned in public schools. In 1963, one could no longer read the Bible in school. In 1980, the ten commandments were not even allowed to be displayed in the schools. These were all declared illegal, while the teaching of “safe sex,” passing out preventatives to teach protection instead of abstinence, were all declared legal! January 22, 1973, nine black-robed Supreme Court Justices brought in a law that has allowed legally over 57,000,000 abortions! Young girls can now have an abortion without parental permission but cannot take an aspirin in school without parental permission! These unrighteous acts will not exalt our nation!
According to *The New York Times* (Sept. 10, 2014), the simple equation is “more education equals increased income.” The National Center for Education Statistics asserts that formal education beyond high school is directly associated with higher median wages. “In 2013 median earnings for young adults with a bachelor’s degree were $48,500, compared with $23,900 for those without a high school credential.” Additionally, the report states that young adults who finish a four-year university program can expect to earn twice as much as those who do not graduate from high school (https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts).

Hoping that our young people are appropriately prepared to be productive and live comfortably, most parents in our church fellowship expect their children to continue their education after high school. This parental aspiration was obviously a priority in my own family. The opportunity for young adults to finish high school during the early 1900s was significantly different than the opportunities available today. Neither of my parents had the chance to complete high school as young adults. In fact, while I was in high school, I distinctly remember both of my parents completing their OED programs.

My parents were incredibly bright and highly focused. Even though our lifestyle could not be described as affluent, there was never a doubt that each of us seven children would attend college after high school graduation. We were taught how to work, to be fiscally responsible, and to strive to attain very specific goals. Within that context, there was no doubt that the teachings of the Bible would impact our thinking and our behavior. In our home, it was clearly understood that attending college meant attending a Christian college.

As was the case then, our young people today struggle with a host of decisions that have lifetime consequences. Parents and influential “others” have the opportunity and responsibility to serve as guides and coaches. Teens just beginning their high school years as well as those finishing their senior year need sound advice and direction.

As uncommon as it might seem, teens during the second semester of grade eight need to sit down with their parents to discuss being in high school. During that discussion they need to develop a written plan that addresses the question: “What do you intend to do the year after you graduate from high school?” Also, during the spring semester of their high school senior year, a similar question should be addressed: “What do you intend to do the year after you graduate from college?” I served as a high school principal for more than a dozen years, and during that time I encouraged parents to conduct these planning sessions with their children.

(To be continued next week.)

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via *Gospel Advocate*, May 2016