

July & August 2011

GLOW IN THE DARK™

Devotions For Teens

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven. Matthew 5:16



Glow in the Dark Authors

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Beautiful in His Time

Friday, July 1

Read

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Thought To Glow

A Chinese proverb says, "Puppy love leads to a dog's life."



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He hath made everything beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.
—Ecclesiastes 3:11

They were a good match for each other. They met on a youth activity. One thing led to another and, before you knew it, they were madly in love. Without their parents' blessing, they began sneaking around and doing things they later regretted. Many nights of tears the mom spilled on her pillow. Many times the Pastor and youth pastor wondered about them. Now, after several years, the two are not together and not friends. What looked right at the start became very ugly. Something that could have been is no more. We just need to learn that everything is beautiful in His time.

If we learn to wait on the Lord, we will learn that God will give the best to those who leave the choice to Him. In over twenty years of working with young people, it is so sad to see those who have great potential for the Lord waste it by rushing ahead of God's timetable. We want to graduate yesterday, get our license, and enjoy adult experiences before we are ready to handle them.

God has designed our lives so that if we stay faithful to Him, He will guide us in ways we cannot even imagine. Waiting on God does not mean sitting around doing nothing. It means staying busy in His service, reading His Word, living for others and allowing Him to direct the circumstances of our lives. It means that you are using this time to develop Godly character and self-discipline that will serve you for the rest of your life!

Let me encourage you not to just endure until you're older! God wants you to enjoy and benefit from where you are in life right now. Don't miss God's best for you today!

What Do You Regard? pt. 1

Saturday, July 2

Read

Proverbs 1:20-33

Thought To Glow

We ought to pay attention to the things we pay attention to.

A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent. —Proverbs 15:5

Reading through the Book of Proverbs the other day, I noticed a word repeated several times. The word was “regard.” It’s an interesting little word that means “to pay attention to; to carefully consider; to seriously think about.” In Proverbs, Solomon said there are at least four things young people should regard.

First, young people should regard correction. “A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent” (Prov. 15:5). Reproof is correction for wrong behavior. Nobody likes reproof, but we all need to pay attention when we are being corrected.

Second, young people should regard instruction. “Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured” (Prov. 13:18). To put it simply, instruction is training about what we should do and reproof is training about what we should not do. Both are necessary for young people to grow and mature.

Third, young people should regard discretion. “My son, attend unto my wisdom...that thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge” (Prov. 5:1-2). Discretion is the ability to determine right from wrong; and that ability can only be increased as we read, study and understand the Scriptures.

Finally, young people should regard compassion. “The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: but the wicked regardeth not to know it” (Prov. 29:7). Compassion is a desire to help those who are hurting. Paul made it clear that compassion is one of the greatest evidences of a truly Christ-like walk.

So, tell me, young person, “What do you regard?”



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What Do You Regard? pt. 2

Sunday, July 3

Read

Psalm 101:1-8

Thought To Glow

The old Devil is always coming up with new gods.

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me. —Psalm 66:18

The Bible also warns us that there are at least three things that we must be careful not to regard. That is, there are some things we should not be considering or even thinking about becoming involved in.

First, we are warned not to regard lying vanities. “I have hated them that regard lying vanities: but I trust in the LORD” (Ps. 31:6). “Lying vanities” in this passage refers to idols or false gods. Anything in our lives that takes the place of God, that takes our focus off of God, or takes the love due to God is an idol. Even good things can become idols if they become more important to us than our relationship with the Lord.

Second, we are warned not to regard the occult. “Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God” (Lev. 19:31). We must never become involved in any type of demonic activity. This would include any and all forms of witchcraft, astrology, or anything connected to the devil or the occult. Books, movies, and/or video games that encourage fantasies about ghosts, death, vampires, and any other type of bloodshed should never be considered as entertainment for the Christian teen.

Finally, we are warned not to regard iniquity. “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Ps. 66:18). That is, “If I have favorable thoughts about sin, if I love it, and allow myself to continue in it, God will not hear my prayer and I should not expect a favorable answer to it.” Simply put, if you are regarding sin, God is not regarding your prayers (Prov. 15:29).



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