

## **“Remember thy Creator in thy youth”**

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What is life? Each one of us pauses at this great question at some point in life. Often life is portrayed as a journey or a road. The phases to come are hidden from us; we cannot even know what tomorrow will bring. Life is a miracle, and its ultimate meaning should be examined through the Word of God.

Youth face many choices in life that will shape their future. Later on we may see how God has directed our decisions. He opens the road to us little by little, phase by phase. He has determined the times and boundaries of our actions (Acts 17:26). I have also noticed this, in decisions about my work and the places where to live. God has changed many of the good plans of my youth into even better plans and brought many new things to my journey that I would not have even known to pray for from Him. He has even permitted trials and disappointments.

The choices you face about the future may seem frightening and overwhelming. There are many unknowns ahead of you. The media pushes out a picture of a dangerous, uncertain world. It paints tomorrow black or at least in very gray tones. Nevertheless, the Word of God lifts and encourages the youth stepping into such a world. It gives the perspective of hope. Above all, it urges you to take refuge in the Redeemer's grace. The message of the gospel Word is an offer of a heavenly home, of life's final destination. Do you, dear young one, believe from your heart in this promise? God always stands by His promises, and He is faithful to those who love Him (Deut. 7:9).

“Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth!” (Eccles. 12:1) wrote King Solomon, to whom God had given greater wisdom than to others (1 Kings 3:12). Solomon knew that in order to preserve a good conscience, youth would have to fight a battle against the enemy of souls. There will be losses in this battle, for the enemy's power is the second greatest in the world. Only the grace of God can defeat it. Thus, our only possibility is to take refuge in the Savior's atoning work. He is the foundation of our faith. Remembering your Creator does not mean merely knowing of this grace but living dependent on it. It is a choice, and a gift. Solomon warns that rejecting this grace in your youth can estrange you permanently from God.

God has called His children to bring the joyful message of the gospel into mankind's midst. You, believing youth, have been given a precious duty. As you travel abroad, study, or go to work, natural opportunities will unfold for you to confess your faith. Be bold! Many sisters and brothers before you have carried forward the message of eternal life with their own God-given gifts. They have wished to light the fire of faith in the hearts of others. Confessing their faith has not made them any more blessed, but they have not wished to keep silent about the treasure they have found. The mouth is the interpreter of the heart.

The exhortation of Solomon also emboldens one who has lost the gift of faith to return again to the Father's home. God, through His children, still seeks the lost, to find and save them. This is what life is for.