

**INTRODUCTION: ANOTHER YEAR OF YOUTH PASSING...** (see Ps.90:10; Eccl.12:2f; Eph.5:16)

**I. DEFINITIONS: YOUTH**

- A. AGE OF HEALTH AND STRENGTH** (Eccl.12:2f)
- B. AGE OF PRODUCTIVITY** (2Kngs.9:4; Num.4:3f; 1Sam.25:5; see Num.8:24f (Tt.2:1f); 1Sam.9:11; 2Sam.14:21; 1Jn.2:13f)
- C. AGE OF ECONOMIC VALUE** (Lev.27:3)
- D. AGE PRIOR TO WISDOM** (Job 12:12; Prov.7:7; Eccl.12:2f; Mt.19:20; see Jn.8:57; see Num.8:26; Dt.21:19)

**II. EXAMPLES: YOUTH NOT WASTED BY THE YOUNG**

- A. JOSEPH** (Gen.37:2; chps.37-50)
- B. JOSHUA** (Num.11:28; Ex.33:11)
- C. SAMUEL** (1Sam.2:26)
- D. RUTH** (Ruth 4:12; see chps.1-4)
- E. DAVID** (1Sam.17:42f; see Psalms)
- F. ABIGAIL** (1Sam.25:3,33; see Prov.14:1; 31:1f)
- G. SOLOMON** (1Kngs.3:7f; see Prov., Eccl., Song)
- H. JEHOASH** (2Chr.24:1f)
- I. JOSIAH** (2Kngs.22:1f)
- J. DANIEL** (Dan.1:3f; see chps.1-6)
- K. MARY** (Lk.1:27f; 2:19,51)
- L. JOHN THE BAPTIST** (Lk.1:80)
- M. JESUS THE CHRIST** (Lk.2:40; 51,52 (Lk.1:80; 1Sam.2:26); see Heb.5:8f)
- N. JOHN THE APOSTLE** (Mt.10:2; 17:1; Jn.13:23; 19:26f; 20:2,8; 21:23; see 1Jn.2:13; 2Jn.1:4; 2Jn.1:4)
- O. SAUL THE PAUL** (Acts 7:58; see Gal.1:13f; Phil.3:4f; 1Tm.1:12f)
- P. TIMOTHY** (Acts 16:1f; see 1Cor.4:17; Phil.2:22; 1Tm.1:2; 4:12; 2Tm.1;2; 3:14f)

**III. LESSONS: DON'T WASTE YOUR YOUTH!** (see Eph.5:16)

- A. ENJOY LIFE!** (Eccl.11:9,10; 12:12; see 1Tm.4:1f)
- B. WORSHIP GOD & KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS!** (Eccl.12:13,14; Mt.6:33; 22:37,39; see Prv.14:12; 16:25; Lk.15:15f; Rom.6:23; Heb.3:13; see Ps.119:9 w/2Tm.3:14-17)
- C. DON'T BE FOOLISH!** (Mk.10:17f; 22; 29; see 8:35f)
- D. BE WISE!** (Prov.1:4,7,etc.; Eccl.1:4f; 11:9f; 12:1f; 2Tm.3:14f; see Job, Psalms, Song of Solomon; James)
- E. BE AWARE!** (Prov.4:1f; 16:16; Ps.19:10; Heb.5:8; 12:11f; see Col.2:23,3; 1Cor.1:30)
- F. WISDOM FOR THE YOUTHLESS** (Eccl.4:13; 1Pt.4:3f; 2Pt.2:20f; see 2Chr.33:1f, 11f)
- G. GOOD EXAMPLES & FAITHFUL TEACHERS** (Tt.2:1-8; see 2Tm.3:14; Heb.13:7)

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP**

*Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest interest to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be useful, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.*

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful or useful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What have you been thinking about as the old year passes and a new one begins? What things in your life need to change and how will you pursue these changes?
4. How are you spending, or have you spent, your youth?
5. Pick three examples from the outline (II.) that you find most inspiring or most helpful. Why did you pick them? How do you or will you endeavor to imitate them?
6. What three people now living do you consider examples worth following? Why? How do you or will you imitate their example?
7. Who imitates you or follows your example? What kind of an example are you providing? How can you improve it? If you are not leading anyone by your example, why do you think this is the case? How should you grow in order that you would be able to serve in this way?
8. How do enjoying life and obeying God fit together? How is this articulated in the answer to the first question in the *Shorter Catechism*?
9. What should you do if you did waste your youth?
10. What is your hope and comfort as your life so quickly passes by?