The Youth
And
Christianity
Vol. 2

By Fredrick G. Omondi

Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures quotations are taken from King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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INTRODUCTION

This is a sequel to the first volume where I dwelt on the true meaning of Christianity on the need for a youth to accept Jesus Christ in one's life and how tone need to relate with people including those in Authority. Also included was on Education and work for the youths.

In this volume I have dwelt on more other areas which were not in the first volume such as how the Youth need to shy away from activities that are not useful to them and which affect them negatively. Also included, are for those youths who have already come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, how they need to walk with the Lord and to serve the Lord, as well as giving examples of youths recorded in the Scriptures how they fared and lastly, what is the outcome in the end after coming to the Lord.

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CHAPTER 1

The Youth, Alcohol, drugs, the Occult, Pornography etc

Many youths love to dress in a fancy way and which appeals only to them and not God who created them. Now that kind of dressing is indecent and can only promote immorality. But there is a better option which pleases God as it is his pattern by one putting on Christ which is having on a spiritual dress. That can be realized when one repents of sins and puts one's faith and trust in Christ Jesus.

For that is a noble thing to do as it fashions one unto godliness as one partakes the nature of Christ and is able to dress holy and live holy by the power of God and being able to overcome temptations which come by the lust of the flesh and which include sexual sin as one has power to kill the fleshly lusts in life.

(a) Alcohol

Alcohol taking is sin as it affects very badly the life of one taking it and also enslaves the taker. Our bodies are not ours but belong to the owner - God and also is supposed to be his dwelling place by the

Holy Spirit. We are supposed to be under one Master God the Creator and we need not to be enslaved by things – alcohol being one of the many things we are not to be enslaved to. We are not to be slaves of any person as well.

All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

1 Corinthians 6:12

Many have taken alcohol and found themselves bound to it such that they have become useless (a liability) in the society and most so to their family members. Youths need to avoid this at all cost. Alcohol is equally detrimental to health.

Know you not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or obedience unto righteousness?

Romans 6:16

When you become an alcoholic you will be unable to work or to learn among other things. You must have heard of such people not able to provide to their family and even many such get fired from employment. We will go and find further what the Scripture say on the issue at hand.

WINE is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Proverbs 20:1

Alcoholic beverage will promise you pleasure but instead produce intoxication in your body by dulling your body senses. You lack wisdom when intoxicated by taking wine and that could explain the nonsense drunkards utter.

Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:

For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

Proverbs 23:20-21

You can hardly be rich if you are a drunkard because you spend what you already have on wine (alcohol) and also you are unable to work to create wealth.

Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!

Isaiah 5:11

We are supposed to wake up early to involve in useful activities for our lives not on unproductive activities. Please read further the following Scriptures for yourself: Isaiah 28:7, Hosea 4:11, Leviticus 10:9-10, Proverbs 23:29-35, Ephesians 5:18.

(b) Drugs

Narcotic drugs have the same effect as alcohol to the body and affect the mind of the taker, in a most harmful way and enslaves the taker so that one must take them to feel well 'high'–one is addicted. To come out of them just as alcohol is an uphill task and need divine intervention. Usually people find they are powerless to come out. Why should one attempt to go into a thing one can't come out from? Heroin, cocaine, marijuana are some of these drugs. Stay away from them. Cigarettes are equally harmful to one's health and lead to death, just as all others alcohol included.
Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and therefore need not be misused by the taking of illicit drugs that will later enslave you. (1 Corinthians 6:12, 20; 3:16-17).

All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.
For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 6:12, 20

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Many youths feel some hopelessness in life and want to be 'high' but don't know how and end up in resorting to narcotic drugs which only destroy their lives and leave them even more hopeless. But they can be high without those narcotic drugs if they surrender their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ and be high and zealous in God for God in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-13, Ephesians 5:18-21).

(c) Music

We do have good gospel music that gives glory to God and inspire positively unto godliness to the spirit and soul of a person. Likewise, we do also have bad secular music which is the opposite. It brings excitement or arousal to the body and impacts a person negatively as it can easily lead one to sinful thoughts. Such music also leads to immoral dances and immoral actions. Be wary of heavy metal music of any

kind as have Satanic influences. Avoid Rap music, Reggae music, Rock music. If you play or listen to such Satanic music you can attract demons to afflict you. Watch out for loud and heavy metal music they are more than meets the ear. Even the so called, Christian Rap, Christian Rock, Satan has cleverly baptized rock music as 'Christian' and many Christians have fallen for it especially among the youth – don't be fooled.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

1 Peter 5:8

(d) Fashion

This is another area where the enemy has trapped millions and millions of people. What many have not known is that the fashion industry is controlled by Satan. Fashion designers are influenced by him. He is the one that brings to them those ideas although they may thing that they creative enough by themselves. Don't be a fashion conscious - youth, as you will make your parents have

unnecessary expenditure in their budget and also you badly expose yourself if a girl for instance, to such cases as rape in addition to having many sin through lust, because you have exposed your different sensitive parts of your body to the public. Imagine the big number of men and boys you are in their midst in the streets and social places who may sin by your acts. You too will be punished by God, don't fool yourself, you can't escape. If you dressed modestly well, it is most unlikely to have the opposite sex lust at you. The male youths also stop walking in long trousers hanging down exposing their waist or tight long trousers exposing their part bulging out. Equally the female youths should never put on both long and short trousers be they tight or not. Not to dress on transparent clothing too. Dress decently and modestly to please God, as some dress indecently to please and attract others.

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath commited adultery with her already in his heart.

Matthew 5:27-28

By dressing indecently that is how someone may fall into sin just by bad thoughts on you. Likewise, if a woman looks at a man to lust after him she has already committed adultery with him in her heart.

The woman shall not wear that which pertained unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Deuteronomy 22:5

Women are guiltier in the scripture above as men hardly put on women's dressing.

In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shame-facedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;
But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

1 Timothy 2:9-10

By refusing to heed to the above advice in the scripture and dressing in excesses immodestly, one is not showing godliness and does not do good works before God and is guilty for the wrong doing and God will surely punish such a one.

I have met many ladies who give excuses on the above scriptures arguing on this or that, but the Scriptures cannot be broken, in fact they abide forever.

Who are you to argue with the creator? If Job was not sleeping, I would have advised you to consult him, but he is resting now. Take time and read Job Chapter 38 and 39 and see for yourself that to challenge the word of God is equal to entering very dangerous grounds.

Be sober and ask yourself on dressing; if truly you don't want to walk naked and is putting on clothes, why should you still put on clothes that still leave your body parts exposed to people? By putting on clothes with open slits or too short showing your thighs, breasts and so on? It is easier if you walked naked altogether. These clothes exposing such parts have been designed so, to make many

sin by the lust of the eye. The enemy has released the spirit of lust to easily involve people in the sin.

The male youths should not pierce their ears and put on earrings as a female.

The male youths should not make their hair as females by blow-drying or curling them. They should not put on a hat with the cap facing backwards instead of forwards (normally people don't walk backwards in the reverse but walk forwards) the enemy is a liar and has a hidden agenda on the youths.

All these pervert actions are an abomination to the Lord God and he detests. Come out of the foolishness, it is quite silly to do such acts.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is ever fashionable and therefore as a youth you need to put on Christ and emulate him daily (Romans 13:12-14).

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us put on the armor of light.

Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Romans 13:12-14

Muslims dress better than some Christians (especially the female Muslims) and which is acceptable before God as God hates any form of nakedness (Exodus 20:26) as he Himself is always covered with glory whenever he appears as is recorded in the Scripture.

And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD,
So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

1 Kings 8:10-11

And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet thereat:
When they went into the tent of the congregation, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as the LORD commanded Moses.

And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.
Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

Exodus 40:31-34

And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered the tabernacle, namely, the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning.
So it was always: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night.

Numbers 9:15-16

From the above scriptures you can see that the presence of God is always covered with glory and God is totally covered therein. God expects those that are His to be properly covered in their dressing as well. You can see that God made coats of skins and clothed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to cover their nakedness. (Genesis 3:7, 21)

I have witnessed some Christian ladies who are dressed in long trousers and when I ask them why? as it is against God's command (Deuteronomy 22:5) they give such excuses as 'when we go to work in the field, it is better to be in a long trouser', 'when it is cold, it is okay for me to be in a long trouser because of the cold yet others say that dressing in long trousers is part of official dressing code for the ladies at place of work. Now when I look at all these excuses I find them quite wanting. God in his own wisdom so it fit to give the dressing command to both the males and the females alike and as a just God, a righteous God, he is not going to change that rule to suit anybody but will judge those who are disobedient. Now look further at these other scriptures:

IN the year that king Uz-zi'-ah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple;
Above it stood the Ser'-a-phim: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

And one cried to another, and said, Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Isaiah 6:1-3

In the above scripture it says that Isaiah saw the Lord sitting upon a throne and his train filled the temple. The angels (Seraphims) had six wings each using only two for flying and the rest to cover their feet as well as their face God and his angels are all covered. Now if I may ask, why do we find a lot of uncovering in our dressing in the society? Definitely it is not from God (such acts) but from the Devil and our flesh. God hates nakedness.

Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Revelation 16:15

Despite all these scriptures people continue to walk naked and their shame exposed because of how they put on their garments leaving many parts of their bodies naked (uncovered).

1 John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Per'-ga-mos, and unto Thy'-a-ti'-ra, and unto Sar'-dis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto La-od-i-ce'-a.

And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candle sticks;

And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the **Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot,** and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Revelation 1:9-13

You can see that apostle John saw the Lord Jesus Christ clothed with a garment down to the foot. For sure you and I must put on well in a holy way. Let us not dress in a way that speaks unholy, unholy, unholy, as it is a shame before

God and before people. If truly you are saved and have Christ in you, you must dress very properly- you must dress in a holy way and that is not debatable or negotiable. You must be as your Father in complete holiness (1 Peter 1:13-16).

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance.
But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;
Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

1 Peter 1:13-16

You can see for yourself in the above scripture that a Christian has to be holy in all manner of conduct and that includes dressing which is an act - (actually an act of the heart). If you are truly pure in heart you will dress in a holy way. By dressing differently you are disobedient to God and is as a spoilt child and have fashioned yourself to the

former lusts of the flesh (before you were saved) - it is like you have walked out of salvation which is but apostasy (a very bad thing indeed) and you are destined to hell if you do not quickly change. Get to know that righteousness leads to life and righteousness is living a righteous life full of righteous deeds including of course your righteous/justified dressing. If you refuse to sober up as the scripture says you will not receive the grace of God at the revelation of Jesus Christ (at the rapture of Christ's holy Church) be sure of that as that is the plain truth. Why not obey your heavenly Father? Muslims are a challenge to you (Jeremiah 35:12-14).

Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah, saying,
Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Go and tell the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will ye not receive instruction to hearken to my words? saith the LORD.
The words of Jon'-a-dab the son of Re'-chab, that he commanded his sons not to drink wine, are performed; for unto this day they drink none, but obey their father's

commandment: notwithstanding I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye hearkened not unto me.

Jeremiah 35:12-14

When the Lord God was sending the prophet Jeremiah to his children the Israelites he was quite bitter. The Rechabites were obedient and followed to the letter what their father Jonadab taught them but here the Israelites cannot obey the commandment of Jehovah - Eloheeka, the Lord their God, Jehovah Elohim, the Eternal Creator. A very sad thing indeed because the Rechabites obeyed their earthly father but here the Israelites have disobeyed not their earthly father but their heavenly Father Jehovah Elyon, the Lord Most High! The Muslims who are not worshipping the true God are obeying the teachings of their forefathers to date and dress better than Christians. Christians have put Christ Jesus who died for them on the cross to public shame and surely will not go unpunished.

You can read further about your faith in the Lord and what the Lord is saying regarding obedience to his word in the epistle of Apostle Paul to the church at Rome (Romans 2:17-24)

Please also take note that not all Christians dress badly but just some who have accepted modernism in their lifestyle and have disgraced the name of the Lord. Congratulations to all those that truly fear the Lord and dress very well not leaving their bodies exposed to the public. If you are such a youth, I say well done my daughter.

(e) Sports

Satan has used sports to lead the youth astray a good example is football where he has led the youth and even adults in hooliganism. Still another is in the Martial arts – Judo and karate. Those who developed them are not using the power of God in their feats. The supernatural power used by those involved in judo and karate are demonic in origin - you can hear their cries which are loud, are not directed to God for them to bring destruction but to Satan to release demonic power to do what they want to do in their self defense against their to be opponents. Never go to watch such or join a member of such clubs.

Football game involves competition and a team may try all means to see that they win the team they are competing with, including to involve in witchcraft. And at this

juncture let me share my experience that happened when I was still unsaved. At one time in our village as youths, we decided to form a football team. Then at one time we were invited by our neighbours, not very far away from our village. It was being said that there was a famous witch doctor in that village. The day of the event reached and we set off. In the field, our neighbours seemed to be better than us and worse still, most of us got injuries at least three of us I included. I had a serious sprain on my left hand when I fell down at one time and it was so twisted and was painful and kept on swelling, I thought it was a fracture of the bone. I immediately rushed to a District Hospital where I was x-rayed on the hand and later had my hand all plastered. When I went home and later enquired about the outcome of that football game I got more shocking news and on top of it all, our village team was badly defeated.

Physical exercises is necessary for a youth and time should be taken in such activities but it should not be too much yet not too little. All in all, spiritual exercises is more profitable as has been explained below.

For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that new is, and of which is to come.

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those that believe.

1 Timothy 4:8-10

f). Pornography

The enemy has extensively used pornography in different media and has trapped hundreds of millions in the world's populace. Pornography and the occult are the key tools Satan has used successfully to make people have immoral thoughts and involve in immoral acts worldwide. Frankly speaking, there is no other area he has used as these two in order to prominence. The media Satan has used includes: T.V. and Radio, Movies, Videos, Magazines, Books and Advertisements on Billboards etc. What happens in pornography naked or semi-nude people are described or shown, as well as sexual acts, in order to make the views excited. The end result is usually negative and never

positive. Satan is literally defiling men, women, the youth and children by this dirt? I advise the reader to stop reading any book, magazine the contents which are pornographic or criminal in nature. Also switch off your T.V. or Radio when they start engaging in showing or airing pornography or crime. If you don't you are consuming all rubbish from rubbish pit and surely you must be affected, you have allowed sickness in your precious spirit and soul which medical doctors can't treat.

All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.
Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.
And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.
Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ, and make them the members of a harlot? God forbid.
What? Know ye not that he which is joined to a harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

I know youths as you are, are known to like to involve in arguments over issues and often wrongly. Don't start saying that you have not gone and slept with a youth of the opposite sex or tried with a youth of the same sex, whereas you have watched at least some immoral act on the T.V Set, magazine, book or movie to your satisfaction. Here it is not physically doing but spiritually doing in your mind and heart. (1 Corinthians 6:9, Romans 1:21-24, Leviticus 20:13, Matthew 5:28).

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

1 Corinthians 6:9

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.
Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,
And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.
Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves.

Romans 1:21-24

From the above scripture we need be aware that by looking at immoral acts and indecent dressing we are inclined to become vain in our imaginations and own hearts can be darkened. Therefore we need to be cautious.

Word of advice from the Lord for the youth (2 Corinthians 7:1)

HAVING therefore these promises dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2 Corinthians 7:1

God has promised us (including the youth) eternal life in his kingdom and much more there and therefore it is absolutely necessary that we cleanse our spirits as youths by not allowing ourselves in indulging in any pornography even the short advertisements, be it for some seconds or minutes, and also to be careful how one looks at any member of the opposite sex.

As a youth you must control your mind by avoiding entertaining your eyes or ears on things that are not right or praiseworthy. (Philippians 4:8, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Ephesians 5:3-5, Colossians 3:1-3, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8).

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever

things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue , and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Philippians 4:8

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh.

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

For this ye know, that no whore monger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Ephesians 5:3-5

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.
Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:1-3

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:
That every one of you should know how to posses his vessel in sanctification and honor;
Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:
That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.
For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.
He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

The Lord Jesus Christ is ever shining in this dark world and is the perfect choice to follow in life if one is to be in fashion, real fashion indeed. (John 8:12, 1John 1:5)

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 8:12

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5

The world is full of darkness caused by evils of mankind and except one accepts Christ Jesus as one's Lord and Savior, one will continue to live in darkness as there is no light in one's life. Only in Jesus Christ we have light and life as well (1 John 5:11-12)

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

1 John 5:11-12

Surely as a youth you cannot afford to remain in darkness any more but to repent and believe the Lord Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior so as to have His light and eternal life in your life and to shine for Jesus in this dark world for the glory of the Father who art in heaven.

In a nutshell Pornography is sexual immorality and it is sin. This time with advanced technology in various fields including the information technology, Pornography has been raised to a higher level and many people especially the Youth who have access to mobile phones that are internet enabled or who own a computer or even who don't, all can access the internet and end in such websites with Pornographic or criminal programmes and end up messing their lives. Pornography ignite an evil process in one's mind and body which eventually lead one to such acts as Masturbation, Fornication, Adultery, Rape etc, etc. through lusting.

As a youth you can surely avoid all the misery brought about by involving in Pornography by just heeding the advice by the Lord Jesus Christ, which follows hereunder.

And **if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out,** and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Matthew 5:29-30

But don't pluck out your eye or cut your hand, but just don't use them to take and read pornography or switch on TV set and see pornographic programs - don't, don't and that is how you will have plucked out your eyes and cut off your hand. Amen.

(g) Cosmetics and perfumes.

The cosmetics industry has been known on some occasions to use harmful minerals or chemicals in producing their

products so watch out. Many have had skin ailments and complications from using some cosmetics. Cosmetics are merely substances one puts on one's face or body to make it more attractive and so on. Perfumes on the other side are liquids often made from flowers that one can put or spray on one's skin to make one smell nice. At this time let me share a few observations. There was a time I was shopping in a superstore and came across a perfume while passing a certain shelf that attracted my attention. On the tin of the perfume there was a picture of a cobra snake. I asked myself, "What does a snake to do the perfume?" This looks abnormal and queer. I had one conclusion; this particular perfume was dangerous to whoever was going to consume it on his/her body. At least one would have expected say a picture of some flowers or something else which looks nice and also this was a product made from flowers. Some may think this is powerful strong perfume, but to me it was harmful to human consumption as snakes are not friends of anybody and Satan at the Garden of Eden disguised himself in the form of a snake! Another point on perfumes. I had been to public mortuaries more than once and the smell in that atmosphere I usually found to be obnoxious. But

surprisingly one day a lady passed beside me and it seems she had applied a perfume on herself and the smell I got was exactly like the one I one day met with in a public mortuary and if not completely then 75-90 percent smell. I realized that a mortuary is a place for keeping dead bodies and the spirit of death - spirit of Satan is the one responsible for deaths and rightly it may be concluded that the perfume was demonic in nature and the lady was using it innocently unaware she is exposed to demonic attacks. Using high body hygiene by proper daily bathes one do not need perfume; otherwise it is used to cover bad body odor or to attract the opposite sex. That is why it is used in toilets and mortuary environments.

(h) Cults.

This is yet another aspect where one can go wrong by joining a wrong group. A cult is but a group of people who have extreme religious beliefs that are totally different from other religious establishments and who have deviated in belief and practice from the Holy Scripture. There are just too many cults in the world as a whole and the number keep on increasing. One needs to be on the look out and

should not join any religious looking group because of their number, the beauty and size of where they assemble or any other thing that looks appealing about them. Also don't look at their big contributions to the welfare of people. A cult member may quote a scripture to suit him or her in his or her beliefs but their teaching does not touch on the necessity of salvation by an individual. Find out to prove them, what they have to say about God, His Son Jesus Christ, man's nature and the source of their beliefs and their doctrines. Cultists are known to lure the unwary with promises if you will join them.

(i) The Occult

This is another very wide area where the enemy has led many astray and used them to perpetuate all sorts of evil things. This is such a wide spectrum and I will only mention some of them briefly here and there. Occultism has to do with happenings that cannot be explained in the natural and God has condemned in many scriptures as listed here under:

Deuteronomy 18:9-14, Exodus 7:11-12, 22:18, Leviticus 19:26, 31; 20:6, 27; I Chronicles 10:13-14, 2 Kings 21:5-6,

Isaiah 2:6, Jeremiah 27:9-10, Zechariah 10:2, Malachi 3:5, Galatians 5:19-20, Acts 8:9;16:16; 19:19, Revelation 21:8; 22:15. Involvement in occultist practices leads one to demonic subjection or oppression.

When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.
There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,
Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.
For all that do these things are as abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.
Thou shall be perfect with the LORD thy God.
For these nations, which thou shalt posses, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.

Deuteronomy 18:9-14

Then pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.
For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

Exodus 7: 11-12

Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.

Exodus 22:18

Ye shall not eat anything with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times.

Leviticus 19:26

Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 19:31

And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even

set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.
Sanctify yourselves therefore and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.
And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the LORD which sanctify you.

Leviticus 20:6-8

A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them

Leviticus 20:27

So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it;
And inquired not of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.

1 Chronicles 10:13-14

MA-NAS'-SEH was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Heph'-zi-bah.

And he did that was evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

For he built up again the high places which Hez'-e-ki-ah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Ba'-al, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served them.

And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said,

In Jerusalem will I put my name.

And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

2 Kings 21:1-6

O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east and are soothsayers like the Phil'-is'-tines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers.

Isaiah 2:5-6

Therefore hearken not ye to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, which speak unto you, saying, ye shall not serve the king of Babylon:

For they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from the land; and that I should drive you out, and ye should perish.

Jeremiah 27:9-10

ASK ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.

For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain:

therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because there was no shepherd.

Zechariah 10:1-2

And I will come near you to judgement; and will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:5

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery fornication, uncleanners, lasciviousness.
Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in the time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21

And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying. These men are the servants of the most High God, which show unto us the way of salvation.

And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.

And he came out the same hour.

Acts 16:16-18

And many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds.

Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

Acts 19: 18-19

But the fearful, and unbelieving and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Revelation 21:8

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the three of life and may enter in through the gates into the city.
For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Revelation 22:14-15

Those involved in occultism attempt to operate in the supernatural realm through powers other than God's. There are only two known powers. The power of God in the Holy Spirit and the power of Satan in the evil spirit. If one does not use the Holy Spirit, then one is left with only the evil spirit as the only other alternative.

(j) Tattoing

As a youth, never allow any form of tattoo to be placed on your skin however 'beautiful' it may look as it is sin against God. (Leviticus 19:28, Deuteronomy 14:1-2)

Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: 1 am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:28

YE are the children of the LORD your God: ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any boldness between your eyes for the dead.

For thou art a holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.

Deuteronomy 14:1-2

The above were pagan practices that God wanted His people to be away from in totality because they were a chosen and peculiar people. As it was with the Israelites then, it is so today with all Christians. Moreover, Satan had taken it a notch higher and is busy preparing the world for the anti-Christ's 7 years' rule by such activities as the

marking of products for easier identification, marking of domestic animals and marking of motor vehicles; the former for sale purposes on price and the latter two for tracing in case of a lose. But it has not ended there and apply to mankind on such items as Debit and Credit cards and so on and will very soon culminate into the number 666 - the number of the anti-Christ by having mankind each a mark or a tattoo on their wrist or forehead (an invisible bar code, only visible through infra red light). Those with this mark will have lost forever the opportunity to enter heaven and be with the Lord Jesus Christ forever. (Revelation 13:16-18).

And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads.
And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.
Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is six hundred threescore and six.

Revelation 13:16-18

(k) Witchcraft.

To involve in witchcraft is to become an enemy of God. It is to provoke God. It is a most dangerous thing and leads to a curse known as witchcraft curse. Witchcraft not only an enemy of God but also an enemy of the institutions of God - The family, the Church and the State (nation). Some of the effects obtained in witchcraft curse are:

1. It brings divisions and misunderstandings
2. It dries up joy, love, finances, health etc.
3. It brings rebellion in life to Authorities.
4. It brings misery in life as one becomes a stranger to God.
5. It removes God's authority (cover) over one's life.

Witchcraft is man made and not of God it is the works of man.

Witchcraft does not work alone but has associates to make it powerful these are:

a. Sorcery
b. Magic
c. Divination

a. Sorcery

Witchcraft in sorcery involves placing of things (sorceries) in a house, office, car, body and so on. Those practicing it are known as sorcerers or witch doctors.

b. Magic

Witchcraft in magic involves false fire -false miracles using false anointing to attract people and to capture their souls. It is deception, example being the case of prayer for money to multiply. Under this sub topic I want to say something further. Magicians are common in the city streets and also do visit schools and because the teachers are naive, they are allowed to perform their acts in the guise of entertainment at some fee. The gullible school administrator or teacher just accepts their request reasoning by themselves "the pupils need to least a change and have some fun apart from the classroom activities" and by so doing expose and spoil the pupils without any of them realizing what has happened.

c. Divination.

It involves people with familiar spirits unclean- spirits and is more common in women than in men. In this witchcraft one is told what is going to happen in one's life. Those practicing it are known as diviners. (1 Samuel 28, Acts 16)

Guardian spirits

This is a spirit in witchcraft and it is attached to person by a witchdoctor at the person's request for say protection. Satan attaches a spirit in the person. A guardian spirit can also be a spirit in witchcraft sent to a person by a witch or sorcerer for destruction, without the request, will or knowledge of the victim. The spirit is sent to hinder, block or frustrate a person, sometimes this can lead to death of that person (victim)

When such unclean spirits are sent to a person they are attached to unclean beings like snake, rat, lizard, bird, frog, millipedes, flies, or cockroaches. A guardian spirit can also be a spirit sent to monitor you or watch over your life for protection, prosperity or destruction. Witchcraft guardian

spirits appear inform of evil birds, animals, reptiles, and mystical people.

Animals used in witchcraft.

Unclean beings are used to express witchcraft e.g. crawling beings, reptiles, insects, birds four legged animals, phamton, (mystical) figures e.g. mermaids. Phamton figures are people appearing in the form of a spirit at night. House pets etc are also used like cats, dogs, goats, rabbits, and pigs- when these appear restless or noisy it depicts that they are demon possessed. Demons may manipulate a person in dreams or in sin. Renounce and rebuke negative dreams etc immediately.

Birds used in witchcraft

Owl, parrot, chicken.

Inspects used in witchcraft

Cockroaches, flies, mosquitoes, butterflies.

Plants used in witchcraft

China tea (tea treasure), ‘Mwarobaini’ - 40 cures, gift plants.

Crawling beings in witchcraft (reptiles)

Snakes, cockroaches, tortoises, lizards.

Guard against sacrifices.

Majority of accidents occur at black spots - places used as shrines where sacrificial activities for the devil were done; but not yet broken in the name of Jesus Christ.

Watch out on anything given as a gift and specifically told that you must place it at such or such a place - it could be witchcraft – sorcery to ruin you etc. All good gifts comes from the Lord (James 1:17).

If you are given a ministry by God, be in a local church under a pastor otherwise if outside the Church - not under an authority, Satan will destroy you (Psalm 91)

Joshua was under Moses

Elisha was under Elijah

Timothy was under Paul

The 12 disciples of Jesus Christ were under Christ.

Wait under the authority over you until you are advised you can be on your own (now mature enough)

Why people involve in witchcraft

1. Fear – afraid of things: Numbers 22
2. Frustration – Are cornered: 1 Samuel 28
3. Anxiety – curious to know what will happen: Acts 16
4. Power – want power: Isaiah 14:13
5. Wealth – seeking wealth (mermaids "majini")
6. Ignorance – foolishness
7. Problems – marital, financial and so on.

Revelation

Person dealing with witchcraft and Satan – "The prince of darkness", hence pray for people at night, use candles – little light to conceal their acts. Christ is the light. Christians should watch and ask themselves only solutions to their problems – which, where is the source of solution coming from? Is it from a right source?

Watch on: Children's toys, handicrafts, embroidery on clothes, pictures of naked people, children's cartoons in the TV screens, wild animals and other bad creatures on wall calendars or T-shirts and so on. Avoid amulets for protection, love portions in marriage.

(l) Discos

Discos are not good for a youth to attend as what goes on there usually does not help a youth in any way as dancing to secular music is of no use and here are some of the reasons why they are not good for a youth.

- The dressing is wrong of those who attend as is immodest and immoral and therefore is unholy before God who is holy and who created you youth just as everybody else.
- The music there is wrong music as it is secular and the message in them is of the world and though the rhythm might be appealing to the Youth they are deceptive and the messages in most cases contain obscene language and this amounts to worldliness and which God hates as the scriptures say.

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

1 John 2:15-17

Why waste your time in what passes away instead of doing the will of God (in obeying what he says in the holy scriptures and have an opportunity to abide for ever (live eternally with God) after life on earth?

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

James 4:4

It is that serious to attend discos as you become the enemy of God in position two as Satan had already taken the first position and he is destined to go to hell (Matthew 25:41, 2

Peter 2:4-8, Revelation 20:1-10). I do hope you would not want to accompany the Devil (Satan) into the lake of fire and brimstone. The dancing in discos is wrong dancing sensual and ungodly and the body parts of those dancing (boys and girls) brush against each other hinting/suggesting an act lawful only in marriage (Don't be foolish- look at a magnet, the two opposite poles (North and South) attract each other- hence a male boy and a female girl can easily attract each other and which is quite dangerous as they are not married to each other.

- The above leads to lusts of the flesh which lead further to an immoral act called fornication which is sin before God and which corrupts the sex systems of the youth. What does the scriptures say on lusts of the flesh and fornication.

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

2 Timothy 2:22

You are supposed as a youth to flee youthful lusts which come about in such worthless activities like attending discos. Those are wrong associations.

Better attend a Christian Union fellowship when in School, College or University and if outside those Educational Institutions attend Church Christian fellowships if at night attend night vigil prayers as only those are useful for your spiritual well being. If you don't and remain unconverted to Jesus Christ you will not be in a position to avoid discos as are and in the flesh and righteous acts will be a vocabulary in your life.

All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 6:12-13, 19-20

As a youth your body is not for fornication as it glorifies not God. Your body, spirit and soul are God's not yours, mind you he created you and you did not create yourself (Ezekiel 18:4).

As a youth you are free to dance wherever you are at home or in the church but to dance for the Lord pleasing him as king David did (2 Samuel 6:11-18) but never dance to please men or to fulfill the lust of the flesh as it is sinful. Herodiah's daughter danced like that to please men and it ended badly by John the Baptist being beheaded (Matthew 14:1-12). Wild and unholy dancing as in discos between the opposite sex do arouse the sexual organs and lead to sexual immorality hence don't give your body a chance to lead you to sin (Ephesians 4:27). A youth needs to live after the Spirit to be safe from sin (Romans 8:12-14). It means if you are not saved, be saved and have the spirit of God to enable you live right, being led by him and not the flesh (Romans 5:5-8).

Jesus Christ the Son of God bought your life at a price, a very high price by dying for you on the cross to save your life from Satan and sin, so accept Jesus into your life by faith repenting of your sins to him and he will save you and have the Holy Spirit come to dwell in you (as your body is a temple/a house) for God (Romans 3:23-25, 1 Timothy 1:15, Titus 2:11-14). God wants to use you to do good works which is only possible if you allow Christ to be your Lord and Savior personally as an individual. Let not Satan misuse your body with all unrighteousness.

- Apart from being a waste of time attending discos, many youths end up in quarrels and fights over a boy or over a girl that one had admired and that has led many to the grave prematurely (issues like one knifing another to death are common) from such fights.
- By accepting Jesus into your life, it will save you from such trouble and many others in life as you will not be a party to such orgy.

(m) Cinemas

Cinemas too are not a good lot for the youth as Satan has used them so much just as he has used discos to lead many youths to have their lives destroyed. Both discos and cinemas one pays to get in and participate in whatever goes on in their, yet they are not useful in life save in cinemas for a few truly Christian movies. Before I go further let me show you a scripture that shows that it is pointless in life save for the latter I have mentioned.

HO, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your labor for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live: and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

Isaiah 55:1-3

God has offered all people including the youth a free mercy to all that will come to Christ Jesus the water of life so that their souls can live into eternity and that is real good food for the soul. Why then do you waste your money in useless ventures like discos and cinemas? Those are food for the flesh (entertainment) and don't satisfy because dancing and seeing movies cannot drive away hunger from the body (stomach) or quench thirst in one's (the real man in you). If it were so, people would not be eating or drinking to be alive but just dancing and looking at movies.

Here now are just some of the reason cinemas are not useful but destructive to lives.

In cinemas people see a lot of crime, a lot of violence, a lot of immorality, a lot of fiction, a lot of jokes and the list goes on and on. Now all the above are but ungodly in all ways. What does the scripture say?

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

Genesis 6:5-7, 12, 13

There you are. God saw all the above and decided to destroy all the creatures on the earth man, beasts, fowls of the air and creeping things. Only Noah was not a party to all the corruption and violence and so on and God spared only him and his household. The extinction of those creatures had threatened was real and not jokes as God judged them and they all perished save for other creatures other than man, two of every sort to keep them alive (for continuity- procreation) who were to be with Noah and his household in the Ark when floods would come.

What cinemas has contributed to people is evil imaginations of the heart which God hated during Noah's time and still hates to date. Nightmare are also side effects of cinemas. At this juncture let me add Television sets in the homes as well as the modern cellphones that are internet enabled. The same Satan has used man to come up with wicked programs and applications which are destroying the youth more than other age groups and many end up in seeing pornography and making friendship with people they have never met, being violent and disobedient and disrespectful to parents, teachers and all other people in authority, as what they see and so on corrupt their minds and of course being wrong influence. It should be well known to them that what one sees or listens to impacts one negatively or positively, depending on the content they come into contact with. God is holy and wants man to be holy as well (Hebrews 12:14) as he created man in his image after his likeness (Genesis 1:26-27).

God hates idolatry and fornication, as well as other sexual sins and will judge such acts for sure (1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 10:1-8).

Crime and violence seen in cinema theatres can only tempt one to try to kill another and God forbids the shedding away of blood of any kind on another person.

And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.
And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?
And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.
And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;
When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

Genesis 4:8-12

Cain killed his brother Abel thereby shedding his blood just because of jealousy! Abel's sacrifice God accepted but Cain's God rejected and so Cain was not pleased with Abel

(verses 1 through to 7). Yet God commandment is that one need not kill another person.

Thou shalt not kill.

Deuteronomy 5:17

(n) 'Get rich quick schemes'

These are shortcut forms of earning money or acquiring wealth at some fee and come in various forms and are not based on the principles of God for living and therefore are sinful acts before God and need to be shunned as they encourage laziness which God disapproves as he only approves hard work in earning a living.

These days the above schemes it seems their number has increased in the mass media and in supermarkets inviting the public "to try their luck". The schemes bring unnecessary anxiety to the participant and one may become so upset, especially in a case where one has to bet financially some amount of money and it has been reported some have committed suicide in the process when they lost. The schemes are ungodly due to the above facts and in addition show lack of trust in God to provide to the participant, on the side of the participant.

God is not a God of probability or chance but a God of plan and certainty and his name is Jehovah – Jire, a God that provides and he is Jehovah – El-Shaddai, an all sufficient God. Therefore don't play poker with your life.

As a Christian, one need to live a life based in the light of the scriptures (the word of God), which is the truth and not on falsehood (false hopes), on such activities as in lottery and betting games. (Psalm 119: 105, 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We see that from the time of Adam the first man in the Garden of Eden to the present time, God intended mankind to work to earn a living and not just to idle around. It is only the period when the Israelites were journeying to the promised land did the Lord God provide them with manna and quails to eat and water to drink in the wilderness away from their homes and farms (Exodus 15:22-16:1-31). Therefore, one must work and by one's sweat be able to live. (Genesis 2:15; 3:19, 2Thessalonians 3:6-12).

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Genesis 2:15

Don’t idle, do something and maintain what you are doing, thereby earning a living thereof.

In the sweat of the face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Genesis 3:19

So, start working or else you will not eat bread. Bread is a product of working brother and sister. Idleness will never bring bread on the table.

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

Neither did we eat any man’s bread for nought; but wroth with labor and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an example unto you to follow us.

For even when we were with you, thus we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.
For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.
Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

What happened in the church at Thessalonica is still happening every where in the world with some "servants" getting collections after asking for it from the public in town/city streets or in public transport (buses) after sharing the word of God and justifying, saying they have served God and now need fare back to their homes and something to eat or drink. These are showing a bad example of true followers (believers) of Jesus Christ.
They must work (their own work) wherever they are to earn a living and not roam about here and there to earn a living in the guise of working for/serving God. Apostle Paul gave a living example of a Christian serving God. We should stop walking disorderly among the brethren. If you

follow these "servants" where they reside, you can be surprised they have not shared the word of God there as the scriptures says (Acts 1:8)

But ye shall receive power, after that they Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Sa-mar'-i-a, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:8

One has to start witnessing in Jerusalem (where they come from) before moving out to other areas. Some of these "'servants" even justify further their shameful act and try to give some Bible quotes. Yet, on the same note, there are others who take time from morning to evening going visiting homes and houses and sharing a word or two of God and getting hospitality and claiming they are serving the Lord and have not worked for themselves/their family wherever they have come from.

Apostle Paul served the most among the apostles and yet took time to work with his own hands to earn a living so as not to burden any man how about you and me? In my first book entitled. "The Christian walk" under the title

"service" I also did witness to some in buses when I was travelling on a long distance and I never asked for anything in return for sharing the word of God to the person seated next to me.

But when it comes to 'Get – rich - quick schemes' one does not work and is looking for an easier way out (short cut) to earn. In these cases one pays out a certain amount of money in betting expecting some miracle called "luck" doing an act one is not sure of and hence one is literally throwing away money. But money belongs to God and can hold you account (Haggai 2:8). Avoid participating in such schemes as by involving in such ventures one removes one's faith and trust from God to things which cannot save anyone and hence involving in idolatry and which is sin before God.

God hates wastefulness as evidenced by his son Jesus Christ in some instances (Luke 9:10-17, Mark 8:1-9). Stop wasting your money in such schemes.

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

Haggai 2:8

And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately unto a desert place belonging to the city called Beth-sa'-i-da.

And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.

And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place.

But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people.

For they were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, make them sit down by fifties in a company.

And they did so, and made them all sit down.

Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude.

And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.

Luke 9:10-17

In those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples unto him, and saith unto them,

I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat:

And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from for.

And his disciples answered him,

From whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness?

And he asked them, how many loaves have ye? And they said, seven.

And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave it his disciples to set before them; and they did set them before people.

And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before them.
So they did eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets.
And they that had eaten were about four thousand: and he sent them a way.

Mark 8:1-9

We have found that in both instance the Lord was instructing his disciples and must have done so after the meals were taken, so that nothing goes to waste (avoiding wastefulness). Unfortunately most of us have been very wasteful in a way here and there in life.
Before I come out the topic let me say that God cares for us and gives us what we lack and he is the same one that enables us to be wealthy as well as rich.
Therefore we need honor him with whatever we have rather than throwing away and also need to thank him. Jesus Christ became poor although he was rich so that we might become rich in him. (God the creator of heaven and earth is very rich) (Genesis 22:13-14,

Deuteronomy 8:18, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, Philippians4:19, Psalm 24:1)

And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.
And Abraham called the Name of that place Je-ho-vah - ji'-reh: as it is said to this day, in the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

Genesis 22:13-14

God is our provider in time of need.

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy father, as it is this day.

Deuteronomy 8:18

We don't necessarily get wealth as such by playing in a lottery game or in a betting game but by working hard with

our hands and God blessing the work. Those who happen to win a jackpot in some game may sooner or later find themselves poor, why? They had not worked for the money in the real sense in the first place.

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountiful.
Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: of God loveth a cheerful giver.
And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Verse 6 above have been misused/abused so much in churches and you find those advocating for it saying words such as “sow a seed and be blessed”, “sow a seed to get this”, “sow a seed to receive this”. If I am not wrong, these are the lot apostle Paul talked of in his epistle to the Philippian church and also warned in his epistle to Timothy

(Philippians 3:17-19, 1 Timothy 6:10) and I also have the Holy spirit as the apostle said to the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 7:40)

The people in churches have taken the verse (verse 6) out of context because they have refused to go further that people give (sow) as they have purposed in their heart and also not grudgingly or of necessity and that God is more interested in cheerful giving (sowing) - (verse 7) so the people have instead because of their lust have replaced this noble cause of God with coated sweet words to lure the congregation, ooh my God, what a folly!? Holiness and righteousness is the hall mark of true servants of God in whatever they do, okay. Tricks have never and will never work with the things of God because he is not mocked and those that sow in the flesh will definitely reap corruption and those that sow in the spirit will definitely reap incorruption (Romans 8:5-9, Galatians 5:16; 6:7).

Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for as example.

(for many walk of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:
Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

Philippians 3:17-19

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

1 Timothy 6:10

Don't be counted in the lot of false prophets, false pastors, or false teachers and so forth. Don't be a victim, repent now and come back to the faith by Jesus Christ before destruction comes your way. Why twist the word of the Lord? Some say (I believe is a lie), "God has told me there are ten people in this congregation that he wants to bless, God expects each to contribute ten thousand each to be blessed". This kind of talk looks like robbery without violence. God is a just God, a loving God and is not going to bless only ten people out of a crowd of hundred or

thousand people because of their offering, No, that is a lie of the devil from hell.

Some preachers seems even go to the pulpit very hungry to the extent food or drink become part and parcel of their summon, especially when about to end the sermon or when ending, saying such things as “let me end I know something is cooking in the kitchen,” or “Let me end time is over and the soup is going to get cold”. No wonder Jesus told those who were looking for him the other side of the sea that they work for spiritual and not physical food (John 6:22-27). Sincerely let us ask ourselves if we claim to be working for the Lord. “Are we working for food or for drink or for eternal life? Because, in this service we may be putting our priority upside down”.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

1 Peter 5:6-7

Yes, let us cast our cares to the Lord for he cares for us, rather than being anxious for anything or using tricks for material gain and so on.

(o) Astrology (star gazing)

Astrologers study the stars and their positions and movements with a belief that they influence the affairs of people and therefore tell people, this or that thing is likely to happen in their lives (sort of playing cards with the people's lives) Don't read or follow Horoscopes in the newspapers to guide you in your daily life. They have demonic influences. (Proverbs 14:12, 2 Corinthians 11:14-15, Daniel 2:1- 2)

Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee.

Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.

Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast labored, even thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander every one to his quarter; none shall save thee.

Isaiah 47:13-15

The scripture talk of the folly of depending on astrology and horoscopes (astrologers and stargazers) in life.
They are quite useless (undependable)

(p) Acupuncture

This is a method of treating pain and illness using some special thin needles that are pushed into the skin in particular parts of the body. This is actually a form of demonic healing.

(q) Yoga

This is a religion that teaches more on meditation and mental health and has demonic influence. People lie at a posture and so on. The list is long and I have to close here.

(r) Suicide

Committing suicide is an act that has affected mankind of all ages from the youth to the adult and it is sin. It comes through one's thought life after one has experienced bitterness, hatred, rejection, failure, bereavement, divorce, extreme poverty, illness and any such like bad incidences. An individual may start to think deeply over the issue and wrongly come to a conclusion that the relief can come about as a result of committing suicide (deliberately taking away one's life).

Just as many sins that individuals commit, the thoughts on committing them comes from an evil heart or more often as well from the devil. Never start to entertain evil thoughts as can easily lead you to evil acts. It is true and very real that because man fell into sin, mankind must reap the consequences and therefore mankind is held up in a vicious circle up to the point one repents of sin and surrenders life to Jesus Christ as one's Lord and savior asking God the creator of heaven and earth for forgiveness. (Deuteronomy 5:17, Mark 7:14-23, Matthew 16:21-23, Galatians 6:7, Romans 3:23; 5:12; 6:23)

Thou shalt not kill.

Deuteronomy 5:17

And when he had called all the people unto him, he said unto them, Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand:

There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.

If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

And when he was entered into the house from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable.

And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him;

Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?

And he said, that which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders

Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

All these evil things come from within and defile the man.

Mark 7:14-23

The above text has to do with the mind coming from the heart.

From that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.
Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.
But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offense unto me: for thou savorest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Matthew 16:21-23

The above text has to do with the mind and came from Satan. Jesus knew his disciple Peter and hearing what Peter was now telling him, which was outside God's plan (Jesus to die and to resurrect for the salvation of mankind), he

knew it was coming from someone else using Peter and addressed him accordingly.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Galatians 6:7

Yes, mankind is reaping what he sow. Man sinned and is reaping the consequences of sin in different forms and shades in life.

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 3:23

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered unto the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

Romans 5:12

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23

A sure ticket to hell is blasphemy and suicide. In blasphemy you cannot be forgiven for your sin and in suicide one die in sin. An example among many that committed suicide is Judas Iscariot (Matthew 27:3-5). Many people still commit suicide all over the world by different means but all boils down to sin. By committing suicide, you have given the enemy an easier Job on your life. You have died in sin and is going to be with him in eternal judgement in hell the lake of fire. It is a point of no return, sealed and destined to hell.

If one commits suicide one becomes an accursed thing (Deuteronomy 21:22-23) which cannot be allowed in heaven (Revelation 21:27) but is destined for everlasting punishment in hell just as is the case of Judas Iscariot and Satan who too brought sin (rebellion) in heaven which affected a third of the angels there. They all became sons of perdition as the Scripture record (John 17:11-12, Isaiah 14:12-15, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3).

Because sin entered the world, it brought all sorts of misery to mankind but we can overcome them. We need run to God for help and more so by repentance. Suicide is not a

short cut or a relief to problems. Frustrations and depressions are there but we must continue with life and not cut off life by suicide. It may be likened to falling from a frying pan into the fire itself, which is worse. Let us look at some scriptures.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

Suicide is a temptation, and a big one that one must overcome in life and God is faithful if only you are patient and also love your life, you will bear with whatever bad experience after all nothing is permanent in life.

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.

Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, is necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Apostle Paul was not going through a pleasant time at sometime and he had to ask the Lord, not once or twice but thrice. Have you been asking the Lord the issue disturbing you? Keep asking God he has answers to all our problems and as you can see from the above scripture, he answered Paul. The apostle did not contemplate committing suicide but persevered although it was not a bed of roses- it was not sweet or confortable. He accepted all, that came to him for Christ's sake.

It is better to be in Christ and enter into eternal life with him than run away from him because of difficulties and enter eternally on hell with Satan as your companion.

Committing suicide was never a solution to mankind in any situation whatsoever, never think to do it at all or God will judge you. In the epistle to the church at Galatia Apostle Paul told them that cursed is the man that is hanged on a tree (Galatians 3:13). A person who has committed suicide is likened to one who has taken away his or her life by hanging on a tree and therefore cursed. A curse is not a good thing but a bad thing and all bad things will never enter heaven but only the pure. (Revelation 21:22 – 27; 22:14, Matthew 5:8) - It follows therefore that you commit suicide and automatically miss heaven.

As a youth if you have a grudge with someone, or has been annoyed or frustrated by someone or you are depressed in life in one way or another, it is more advisable to take courage and approach some one known to you who is senior to you in age to share and get advice or counseling on how to handle the matter, than to decide to go and commit suicide which is the wrong approach altogether and

is both ungodly and demonic and can never solve anything in one's life.

You are free to approach those close to you as your parents, your pastor or your School teacher or College lecturer and such like.

r) Abortion

Abortion is yet another big social problem and have affected the youth and adults as well. This can be said to be a duplex sin (sin on top of sin). Especially so because it starts with the act of sexual sin (sin outside marriage) and because a pregnancy has occurred (which is not wanted as cannot be maintained the offspring which later translates to/leads to the second act of abortion.)

This second act is but a cover up of the first act. Sometimes the judgement is swift and the girl or woman involved die in this second act. Sometimes abortion is done by married couples who according to them see they cannot maintain an offspring (baby) from a pregnancy and decide to terminate it. Such may happen where the couples were not using family planning methods. The youth should not use any family planning method to satisfy the lust of their bodies, it

is still sin. Sex is only right and holy in marriage between a legal marriage. Everything has a time for it including marriage and sex. So as a youth don't sin against God. Direct your energies to other useful activities education, work, sports and most to God's work.

Thou shalt not kill.

Deuteronomy 5:17

There shall be nowhere of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel.

Deuteronomy 23:17

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not be deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind.

Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

For God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

As a youth continue to fear God by keeping his commandments for by it you will escape God's judgement in the end.

Going back to our subject matter, the foetus that comes as a result of a pregnancy is a living being as it grows up and is

but a human being at a development stage and in due course will be fully developed and ready for birth as a baby. Therefore a pregnancy should not be treated as a mere thing but as life. To terminate life is murder. Abortion should be allowed only on extremely special case where it is quite evident that the pregnancy is endangering the life of the mother and nothing can be done but termination is the only option left to save the life of the mother. This must be done by qualified medical doctors.

s) Sexualism

Unclean and unholy sex

The following is a list of unholy sex.

To begin with and in introducing the subject on sexualism, the scriptures in the Holy Bible is very clear: Sex is allowed only in marriage set up where a mature male and female have become legally married to each other. Normal age of an adult being from 18 years and above and the main objective is fro procreation as God had designed (Genesis 1?:26-28, 2:18-24, 9:1, 7). Now any other sex practised outside a marriage set up is unclean and unholy before God

the Creator of heaven and earth and all that is therein. It becomes perverse and abominable. As you are going to see below it include sex with relatives, with the same sex and with animals (other than humans) as well as forced sex.

1. Fornication - Deuteronomy 22:28-29, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, 9-20
2. Adultery - Leviticus 20:10, Deuteronomy 22:22, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Matthew 5:27-28)
3. Incest - Leviticus 20:11, 14, 17.19-21, Deuteronomy 22:30
4. Masturbation - Male playing with his sex organ for sex arousal
5. Homosexuality - Romans 1:21-27
6. Lesbianism - Romans 1:21-26
7. Sodomy - Leviticus 20:13
8. Rape - Deuteronomy 22:23-27
9. Bestiality - Leviticus 20:15-16

By involving in such practices one, corrupts and pollutes one's sex organ.

u) Peer pressure

Peer pressure is a big social problem and has seriously affected a majority of the youths in any society. This has happened to the youth who are in the same age group. To a large extent this need not be so as it is unnecessary burden headache to one's life and should be avoided because of many valid reasons. One need not want to be like the other person in the same age group because God had not intended it to be so, furthermore men and women are not robots. God in his wisdom created each individual in a unique way and also has different plan for each individual which is not the same in each. Therefore one need to take note of this from the onset and be oneself and not be an imitator.

As a youth don't bow down to this 'monster' who though may seem to be so real to you, is not at all for your own good, if you submit to it. Just appreciate God in the way he has created you and the talents he has given you instead of yearning for your contemporary's talents. God after creating you, goes further to guide you to see that what he had planned for you to come to pass and therefore is busy working for your welfare. What you are now is not what you will continue to be later. He has the blueprint of your

life, so don't panic when you see another youth seem to be better off than you in some area and begin to envy. Be patient in the Lord and walk righteously before him and people. The scripture also advise us to stop comparing ourselves with the others. Our best and perfect example to emulate is Jesus Christ, son of the most High God.

Rather than comparing ourselves with the others, let us compare if our life is like the life of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ and make every effort daily to be like him. It would be very healthy and wise on our part to do that. God who is our creator and we can only please him by inviting Jesus Christ into our life by repenting of our sins and calling on the name of the Lord for our salvation. Jesus Christ has all the attributes of God and he will enable us to live godly life. (Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 29:11, 2 Corinthians 10:12, Colossians 1:15, 19; 2:9-10)

For thou hast possessed my reigns: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

My substance was not hid from thee when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

Psalm 139:13-16

For I know the thoughts I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not evil, to give you an expected end.

Jeremiah 29:11

For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that command themselves: but they measuring themselves among themselves, are not wise.

2 Corinthians 10:12

Who is the image of the invincible God, the first-born of every creature.

Colossians 1:15

For it pleased the father that in him should all fullness dwell;

Colossians 1:19

For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the God head bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.

Colossians 2:9-10

When you look at mankind in general, you find that some are tall yet others are short, some are fat yet others are thin some have long hair yet others have short hair, some have dark skins yet others have light skins, yet in all these and other physical features, they don't lack - they are complete in God. Even so with two individuals who are twins or who have the same talents in them, you will still find one outdoing the other.

God created each, individual for a specific purpose in life for him or her to fulfill and therefore don't expect or yearn to be like someone else, no as you are you. Amen.

Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

And saith unto him, if thou be the son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Jesus said unto him, it is written again, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Matthew 4:5-7

If somebody approaches you with a "It is written", watch him or her very carefully and if the circumstance do not add up, you must counter him or her with "It is written again".

As a youth don't look for acceptance from people as that may lead to compromises in life and which is sinful before God. Rather than seeking the approval of men, Seek the approval of God. Read the following scriptures.

I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:1-2

Apostle Paul admonished believers in the church at Rome to live holy lives and to please God not conforming to the world (people) but to be transformed in their thinking God wise (Romans 12:1-2). Get to know that people are not perfect only God is perfect and (Jesus Christ) is our role model.

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:
Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.
But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.
As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men: for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

Galatians 1:6-10

Apostle Paul was addressing the church at Galatia (those that had received Christ) that they should not be listening and accepting any other preaching save the gospel of Christ which they received in faith and were saved and that they need not please any body but God who saved them.

He went further and told them that he himself (now a Christian) no longer please men but God and that if he did the contrary he would not be fit to be called the servant of Christ. You too as a youth once you have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ do make effort to please him as he is your Master and not men. As a youth get to know that you are accountable to God and not your peers (Ecclesiastes 11:9-10; 12:13-14, Romans 12:1-2).

Therefore it is advisable that you follow Christ Jesus who is our perfect example rather than boys and girls who can easily fall short of God's glory. If you do so focussing on Christ (Hebrews 12:1-2) it will be okay with you on the day

of judgment. Many youths are worried of many things in life which makes them to take wrong decisions in life. Yes, I do agree that you may need this or that now in every day living or would like this or that kind of life in future, but what does God say in the scriptures? Read these two for instance:

Therefore take no thought saying, what shall we eat? or what shall we drink? or wherewithal shall we be clothed?
(for after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.
But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Matthew 6:31-34

FRET not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.
Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.
Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Psalm 37:1-5

So don't worry how your peers are fairing well and you envy them and do any evil to be equal with them (fairing well as them) rather trust in the Lord doing what is good in his sight and committing things to him for he cares and will satisfy your desires as long as you are not against God's will (Hebrews 13:5-6, 1 Peter 5:6-7).

v) Idolatry

Idolatry is false worship - the worshipping of a false god which is an idol. God who is the Creator of heaven and earth is the true God and worshipping of anything else is forbidden as it is sin. By worshipping, it is not only limited

to bowing to only but also includes giving any body or anything the priority (that is, number one) in your life. Now before I go to the modern idolatry let me share a few scriptures that touch on idolatry.

AND God spake all these words, saying,
I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth, beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:
Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Exodus 20:1-5

YE shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 26:1

Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

Isaiah 44:6

I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Isaiah 42:8

Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

1 Corinthians 10:14

Little children, keep yourselves from idols. A'-men.

1 John 5:21

AND when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us, for as for this Moses, the man that

brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughter s, and bring them unto me.

And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.

And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said,

These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.

And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:

They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiff-necked people:

Now therefore let me alone that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.

Exodus 32:1-10

The above is a good example of idolatry by the children of Israel. They were being led by God through Moses his servant and because of their impatience with the servant of the Lord for not coming down quickly out of the mount where he was called by God, they went ahead and asked for a substitute leader a god (an idol) to lead them to the promised land!. They sacrificed to an idol and sat to eat and to drink and later rose up to play! Then God, who is a jealous God was filled with wrath and released Moses his servant to go down to them. If Moses had not interceded

for the children of Israel, God would have consumed them in his wrath.

Now God's ways are the best and moreover as the Almighty God, the first and the last and the only true God, he has all the answers to life's problems. Unfortunately now, after the invention of the computer, which the world has celebrated, many have substituted somehow the computer for God. Why and How? Many have over relied on the computer than on God and would spend most of their day glued to a computer and trying to do this and that and try to solve this and that. But, the computer is very much limited just as the inventor- man. But God is unlimited in every thing, and he says that his foolishness is wiser than men and his weakness is stronger than men. (1 Corinthians 1:25).

Currently, the computer is being used virtually in all sectors and professions and some people can trust the computer more than the word of God and even have little time for it and it is a real pity for such.

The ideas/programmes in the computer have been taken by mobile phone manufacturers and incorporated them there in such a way that you can perform various functions by a

mobile phone now than many years back. You can play games in a computer and can do the same in a mobile phone, same to calculating, texting, listening to music or getting news reports among many other functions, communication included. It is obvious the computer has been idolized, No wonder the Anti-Christ is going to use the same to rule the whole world during the Tribulation period. It is also obvious that as the children of Israel got corrupted as you read in the last scripture of Exodus 32:7-8, so during this computer and dot com era, many especially the youth have been badly corrupted and would eat or drink and at the same time busy with a mobile phone, sometimes laugh by oneself, some times are too busy chatting or twitting, some times have earphones plugged in and one keeps nodding one's head most probably listening to some music even in the streets which is busy with all sorts of traffic and one can be knocked by another or knock on someone it is just crazy!, crazy! The internet has become a data bank and people are so busy there even for wrong reasons a good example being Pornography among others and many are thereby defiled. The judgement day of the Lord is not far away and as he told Moses about the

children of Israel when they reverted to idolatry, if one is not careful, on the contents in the internet, one is likely to face God's wrath at that time- so be very cautious when using these 'wonderful gadgets'. Almost everything has its advantages and disadvantages so weigh these very carefully. Also don't think it is cute using them and those who don't use them or seldom use them are backward/old fashioned people. Real life and real fashion is to be in God and not necessarily in "things" so it is better to be more excited and joyful in God as he is the true joy. Get me right, I don't advocate the stopping of using these gadgets as I also use them, but use them with moderation and in the wisdom of God, for good purposes only, lest you regret it in the end, example, others lie over their mobile phones which is just being childish as all these are being recorded daily by the angels of God in heaven, Just as all other activities by each individual on earth.

In conclusion, all our efforts in life without God is nothing and time will tell it all and therefore we need not squander our time unnecessarily but often take our time with God for our eternity and not forget him at all in our endeavors. I do believe that will be good both for you and me.

Some have even crossed the road with heavy traffic having at the same time their ears plugged with ear-phones listening to music and yet others walk in a busy street pavement and talking over their mobile phones at the same time (I believe one can't do two things well at the same time) why? Because obviously one's attention and concentration is divided.

The use of earrings to some extent may be described as idolatry too, going by what the scripture say in the book of Exodus (Exodus 32:1-10) - the golden earrings of the children of Israel were used for making a golden calf by Moses' brother Aaron and was worshipped as a god and God's wrath waxed hot and he was about to kill them but Moses interceeded and the Lord God repented of what he had thought of doing against them (Exodus 32:11-14). Read further the following:

And the Lord said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I sware unto Abraham, Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it:

And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite:

Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiff-necked people: lest I consume thee in the way.

And when the people heard these tidings, they mourned: and no man did put on him his ornaments.

For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a stiff necked people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now put off thy ornaments from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee.

And the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by the mount Horeb.

Exodus 33:1 - 6

Please note in the above scripture what God told Moses about the children of Israel and their reaction. Surely they were stiff necked. After what they just did with their ornaments (jewelry earrings) – they were at it again having

them on their ears! And God had to tell Moses that they remove them.

Something else that touches not on youths only but even adults is the use of the rosary for prayers which can also be considered as Idolatry as well as the use of candles lighted before you or having a statue or picture of any being before you and you kneel down to pray, same to kneeling down before a cross and praying.

CHAPTER 2
The Youths in the Bible

The Holy Bible has records of many who were youths and the way they lived and so forth. Some have a record of good life others of a bad life. We are going to see several of them and you better take example of the good role models and apply the same in your life, as necessary.

In the chapter, I am going to give ten examples of the life of bad youths followed by other examples of ten good youths, as follows hereunder

1. Cain (Genesis 4:1-16, Jude 11)

Now Cain is an example of a bad youth. He became the first murderer after he killed his brother Abel in the wake of jealousy. When questioned by God after that act he answered God rudely and even complained to God when God punished him, that God had given him a great punishment and lastly he went out of the presence of God, Ooh, Ooh. Here we can see that because of the sin of his parents in the Garden of Eden, he inherited the Adamic

nature (sinful nature) which they acquired from Satan, after disobeying God. We therefore see in broad day light the character of Satan (a murderer) (John 8:44)

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

John 8:44

2. Sons of Eli (1 Samuel 2)

Here we find the contrast. These sons show a bad example of youths. They did not follow their father's footstep to be holy priests before the Lord and their lives were short lived. Hophni and Phinehas met their death. (1 Samuel 2: 12-17; 4: 1-11).

If only these sons behaved well before the Lord like the daughters of evangelist Philip, they would have served the Lord well in his temple and lived longer.

3. Rehoboam (1 Kings 12:8-14)

Rehoboam who was a young man took the advice of his contemporaries although he had got good counsel of the old men and decided to side with the young men, taking a foolish decision which somehow did not augur well for him. It has been said that experiences is the best teacher, but many a times we learn the hard way because of our folly. Experience to me, is both the best and the bitter teacher.

4. Esau (Genesis 27:41; 28:1,8-9, Genesis 25:27 – 34, Hebrews 12:16 – 17)

Esau also shows a bad example just as Cain. In verse 41 above if Jacob had not been advised by his mother to run away from his brother because of his anger, most likely Jacob would have been slain after the mourning period of their father was over.

5. Samson (Judges 14:1-7, 16:1-4)

This is a sad story of a young man; who had his priorities all wrong. God had sent him into the world with a mission, to deliver the Israelites from the Phil-is'-tines who they had been under as a punishment from God for their evil, for

forty years. Samson seems to have seen quickly women than his assignment given by God. King Solomon had to say in Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 that there is a time for everything, this includes marriage. He was in a hurry to marry. I hope the youth reading this book will be wiser and better off.

Samson fell in love with a woman by the name Delilah and if you read my first book 'The Christian Walk, names are important in life as they affect lives. The word Delil in Hebrew language means to suck up / draw out (bringing about some drought). Samson fell in love with a sucker who ended sucking out the Spirit of God out of him.

Then said Jesus to those Jews that believe on him, if ye continue in my word, then ye are my disciples indeed;
And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:31-32

The youth must know the truth and be set free save for a Cain who refused to be set free by the word of the Lord. (Genesis 4:5-8)

But unto Cain and his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.
And the LORD said unto Cain, why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen?
If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.
And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

Genesis 4:5-8

Whose despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.

Proverbs 13:13

Open rebuke is better than secret love.

Proverbs 27:5

HE, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

Proverbs 29:1

6. Absalom (2 Samuel 13, 15 & 16)

Here we also find a sad story of a youth who not only revolted against his father's rule but went further and slept with his father's concubines in public. He met his death in 2 Samuel 18.

7. Jeroboam (1 Kings 12: 20 – 13: 34).

Here is an example of a bad youth who led the people of Israel astray.

8. Manasseh (2 Kings 21).

He was another bad example of the youth who did evil before the Lord (2 Kings 21: 1-18).

9. Joash (2 Chronicles 24:1; 17-25).

Now this was an example of a good youth at first but later went astray. Verses 1-16; 17-24).

10. The Prodigal son (Luke 15:11-15)

The prodigal son is another example of a bad youth who for lack of wisdom messed up his life. Now we come to the examples of good youths.

1. Samuel (1Samuel 1:20-28; 3:1-21)

The case of Samuel is another good example for the youth today. Hannah her mother was wise, mind you she did not see the example of young Jesus going to a temple, but she purposed that if given a child, the child should be living at the temple of God. Thanks to all praying mothers, I give them a distinction pass for their effort on their families.

2. Joseph son of Jacob (Genesis 39:1-12)

Here we find another good example of a male youth. He defied the odds and refused to defile himself by not accepting the advances of his mistress, literally he ran for his life (James 4:7, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20)

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:7

Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

3. David (1 Samuel 17:12-22)

David the youngest son of Jesse is another good example of the youths in the Bible. From the scriptures we see him subjected to his parents. He is seen working by looking at his father's sheep and also obedient and doing an errand for his father.

4. Abel (Genesis 4:1-4)

We find another good example by a youth. He gave evidence of his faith in God by his obedience by giving an acceptable sacrifice to God.

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice that Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Hebrews 11:4

What do you do that pleases the Lord? What are your sacrifices, are they worthy? Do you do things by faith or by works of the flesh?

5. Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah and Daniel (Daniel 1-12)

The first three were the compatriots of Daniel who were forced into exile when Nebuchadnezzar descended upon Jehoiakim's King of Judah – The four children of Israel were selected by Ash'-pe-naz the master of his eunuchs as directed by the king. It is recorded that the king later communed with them and the four were found to be the best of them all. The names of the four were changed by the Babylonians in trying to change their loyalty and they gave them Babylonian education in trying in trying to change their thinking and wanted to give them a different

diet in trying to change their lifestyle. The four were found that they could work excellently. (Daniel 1). In chapter 2 we find that King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and he called the magicians and the astrologers, and the sorcerers and the Chaldeans to show him his dreams as the dream is gone from him, but he insisted he wanted to be told the dream and its interpretation. The king promised gifts and so on if they succeeded, otherwise they were to be punished if they didn't. All these servants of his failed miserably. At this juncture the King was angry and very furious and they were to be slain together with Daniel and the rest. Then Daniel having been told this went to his fellows (the other three) and they decided to pray to God to unravel the dreams and their interpretation to them, to be able to inform (show) the King. God revealed it in a vision at night to Daniel and he Daniel blessed the Lord. Later Daniel presented himself before the king and told him all and the king rewarded him greatly and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon. In Chapters 3 we see how the king made a golden image and commanded all to bow and worship it or else one will be cast into a fiery furnace. But

Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah refused to obey and were later cast into the fiery furnace but remained unscathed by God's presence in their midst and the King acknowledged their God and ordered them to come out of the furnace and promoted them. In Chapter 4 the king had another dream and Daniel again interpreted the dream and the dream came to pass in judgment of the king by God. (The punishment took 7 years) and when the years were over the king blessed, praised and honored the Lord and was restored in his kingdom. In Chapter 5 we find new king Belshazzar who made a great feast and used golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem and drank in them with the rest and a hand came forth and wrote some writings on the wall of the kings palace and here again Daniel was summoned. In chapter 6 people plotted against Daniel but the Lord delivered him out of the lions' den where he was thrown and the king decreed that all people to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. We are told that during the reign of the King Da-ri'-us and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian Daniel prospered. The rest of the chapters we see Daniel getting

visions from God, he prays to his people an end by giving prophecy of the end time.

We have seen that God used many youths and young men to serve him in various capacities and so forth in the Old Testament and we are going to see also just a few examples of those he used as well. The point is, God never changes and therefore he needs the youth and young men of today who are ready to serve him and who are going to take over from those he has called back home to rest like, Moses, Enoch, Elijah, Elisha, David and many others. God requires a Joshua to take over the place of Moses, Elisha to take the place of Elijah, Solomon to take over the place of Daniel and so on and so forth. Moreover, God wants them to work hand in hand with God's servants who are there in the world now as was the case of Joshua and Moses and a few others that we going to see in the New Testament.

6. Mark, Timothy and Titus.

In the New Testament we find these three young men who served the Lord. Mark whose other name was John, wrote the gospel of Mark out of the four gospels in the New Testament. John Mark is mentioned briefly in the book of

Acts Chapter 12 and in the epistle to the Colossian church in Chapter 4, also he is mentioned in the book of Acts Chapter 15.

And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

Now when Paul and his company loosed from Pa-phos, they came to Per'-ga in Pam-phyl'-i-a; and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do.

And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from Pam-phyl'-i-a, and went not with them to work.

Acts 12:12; 13:13; 15: 36-38

And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.

Acts 12:25

Ar-is-tar'-chus my fellow prisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: If he comes unto you, receive him)

Colossians 4:10

Concerning Titus he is mentioned in the epistle to the Galatian Church and also in the epistle to Titus.

THEN fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.
And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run or had run in vain.
But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek was compelled to be circumcised:

And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

Galatians 2:1-4

PAUL, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledging of the truth which is godliness;

In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our savior;

To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our savior,

For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

Titus 1:1-5

As for Timothy he is mentioned in an epistle to the Corinthian Church, an epistle to the Philippian Church, an epistle to the Colossian church, the book of Acts and epistles to Timothy.

THEN came he to Der'-be and Lys'-tra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess and believed; but his father was a Greek:
Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lys-tra and l-co'-ni-um.
Him Paul would have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.
And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.
And so were the churches established in the faith and increased in number daily.

Acts 16:1-5

Now if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do.
Let no man therefore despise him: but conduct him forth in peace, that he may come unto me: for I look for him with the brethren.

1 Corinthians 16:10-11

But I trust in the Lord Jesus Christ to send Timothy shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.
For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

Philippians 2:19-20

PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Co-los'-sae: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:1-2

PAUL, AND Sil-va'-nus, and Timothy, unto the church of the Thess-a-lo′ -ni-ans which is in God the father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2Thessalonians 1:1

PAUL, and Sil-va'-nus, and Timothy, unto the church of the Thess-a-lo-nians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:1-2

PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;
Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.
As I be sought thee to abide still in Eph'-e-sus, when I went into Mac-e-do'-ni-a, that thou mightiest charge some that they teach no other doctrine.

Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather that godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;

Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

1 Timothy 1:1-7

PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus.

To Timothy my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace, from God the father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of they tears, that I may be filled with joy;

When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother lo'-is, and thy mother Eu'-ni-ce; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

Timothy 1:1-7

It seems from the above scriptures that Timothy was the most trusted of the three and that he was most useful in ministry work to apostle Paul and Barnabas, the youths to take note and to emulate Timothy and many others we read in the Old Testament as Samuel and so forth. May the Lord God bless you and direct your steps as you re-dedicated your life to the Lord or those still outside Christ (not saved), as they take the decision to follow. Jesus Christ and live for him, by repenting of their sins and inviting Jesus Christ into their lives. Jesus Christ is about to come and coming for a holy Church only. Be saved, be holy and ready and stay safe, in and out of season.

7. The daughters of Philip (Acts 21).

Here also we find exemplary female youths who lived to please the Lord and served as vessels of honor. (Acts 21: 8-9).

And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Cae-sa-re'-a: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophecy.

Acts 21: 8-9

What a wonderful thing. I wish all households were like that. These daughters were fulfilling what the prophet Joel said in Jose 2:28. It all started at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) and now during this and-time period it is evident for those who have eyes to see (spiritually) (Haggai 2: 1-9).

8. Joshua (Exodus 33:11)

Joshua is yet another good example of a youth. Just as Jesus would be found in a temple same too was with Samuel and Joshua too was found in a tabernacle of God.

And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.

And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

Exodus 33:11

9. Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1-52, Lamentations 1-5)

Jeremiah was a young man who God called to the prophetic ministry to serve him. The fact that he was young is also confirmed by what he told God at his calling to the Ministry. (Jeremiah 1:4-10)

Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
Before, I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the
Womb I sanctified thee, and ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.
Then said I, Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak:
But the Lord said unto me, Say not, for I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak
Be not afraid of their faces; for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Some have considered Jeremiah as a "weeping prophet. (Jeremiah 9:1, 10; 15:10-11).

OH that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

For the mountains will I take up a weeping and wailing, and for the habitations of the wilderness a lamentation because they are burned up, so that none can pass through them: neither can men hear the voice of the cattle; both the fowl of the heavens and the beast are fled; they are gone.

Woe is me, my mother, that thou hast born me a man of strife and a man of contention to the whole earth. I have

neither lent on usury, nor men have lent to me on usury, yet every one of them doth curse me.
The LORD said, Verily it shall be well with the remnant; verily I will cause the enemy to entreat thee well in the time of evil and in the time of affliction.

Jeremiah 9:1, 10; 15: 10-11

It seems the prophet Jeremiah lived a single life as recorded in Jeremiah 16: 1-2.

THE word of the LORD came also unto me, saying,
Thou shalt not take thee a wife; neither shalt thou have sons or daughters in this place.

Jeremiah 16:1-2

This is what God told Jeremiah about His word.

Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.

Jeremiah5:14

God still calls for repentance from the people in the world now just as he told those of Jerusalem through the mouth of prophet Jeremiah.

Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk their in, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

Also I set watchman over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But ye said, We will not hearken.

Therefore hear, ye nations, and know O congregation, what is among them.

Hear O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened to my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.

To what purpose cometh there to me incense from She'-ba, and the sweet cane from a far country? your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet unto me.

Jeremiah 6:16-20

Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercessions to me: for I will not hear thee.

Jeremiah 7:16

How do you say, we are wise, and the law of the LORD, is with us? Lo, certainly in valid made he it; the pen of the scribes is in vain.

The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?

Therefore will I give their wives unto others, and their fields to them that shall inherit them: for everyone from the least even unto the greatest is given to covetousness, from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely?

For they have healed the heart of the daughter of my people slightly, saying peace, Peace; when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? - nay, they were not ashamed at all, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 8:8-12

Is there no balm in Gil-e-ad; is there no physician there? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered.

Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbor will walk with the slander. And they will deceive everyone his neighbor, and will not speak the truth: They have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity.

Thine habitation is in the midst of deceit, through deceit they refuse to know me, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 9:4-6

One may be wondering, could this be true? Yes, it is true and that is the state of the world even today, people have mastered to do all sorts of evil because they have refused to know God and have graduated from the school of Satan with first class honors degree and God is not amused at all and hence the world is bedeviled hitherto. Now what does the prophet say to all this?

But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

Jeremiah 10:10

Right now, the governments of the world are trying to cope with various situations in vain as everything is in shambles. They try to sort an issue and another issue or issues crop up. Christ is the answer, yet many have ignored to their own indignation! What does the prophet say further to our generation?

O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the foundation of living waters.

Jeremiah 17:13

In Jeremiah chapter 20 verses 1-6 we find Jeremiah imprisoned for the prophecies he was giving but he says he could not keep quiet but to speak the truth although many

had nicknamed him ‘’the prophet of doom” but he concludes that the LORD is with him and those who try to oppose him shall be doomed. (Jeremiah 20: 9-11). We find that the king of Babylon Neb-u-chad-rez'-zah came and besieged Jerusalem with all his army and took it in the eleventh year of Zed-e-ki'-ah’s rule and cared for Jeremiah (Jeremiah 39:1-4) Later we find the prophet giving out many prophecies in chapters 46-50. The prophet continues with lamentations. A few of what he said are:

Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commanded it not?
Wherefore doth a living man complain a man for the punishment of his sins?
Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.
Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in heavens.
Fear and a snare is come upon us, desolation and destruction.

Lamentations 3:37, 39-41, 47

10. Joash

At a very early age he became a leader and did well before the Lord.

JO'-ASH was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Zi'-bi-ah of Beer-she'-ba.

And Jo'-ash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Je-hoi'-a-da the priest.

2 Chronicles 24:1-2

11. Josiah

Josiah also, at a very early age became a leader and did well before the Lord.

JO-SI-AH was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years.

And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David is father, and declined neither to the right, nor to the left.

For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem

from the high places, and the groves and the carved images, and the molten images.

And they brake down the altars of Ba'-a-lim in his presence; and the images, that were on high above them, he cut down; and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust of them, and strewed it upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them.

And he burnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.

And so did he in the cities of Ma-nas'-eh, and E'-phra-im, and simeon, even unto Naph'-ta-li, with their mattocks round about.

And when he had broken down the altars and the groves, and had beaten the graves images into powder, and cut down all the idols throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.

Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land, and the house, he sent Sha'-phan son of Az-a-li'-ah, and Ma-a-sei'-ah the governor of the city, and Jo'-ah the son of Jo'-a-haz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.

And when they came to Hil-ki'-ah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the Levites that kept the doors had gathered of the hand of Ma-nas'-eh and E'-phra-im, and all the remnant of Israel, and of all Judah and Benjamin; and they returned to Jerusalem.

And they put it in the hand of the workmen that had the oversight of the house of the LORD, and they gave it to the workmen that wrought in the house of the LORD, to repair and amend the house:

Even to the artificers and builders gave they it, to buy hewn stone, and timber for couplings, and to floor the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed.

And the men did the work faithfully: and the overseers of them were Ja'-hath and O-ba-di'-ah, the Levites, of the sons of Me-rar'-i; and Zech-a-ri'-ah and Me-shu-l'-lam, of the sons of the Ko'-hath-ites, to set it forward; and other of the Levites, all that could skill of instruments of music.

Also they were over the bearers of burdens, and were overseers of all that wrought the work in any manner of service: and of the Levites there were scribes, and officers, and porters.

And when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, Hil-ki'-ah the priest found out a book of the law of the LORD given by Moses.

And Hil-ki'-ah answered and said to Sha'-phan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD.

And Hil-ki'-ah delivered the book to Sha'-phan.

And Sha'-phan carried the book to the king, and brought the king word back again, saying, ALL that was committed to thy servants, they do it.

And they have gathered together the money that was found in the house of the LORD, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers, and to the hand of the workmen.

Then Sha'-phan the scribe told the king, saying, Hil-ki'-ah the priest hath given me a book.

And Sha'-phan read it before the king.

And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes.

And the king commanded Hil-ki'-ah, and A-hi'-kam the son of Sha'-phan, and Abdon the son of Mi'-cah, and Sha'-phan the scribe, and A-sai'-ah a servant of the king's saying,

Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for them that are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this book.

And Hil-ki'-ah, and they that the king had appointed, went to Hul'-d-ah the prophetess, the wife of Shal'-lum the son of Tik-vath, the son of Has'-rah, keeper of the Wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college) and they spake to her to that effect.

And she answered them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Tell ye the man that sent you to me,

Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the kings of Judah:

Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be poured out upon this place, and shall not be quenched.

And as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, so shall ye say unto him,

Thus saith the LORD God of Israel concerning the words which thou hast heard;

Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humblest thyself before me, and didst rent thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, saith the LORD.

Behold, I will gather thee tothy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil that I will bring upon this place, and upon the inhabitants of the same. So they brought the king word again.

Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.

And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the LORD.

And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in the book.

And he caused all that were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand to it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God the God of their fathers.

And Jo-si'-ah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that pertained to the children of Israel, and made all that were present in Israel to serve, even to serve the LORD their God. And all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.

MOREOVER Jo-si'-ah kept a pass over unto the LORD in Jerusalem: and they killed the pass over on the fourteenth day of the first month.

And he set the priests in their charges, and encouraged them to the service of the house of the LORD,

And said unto the Levites that taught all Israel, which were holy unto the LORD, Put the Holy Ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel did build; it shall

not be a burden upon your shoulders: serve now the LORD your God, and his people Israel,

And prepare yourselves by the houses of your fathers, after the courses, according to the writing of David king of Israel, and according to the writing of Solomon his son.

And stand in the holy place according to the divisions of the families of the fathers of your brethren the people, and after the division of the families of the Levites.

So kill the pass over, and sanctify yourselves, and prepare your brethren, that they may do according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

And Jo-si'-ah gave to the people, of the flock, lambs and kids, all for the pass over offerings, for all that were present, to the number of thirty thousand, and three thousand bullocks: these were of the king's substance.

And his princes gave willingly unto the people, to the priests, and to the Levites: Hil-ki'-el, and Zech-a-ri'-ah and Je-hi'-el rulers of the house of God, gave unto the priests for the pass over offerings two thousand and six hundred small cattle, and three hundred oxen.

Co-na-ni'-ah also, and Shem-ai'-ah and Nethan'-eel, his brethren, and Hash-a-bi'-ah and Jei-el and Jo'-za-bad, chief

of the Levites, gave unto the Levites for pass over offerings five thousand small cattle, and five hundred oxen.

So the service was prepared and the priests stood in their place, and the Levites in their course, according to the king's commandment.

And they killed the pass over, and the priests sprinkled the blood from their hands, and the Levites flayed them.

And they removed the burnt offerings, that they might give according to the divisions of the families of the people, to offer unto the LORD, as it is written in the book of Moses.

And so did they with the oxen.

And they roasted the pass over with fire according to the ordinance: but the other holy offerings sod they in pots, and in caldrons, and in pans, and divided them speedily among all the people.

And after ward they made ready for themselves, and for the priests: because the priests the sons of Aaron were busied in offering of burnt offering and the fat until night; therefore the Levites prepared for themselves, and for the priests the sons of Aaron.

And the singers the sons of A'-saph were in their place, according to the commandment of David, and A'-saph, and

He'-man, and Je-du'-thun the king's seer; and the porters waited at every gate; they might not depart from their service; for their brethren the Levites prepared for them.

So all the service of the LORD was prepared the same day, to keep the pass over, and to offer burnt offerings upon the altar of the LORD, according to the commandment of king Jo-si'-ah.

And the children of Israel that were present kept the pass over at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days.

And there was no pass over like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; neither did all the kings of Israel keep such a pass over as Jo-si'-ah kept, and the priests, and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel that were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 34:1-35:18

12. Jesus (Luke 2:41-52)

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the pass over.

And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinfolk and acquaintance.

And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.
And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Luke 2:41-52

Well, the verses are many and the sentences too. May be someone is wondering and asking oneself, "Now look at this one, he is trying to re-write for us the Bible". No, I have good reason to do what I did. There are some things you need to learn from them, as a youth. Mind you I have started to give examples of youths recorded in the Bible and have started with the perfect youth – Jesus Christ who actually is our perfect example as he was the only one who ever lived a perfect (sinless) life from infancy to his death on the cross as a perfect sacrifice of God for our salvation by his shed of blood to atone for our sins.
To start with verses 41-42 we find that the parents of Jesus were doing what the Lord God had commanded the Israelites and Jesus at the age of twelve wisely accompanied them unlike youth today would have not

gone but would think, "Aaah, those are the acts of my parents, why bother, as a youth I have many things I can do, that youths normally do, let them go" The parents actions was being prompted in the book of Exodus 12:17 and 23:15

And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt; therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance forever.
Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I command thee, in the time appointed of the mouth of Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:).

Exodus 12:17; 23:15

Verses 43-46 we find that the young Jesus took the opportunity in the journey to Jerusalem to do some good business, not for some financial gain, but for his spiritual life. As a youth do you care about the state of your spirituality? Or are you busy engaged only in playing draughts, playing cards, playing football or watching

football and becoming a very good fun of players and various football teams from within and without. Please take note that Jesus did not waste time in such activities, even going to see some worldly movies in a theatre or drinking some alcohol. Jesus was at a right place, at a right time and doing the right thing with the right people (doctors) – people who taught and interpreted the laws of God at the time. Jesus had a teachable spirit and probed the so called 'doctors' to see how much they knew about the truths of God. As a youth, don't be found anywhere but at a proper, right place. Jesus was found in a temple. The youth of today I challenge you in the name of the Lord, you are supposed to be found more in a church, an altar before God for your good not in a video kiosk watching God forbid. The word of God is life much of which you will get from preaching and teaching, avail yourself there and enrich your life accordingly, avoid spiritual poverty.

Verses 47-50 we see that those in the temple were astonished at Jesus' understanding and answers. Not necessarily because of his age but because of his level of understanding of the scriptures. What is your level? Can you be able to answer questions on the word of God, or

you'll say "I don't know, but I think my parents know; "What is your business?'' Do you ever take time to witness / share the word of God to someone, or I narrow it down to a fellow youth?

Verses 51-52 we find that Jesus was obedient and went down with his parents to Nazareth and also we are told he was subject to them. Are you an obedient youth? Are you subject to your parents or do you think you have grown enough and may want to be independent. Even adults are still dependent on their parents to some extent in some issues. Parents should not be brushed aside because one has left childhood or youth age or is now an adult. Consultation or a word of advice and so forth may still be sort. Lastly, we are told Jesus increased (grew) in wisdom and stature and also was in favor with God and man. Other examples we are going to see are not exemplary as this.

Now Jesus Christ is our perfect example for all humanity to follow after. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life here on earth and therefore is the only perfect being worth emulating. Now read the following scriptures which corroborate that fact.

And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

Which of you convinceth me of sin?

And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

John 8:45-47

You can see in that scripture the Lord Jesus Christ challenging the Jews and posing to them that question (verse 46). Why? Because he was perfect (John 18:19-23; 9:1-31; 11:41-44).

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

To wit, **that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself,** not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: **we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.**

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Very clear. Christ knew no sin (was sinless) but on the cross, God made him to be sin (he was paying for the price for the sin of mankind) that if we believe in Him, we can be made the righteousness of God, in Christ. (John 3:16-17, Romans 3:21-26).

(For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, thou art a priest for ever after the order of Mel-chiz'-ed-ek:

By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

And they were truly many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

Hebrews 7:21-28

The above scripture states that Jesus is holy, harmless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and made higher than the heavens and consecrated for evermore. Jesus Christ was perfect and was the only one qualified to pay for the sins of mankind by offering himself on the cross and paying for the sins of mankind with perfect blood and him as a perfect Lamb from God. (1 John 4:10; 2:1-2).

How God anointed **Jesus of Nazareth** with the Holy Ghost and with power: who **went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.**

And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

Him God raised up the third day, and showed him openly;

Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the judge of quick and dead.

To him all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Acts 10:38-43

It is very true that Jesus Christ has been made a judge for all mankind and that the remission of sins is only by believing in Him and Him alone. (Matthew 9:1-7, Acts 4:10-12; 13:38-39).

AND he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came to his own city.

And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven.

And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth.

And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

For whether is easier, to say, thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?

But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house.

Matthew 9:1-7

Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, **that** by the name of **Jesus Christ of Nazareth,** whom ye

crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is the head of the corner.

neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 4:10-12

Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the Law of Moses.

Acts 13:38-39

Well, it is all Jesus, Jesus, Jesus and no any other. God was in him and he came to reconcile us back to God. (1 Timothy 2: 1-7).

Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1

Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example.

Philippians 3:17

In those two epistles, apostle Paul addressed to the church at Corinth and in Philippi, he is advising the believers there to follow his example just as he follows the footsteps (life) of Jesus Christ.

The early Church did just that and were nicknamed "Christians" because their lives were exemplary of the life of Jesus Christ. (Acts 11:19-26).

I now take this opportunity to advise and beseech you to take the example of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ must be in you, for you to be able to live like him. Simply put, you must be saved. I trust and believe you will do so before finishing reading this book, That, is the best decision you can ever make here on earth and live not to regret. (Romans 10:8-13).

Why am I saying so? Because Jesus Christ is the only one who can make you to be a good youth for his glory. (Jeremiah 18:1-11, Matthew 4:18-22).

THE word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words.

Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.

And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it against another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD.

Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand,

O house of Israel.

At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it;

If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them.

And at what instance I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it;
If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.
Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD;

Behold, I frame evil against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.

Jeremiah 18:1-11

God as the Creator of all beings is a potter ready to make you as he deems fit, as you are on his hand (power) after which he can use you. But you need to arise, just as some brethren did. Read on.

And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

And he saith unto them, **Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets and followed him.**

And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren James the son of Zeb'-e-dee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zeb'-e-dee their father, mending their nets; and **he called them.**

And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

Matthew 4:18-22

You can see for yourself that the Lord called those brothers and they immediately rose up to the occasion. All those were busy in some business even you, there is something you are doing like learning in a school, a college or in a university but all the same, there is something better you can also do by multitasking. This time round for your Creator God. He is ready to make you and equip you for the noble task of fishing the souls of mankind, for his kingdom. I do hope you are going to say yes, just like the brothers above. But please, don't wait to be called many times before you finally say yes, as Samuel did (1 Samuel

3:1-13) you can save time and begin to work for the Lord by your instant response to him.
Now I believe that is God's plan for all of us and not just for a few individuals. (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.
And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

God has good thoughts for all of us just as he had for the Israelites. He as the Prince of Peace is ready to give us peace of heart and mind and to give us a good (expected) end. If we call upon him in prayer by faith, he will listen to us and if we go further in seeking him, we will find him if we do so with all our hearts. But we have to do something. Which one is that?

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:
And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Matthew 7:24-25

I advise you to build your life on Christ Jesus who is a solid, sure foundation and you will be safe and sound. That way, you will be a wise youth and not a foolish one. I can assure you that you will remain to stand under all the circumstances that you find you are in and you won't fall down. So, stand up now and be counted among the youths for Christ such as the following: Joshua, Samuel Jeremiah, Timothy, Titus, who served the Lord in his house. Read on the above the following: (Joshua 1:1-9, 1 Samuel 3:1-13, Jeremiah 1:1-10, 1 Timothy 1: 1-4, Titus 1:1-5), as to touching on their calling. Also others who served in Government (civil) such as David, Joseph, Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah, Daniel. Read on them in (1 Samuel 16:1-13, Genesis 41:37-44, Daniel 3:12; 6:1-3). Get to know that

as a youth, you have a very high potential to serve God for a worthwhile purpose and eventually be highly rewarded in heaven. But if you refuse in any way to say Yes to God to serve him, I am afraid you will have no alternative but to serve Satan for a worthless purpose and end up regretting for ever and ever in hell. At whatever reason or cost, you don't need to follow that route at all, at all. Now read the following if you have heeded the Lord's call:

SIMON Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ:
Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.
According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, and through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 Peter 1:1-4

Now if you believe in Christ Jesus, God gives you divine power to live a godly life and be a partaker of God's divine nature and is able to escape the corruption of this world saying no to corruption and by that God has promised you great things to come your way. Just take time and read to see how you can become an overcomer in Christ Jesus and to be able to obtain the promises-continue in verse 5 up to 11. You can further read the epistle of Apostle Paul to the church at Rome (Romans 8:28-39).

CHAPTER 3

Youths already in Christianity

The following are advices to the youth who is already saved and they are going to serve as good guidelines to guide you in the Christian Walk and for your victory in life.

NOW after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,

Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

From the wilderness and this Leb'-a-non even unto the great river, the river Eu-phra'-tes, all the land of the Hit'-tites, and unto the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

This book of the law shalt not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Joshua 1:1-9

As I said earlier in the book, the youths are the future leaders and therefore, they need to take the opportunity while serving in the church under other church leaders to learn from them before an opportunity crops up for them to

be elevated to a higher level as a leader. Joshua the son of Nun did just that while he was serving under Moses the servant of the Lord and when an opportunity arose for elevation he rose up to the occasion. Read the book of Joshua (Joshua 11:15, Deuteronomy 31:1-3).

Now let me summarize it for you. As a Christian (a child of God) you are in a spiritual wilderness and you are going to face many challenges in life and which you need to overcome before finally entering into heaven. Satan the enemy of God and your enemy has taken much ground in people's lives and you must fight him to the end leaving no space for him in your life (Ephesians 4:27, Romans 6:11-13).

The Almighty God has promised victory and success and has given assurance of being with you. Now you only need to be strong and very courageous and to see to it that you busy yourself with the word of God obeying it daily and it will be well with you as God will be with you then and will see you through it all. You don't need to be afraid of anything as you have Jesus with you and you can do all things through Him (1 John 5:4-5; 4:15, 2 Timothy 1:6-10, Philippians 4:13)

Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou comest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.
Then said I, Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.
But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.
Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with the, saith the LORD.
Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.
See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now that you had been convicted of your sins by the Holy Spirit and repented of your sins to God believing in His

Son Jesus Christ you got saved and God had already called you to be His servant to the world. Therefore don't speak as Jeremiah did as you are now a child, not of man, but of the Most High God, the Lord God Himself (John 1:11-13). So, as Joshua was old by God, do not be afraid as God Himself is with you wherever you go to deliver you. For sure you can speak as you were touched by the Spirit of God at your conversion and you have something to say not your words but the word of God through His Spirit in you. If you speak your own word it will be of no effect but the word of God is powerful (Hebrews 4:12, Jeremiah 23:29).
Get to know that in Christ Jesus you have power (super power) to face all the challenges in life and to make things happens so don't underestimate yourself in Him as you are more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:35-39). Have respect for men but never fear them but rather fear only God and God alone (Matthew 10:24-28).

NOW the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

If thou put the brethren in: remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou past attained.

But refuse profane and old wive's fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation.

For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those that believe.

1 Timothy 4:1-10

The latter times the Spirit of God spoke about in a prophecy is here with us as we are living in the last days just prior to the rapture of the holy Church of Christ into Heaven. I say so because of the events in the world we are living in, tell it all. For example, some group of people who are Homosexual want to be recognized and yet another wants to be registered as an Atheist Association- It is all foolish and nonsensical.

It is all abominable sin before my holy God (Psalm 14:1-3, Romans 1:18-32, Isaiah 5:20-21).

Also be warned with the advent of the information technology with many embracing it in totality as the most convenient tool in communication nevertheless it has potential dangers (strange things) which point to seduction in the doctrines of the Devil (Satan) so if one must use them one must tread very carefully. There is a lot of chaff going on which we are being told to treat as wheat, so watch out.

We are living at a time when many are departing from the faith (the true faith in Christ Jesus) and I plead with you don't be one of them lest you miss Heaven and end up tumbling in Hell. Let your conscience remain sound and

clear all the time being nourished in the good doctrine (the word of God). Do exercise godliness which is profitable in all things and which promises eternal life in Heaven.
Therefore be ready to suffer reproach as you serve the Lord trusting for that everlasting life in the kingdom of heaven.

But godliness with contentment is great gain.
For we brought nothing into this would, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.
And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.
But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.
For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.
Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, where unto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:6-12

Have a right perspective on riches and by extension on money or else you can err (go wrong) from your faith in Christ Jesus and later regret it (Matthew 16:24-26).
What you need to do is in verses 11 and 12 and eternal life in Heaven is yours.

THOU therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.
Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.
And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.
The husbandman that laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits.
Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

2 Timothy 2:1-7

Just as Joshua was advised, be strong in Christ Jesus by His grace. Tell others of what you have heard from the true servants of God and not your own words while witnessing for Christ. You will obviously face some opposition but be ready for that in endurance and be ready only to please your employer (Master) Jesus Christ. Your labour will not be in vain in the Lord if you walk righteously in the fear of God staying away from any ungodliness.

I CHARGE thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom.
Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.
For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

But watch thou in all things endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Preaching the word of God should be your priority in life. We are living at a time when many cannot endure sound doctrine as they think it is old fashioned but continue in telling them the truth as their modernism will not take them anywhere except to Hell. You play your part in evangelizing the true gospel- the gospel of Christ, the gospel of the cross and the blood of Jesus and His victory over death and Satan (Revelation 1:18, Colossians 2:13-15, Hebrews 2:14-18)

BUT speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

Titus 2:1

You will only get sound doctrine in the word of God and which you need to speak out to people and not idle talk or human philosophy.

This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.

A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject;

Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

Titus 3:8-11

Affirm the maintenance of good works which are good and profitable to people and stay away from foolish things.

CHAPTER 4

The Youth and Service and Leadership

As a youth and still single, you have a very big opportunity to fully serve the Lord instead of idling about or being busy in doing the wrong things. You can serve God whole - heartedly being available all the time to be used by God before you reach the time you take different responsibilities in life like employment or marriage.

Before one can becomes a leader one must begin by serving others be it in a small or a big way. A case in point can be found in the life of Joseph who first served in the home of an officer Potiphar and excelled and was later promoted by God and served in the whole country of Egypt under a king. David too began serving his father by looking at his father's sheep and going for errands and God later promoted him to serve as the king of the Nation of Israel. All the above corroborates the principle which Jesus told his disciples when they were asking who was the greatest among them? (Luke 22:24-26). Read on.

But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:
But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.
There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.
And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

There it is in black and white. As I said earlier, being single gives one an opportunity to serve God without distractions. Marriage as an Institution has many responsibilities both to the husband and the wife as well and if one add the responsibilities of serving the Lord it becomes even more demanding and therefore do more for the Lord while single in life before you end up doing most likely less when

married. Also do remember what the Lord said on serving two masters at the same time (Matthew 6:24) also the advice in the book of Ecclesiastes on the need to be fruitful to the Lord in one's youthful years before adulthood and more so old age catch up with one when nothing is pleasant (serving the Lord included) and one cannot be as fruitful and finally death knocks the door on one. (Ecclesiastes 12:1-5). In my introduction I said that it has been said that the youth are the leaders of the future. Now we are going to take an opportunity to see some of the youths and young men who became leaders in one way or the other in the Bible and how they faired.

1. **Joseph son of Jacob (Genesis 41)**

From the above scripture we find that Joseph who was imprisoned for false accusations interpreted the Pharaoh's dreams and that pleased the king and his servants and the Pharaoh made him the prime minister of the land of Egypt, Pharaoh himself only serving as the president. If you read further, you will find that he ruled well. His, is a very good example to the youth today, he was the youngest child (son) of Jacob out of the twelve. He saved the life of his

father and brothers from famine by him being in Egypt and well respected as a leader.

2. Samuel (1 Samuel 3-12)

We find another very good example of a youth who served the Lord quite well as a leader. He was a prophet of God and also served as a priest in addition to serving as a judge in Israel the rest of his life. Some of the remarkable things he said or did of which we are going to read:

And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, if ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ash'-ta-roth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the land of the Phil-is'-tines.

Then the children of Israel did put away Ba'-a-lim and Ash'-ta-roth, and served the LORD only.

And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Miz'-peh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD.

And they gathered to Miz'-peh, and drew water, and poured it out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said

there, we have sinned against the LORD. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Miz'-peh.

1 Samuel 7:1-6

And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. (1 Samuel 7:15).

Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Miz'-peh and Shen, and called the name of it Eb-en-e'-zer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.

1 Samuel 7:12

In Samuel 7:1-6 we find Samuel leading the house of Israel so well into a national repentance then prays for them.

And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king.
And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you:

He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.

And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will let them to earn his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.

And he will take you daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.

And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your olive yards, even the best of them, and give them to these servants.

And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

And he will take your men servants, and your maid servants, and your goodliest

young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.

He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.

And ye shall be cry out that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.

One may ask why Samuel went to great lengths to explain to the house of Israel all this. Well, the house of Israel had been all along under Theocracy ruled by religious leaders such as Samuel, but now they are demanding to be ruled democratically. They now believe in a totally different system of governance where people vote other people in government to represent them and lead them. They forgot that God is supreme as he is not only omnipotent, but is also omnipresent and omniscient and that his choice is the best. The people who led them were chosen by God and nobody voted them e.g. Moses, Joshua, Samson and others. They fell for the trap of the enemy – the old serpent who deceived man at the Garden of Eden by convincing Eve that they can be independent of God. The enemy surely had deluded them, despite being warned by Prophet Samuel that they abandon their idea of a king other than those Go appointed for them now and then. Samuel essentially was putting across one big point – "Please don't try, it is not worth it" But the stiff-necked people could not think otherwise. (1 Samuel 8:19-22). Now if there is a servant

of God who obeyed the Lord to the letter and served him so well, he is none other than Samuel. Samuel could not be compromised by anybody. A faithful servant of integrity. I like him for that. He challenged the Israelites the way Jesus challenged the Jews (John 8:45-47). You and me can we really challenge people the way these two did? Let each one of us answer oneself this question.

AND Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and have made a king over you.

And now, behold, the king walketh before you: and I am old and gray headed; and behold, my sons are with you: and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.

Behold, here I am: witness against me before, the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? Or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? Or whose hand have I received and bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? And I will restore it you.

And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken aught of any man's hand.

And he said unto them, the LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that ye have not found aught in my hand. And they answered He is witness.

1 Samuel 12:1-5

Among other commandments, Samuel was obeying the commandments of God refusing to take a bribe.

And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous

Exodus 23:8

Thou shalt not wrest, judgment; thou shall not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.

Deuteronomy 16:19

Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a gift destroyeth the heart.

Ecclesiastes 7:7

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat or rams.

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbonness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected thee word of the LORD, he hath also rejected them from being king.

1 Samuel 15:22-23

In 1 Samuel 16:1-13 we Samuel being told by God to go and anoint David the son of Jesse to be King of Israel and Samuel did exactly as was instructed. When David's life was in danger, he went and confided to Samuel and they stayed together in Nai'-oth (1 Samuel 19-18)

3. David (2 Samuel 2-24, 1 Kings 1-2)

David happens to be another youth who later became a leader (a king) and served well though with many ups and downs due partly to his affairs with wife of Uriah, Bathsheba and his conspiracy to have Uriah killed in a battle with his enemies. But the good things that king

David did far outweighed the things he did that displeased the Lord. He was the best king Israel ever had to rule them. We are now going straight away to see how his life was. Before we go to the time he started to rule now as king, when king Saul had died, let us look at his earlier life still in his youthful years. We are going to pick a few verses here and there on some areas of interest. In 1 Samuel 17 we see how David by faith he had in God he risked his life by approaching a philistine giant by the name of Goliath and killed the giant who was fully armed, David using only a sling and a smooth stone to kill him and taking the giant's sword to cut the giants head off. Let us look at some verses, his words of faith.

And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him.
And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Phil-is'-tine.
And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Phil-is'-tine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of a lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Phil-is-tine. And Saul said unto David, Go and the LORD be with thee.

Then said David to the Phil-is'-tine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, who thou hast defied.

This day will the LORD deliver into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Phil-is'-tines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

And all this assembly shall know that the LORD savest not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S and he will give you into our hands.

1 Samuel 17:31-33, 37, 45-47

Well, the rest is history. David was a man of prayer and that really saved him in life, Now and then he would go in

prayer to enquire something from the Lord and to seek for other help.

THEN they told David, saying, Behold, the Phil-is'-stines fight against Kei'-lah, and they rob the threshing floors.
Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying shall I go and smite these Phil-is-stines? And the Lord said unto David, Go, and smite the Phil-is-stine, and save Kei-lah.
And it was told Saul that David was come to Kei-lah. And Saul said, God hath delivered him into mine hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that hath gates and bars.
And David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to A-bi'- a-thar the priest, Bring hither the e'-phod.
Then said David, O LORD God of Israel, thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeketh to come to Kei-lah, to destroy the city for my sake.
Will the men of Kei-lah deliver me up into his hand? Will Saul come down, as thy servant hath heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant. And the LORD said, He will come down.

Then said David, will the men of Kei'-lah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, they will deliver thee up.

1 Samuel 23:1-2, 7 ,9-12

And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee.

Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily.

And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt.

And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing into my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.

So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave and went on his way.

1 Samuel 24:4-7

Thou shalt not kill.

Deuteronomy 5:17

He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproved kings of their sakes;
Saying, Touch not mine anointed and do my prophets no harm

Psalm 105:14-15

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Romans 12:19

David did a good thing by obeying the Lord. Later he had another opportunity but spared Saul's life yet again (1 Samuel 26:1-12). It is true as the word of God says, God surely avenges – read verse 10 and now go to 1 Samuel 31:1-6 and read for yourself.

Now we come to the time that David was in the reign as king and see how he lived. In 2 Samuel 5:17-25 we find how the Philistines went to war twice against Israel and

David kept on inquiring from the Lord and God answering him. David won all the two battles. Prayer was a plus in David's life. If it were not for prayers, he wouldn't have won all these battles and furthermore, he wouldn't have been sensitive enough in the spirit to respond in the right way when the Holy Spirit gave him a warning – to many, they would have said "I think I am going to have a heart problem" or "I have a heart ailment" and thereby missing the point altogether. In my book "The Christian walk" I did touch a bit on hearkening to the voice of God. God is a Chief strategist and Satan cannot and will not defeat Him. Read verses 22-25 of Chapter 5 of second Samuel. If David did not enquire from God he would have faced the enemy without the right strategy and most likely he would have been defeated – this was the second time they were going in battles and definitely had a new strategy in place – but thank God the omniscient – he gave King David an excellent strategy of the time.

In 2 Samuel 6:12-23 we find David the King going to bring up the ark of God from O'-bed-e-dom's house to Jerusalem with pomp and dance and how his wife Michal, the daughter of Saul despised the king for the way he danced

earning herself a curse. (Verse 23). In 2 Samuel 8:5-6, 14-18 we find that the Lord preserved David whithersoever he went (he was prayerful, prayer draws one closer to God) and David reigned over all Israel executing judgment and justice unto all his people. He was but a good king. Let all wish they have a good king or president or prime minister who is God fearing like King David and enquires from the Lord (by the way, God is a Chief consultant, he is the one that puts people in positions of authority and he knows all things and has all the facts at His fingertips). Now let us come to another wonderful incidence in David's life as a king. In this world, we have just so many false friends around who are not genuine but thank God the friendship between David and Jonathan the son of King Saul was a genuine one seeing how Jonathan, the son of King Saul treated David when his father was the King of Israel and now we come to see how David loved Jonathan too in 2 Samuel 9 where he showed kindness to Jonathan by having Jonathan's son live with him as one of his own, the son, Me-phibo'-sheth. This could be also one of the qualities God saw in David's heart and called him 'a man after my own heart"

Some of the few sins he committed are in 2 Samuel 11 and 24 where he slept with Uriah's wife, conspired on Uriah's life and counted (numbered) Israel and Judah contrary to the will of God. But in all these, he repented genuinely and God forgave him. I have dwelt much here let us go to another individual, but before I go to the next person, David's life was exemplary despite a few faults here and there and you will agree that you and me is not better and also note that men are men and not angels(holy angels – as we also have unholy- rebel angels), but if we are in Christ Jesus, we are being perfected as we continue to yield day and night, more and more to the King (Master). We will continue to be molded into His likeness.

4. Joshua (Deuteronomy 31-34, Joshua 1-24)

Joshua is a young man who had faith and started serving God under Moses the prophet. (Exodus 17:8-10; 24:13)

Then came Am'-a-lek, and fought with Israel in Reph'-i-dim.

And Moses said unto Joshua, choose us, out of men, and go out, fight with Am-a-lek: Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Am'-a-lek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up unto the mount of God.

Exodus 17:8-10; 24:13

In Numbers Chapter 13:1-4, 8 we find Joshua among the twelve spies sent by Moses to spy on the land of Canaan and they found out that the land had giants as one of the occupants and ten spies brought a bad report and the hearts of the people were broken and they cried (Numbers 13:33; 14:1-5) but only Joshua the son of Num and Caleb, the son of Je-phun'- neh by their faith in God and they encouraged the people (Numbers 14:6-9), and because of their report God promised Joshua and Caleb as well as the children of the Israelites are the only ones who will enter the promised land (Numbers 14:30-35). In the verses we see the seriousness of not having faith in God. In Deuteronomy

31:1-3 we find Moses telling the Israelites that Joshua is the one to succeed him and to lead them to the promised land.

AND Moses went and spoke these words unto all Israel.
And he said unto them, I am a hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in; also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.
The LORD thy God, he will go over before thee, and he will destroy those nations from before thee, and thou shalt posses them: and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the LORD hath said.

Deuteronomy 31:1-3

In Deuteronomy 32 Moses had a song which he read to the people, accompanied by Joshua (verses 44-47) giving them instructions also.
In Joshua chapter 1 we find that Moses had died (slept) and God instructing Joshua to take over the leadership of the people and to lead them in possessing of the land of Canaan. God encouraged him to be strong and of a good

courage and to observe his commandments and that he will be with him. In chapter 2 Joshua sends spies to Jericho and in Chapter 3 -4 he leads the people to cross river Jordan. In chapter 5 Joshua circumcised the people and in chapter 6 he conquered Jericho. In chapter 7 the Israelites are defeated by the men of A'-i and Joshua enquired from the Lord and found out that they had sinned against God. Joshua did as commanded by God and in Chapter 8 they conquered A'-i. Now in chapter 10 we find a historic event where by faith Joshua prayed and the sun stood still so that they had opportunity to fight and defeat their enemies (verses 12-14). In chapter 14 up to 22 we find Joshua dividing the land of Canaan to the tribes of the children of Israel. In chapter 23 Joshua exhorts the people and in chapter 24 addresses them and it turns out to be a farewell address as he soon died (slept) at the age of one hundred and ten years.

Now if the reign of king Josiah was an examination, I would say he had passed with flying colors - it was excellent. What king Josiah did all our leaders in this country have failed to do. They have not purged the country to remove all the abominations in this land before

the Lord God. King Josiah made a covenant before the Lord and the people he led with all sincerity unlike many of our leaders in this country who take the oath of office holding a holy Bible in vain (hypocritically) as most of them do exactly the opposite and God is not amused. King Josiah is a very good example for you to emulate by fearing God and walking in his divine will obeying him always.

Chapter 5

Finally

Now one might ask, “After going through all this, what is next or what do I stand to gain?” I answer by saying that one stands to gain more than can be imagined. I say so because the Scriptures has all the assurance and what one should expect to gain. If you have asked the above question you are not alone, even one disciple, Peter asked that question on behalf of the others (Matthew19: 16-29).

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?
And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.
He saifth unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness,
honor thy father and thy mother: and, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up; what lack I yet?

Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give it to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

Then said Jesus unto his disciple, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?

But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye

also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

And everyone that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Matthew 19:16-29

As a youth don't be overly ambitious wanting to be a leader as it is not a qualification for entry into heaven. Moreover it has heavy responsibilities (Hebrews 13:17). Instead, be humble and obey those in authority and be patient and if it is in God's will for you to rise into a leadership position then for sure at God's time he will promote you (1 Peter 5:5 – 6) as promotion comes only from the Lord (James 4:10). Remember the case of Joshua son of Nun who served under Moses until God appointed him to be a leader over the children of Israel (Joshua 1:1-6). Even David the son of Jesse was satisfied with the lowly work of shepherding his father's flock and God later promoted him to be a king over God's people (the Israelites) and even after being appointed as king he remained humble and

obeyed king Saul and contested not with him (1 Samuel 16:1-23). Finally when God puts you in a leadership position don't brag or try to compete with other leaders say, the pastor, women leader or the church elders but be subject to them obeying them in the Lord. Now go on and read the following scriptures and be encouraged by the Lord.

- Malachi 3: 13-18
- Matthew 24: 1-14
- Matthew 25: 14-30
- Luke 12: 35-40
- 1 Corinthians 3: 8-15
- 1 Corinthians 15: 58
- 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
- 2 Timothy 4: 6-8
- Revelation 21: 1-7
- Revelation 21: 9-27
- Revelation 22: 6-7
- Revelation 22: 12-13
- Revelation 22: 16-17
- Revelation 22: 20-21

Amen and Amen and Amen.

Ye have said, it is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea they that tempt God are even delivered.

Then that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that served him.

Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Malachi 3:14-18

AND Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciple came to him for to show him the building of the temple.

And Jesus said unto them, see ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, there shall not be lift here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences and earthquakes, in divers places.

All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Matthew 24:1-14

For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will

make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown and gathering where thou hast not strewed:

And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

His lord answered and said unto him,

Thou wicked and slothful servant thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strewed.

Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Take therefore the talent from him,and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

For unto everyone that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

And cast ye the unprofitable servant into enter darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:14-30

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

And ye yourselves like unto men that want for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh they may open unto him immediately.

Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

And this know, that if the good man of the house had known what how the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.

Be ye therefore be ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?

And the Lord said, who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his

household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

But if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall behin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;

The Lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

And that servant, which knew his Lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Luke 12:35-48

Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor.

For we are the laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if any man build upon foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

If any man's work abide which he hath built there upon, he shall receive a reward.

If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

1 Corinthians 3:8-15

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so then also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.
For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.
For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

AND I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepare as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying,

neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.

And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

And he said unto me, it is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Revelation 21:1-7

And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven plagues, and talked with me, saying, come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heavens from God,

Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clean as crystal;

And has a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.

On the east three gates; on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.

And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with read, twelve thousand furlongs.

The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

And he measured the wall thereof, a hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire: the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;

The fifth, sardonix; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gates was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: and the lamb is the light thereof.

And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.

And the gates of it shall not be shut at al by day: for there shall be no night there

And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.

And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 21:9-27

And he said unto me, these sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the saying of the prophecy of this book.

Revelation 22:6-7

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Revelation 22:12-13

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

And the Spirit and the bride say, come. And let him that heareth say, come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Revelation 22:16-17

He which testifieth these things saith, surely I come quickly. A'-men.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. A'-men.

Revelation 22:20-21

Notes to the reader

I take this opportunity to thank you for reading this second volume of 'The Youth and Christianity' and believe it has been of good use to you. In case you have any comments to make please do so using the address given below.

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