

Issue 18 **Christ For Youth** **Newsletter**

Issue XVIII

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Greetings from
Reverend Hicks,

In the last issue of *Christ for Youth*, I answered some questions about the millennium and the Judgment Seat of Christ. This time, I want to answer some more questions for you.

Questions are good, young people. They are a sign that you are reading your Bible; and more than that, your questions indicate that you are doing some serious thinking about what you are reading. And when I see you taking an interest, personally, in what God is saying to you, my heart is filled with great joy.

From the Desk of...
Rev. B. R. Hicks

QUESTION: What is the difference between those that sleep and those that are dead?

ANSWER: First Thessalonians 4:13-18 refers to those who are *asleep* and also to the *dead*. What, if any, difference is there between the two terms? When searching for any answer, we can be assured of this: if God uses a term in one place in His Word, this term will be explained somewhere else, though not necessarily in a nearby Scripture. Answers often are hidden in the Word in order to prevent them from being found by those who are wise in their own thinking and those who are spiritually lazy. God rewards those who diligently seek Him, those who are humble and hungry

for Truth, those who are willing to labour in prayer and who are faithful to study His Word to find answers.

In this instance, the answer to our question is related in John 11:11-14. This portion of Scripture refers to Lazarus' death. When Jesus heard that His friend Lazarus was sick, He purposely tarried until he died. (We can profit from this bit of Truth today. When we pray urgently about a situation, yet our prayers seem to go unanswered, God may be purposely waiting for us to die — not physically, but to our carnal will and mind so He can give us His Pure, Humble Mind. After we die to our own will and way, then Jesus comes with Resurrection Glory. He has to wait for our death before He can resurrect us to walk in the newness of His Life.)

When Jesus knew in His Heart that Lazarus was dead, He told His Disciples:

... Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep (John 11:11).

This is where we find the answer to our question. We know the Disciples did not understand what Jesus said, for the Scriptures go on to explain the Disciples' erroneous thinking. They concluded that if Lazarus was sleeping he was doing well.

Jesus corrected them pointedly by saying, "...is dead.."

To God, the death of the physical body is no more than sleep. So if we should die before the Rapture, we have nothing to worry about. Just as Lazarus was raised from the dead in response to the Command of the LORD Jesus

Christ, so also will we respond to His Word when it is time for us to be resurrected. Our spirit and soul will reenter our body, and we will rise from our grave to meet Him in the air.

Some people will be alive when Jesus returns to catch away the overcomers, but they will not be the only ones to see Him. Those who have died in Christ (those who are asleep) will not be prevented from seeing Him, too. As Lazarus rose from his sleep of death, so will those who were laid in the grave as overcomers. Those who have died in Christ are not dead forever; Christ will reunite their souls and spirits with their bodies when He comes in the air. In this sense, then, they merely are *sleeping*, as far as God is concerned, though they actually are dead. What is the difference, then, in the sleeping and the dead? There is no difference. God uses the terms *sleep* and *dead* interchangeably when referring to the bodies of the saints in First Thessalonians and to Lazarus in the eleventh chapter of John.

QUESTION: A lot of very popular people, at least in the world, are talking about reincarnation. Is this possible?

ANSWER: It is not possible for a person to be reincarnated in the complete sense of the word. However, it is possible for a wandering, wicked spirit to enter into the body of a living person

and be joined to that person's spirit. Thus, the spirit of a dead person is able to function after death by furnishing the living person with his memories. Things the wicked spirit learned and experienced during his lifetime can operate through the living person to whom he is joined.

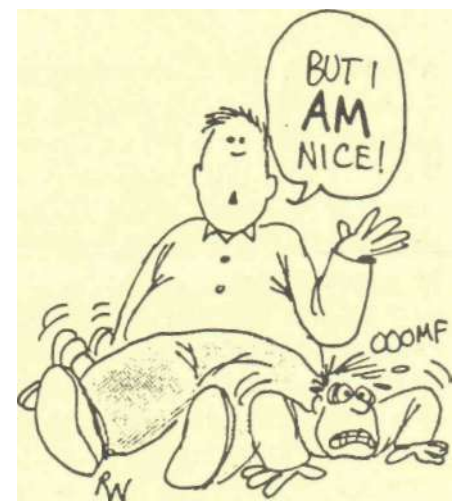
In order to see how this can work, we need to understand what happens to the beings of sinners when they die. First of all, when a Christian dies, he suffers only a twofold separation: his body goes to the grave, but his spirit and soul go to be with the LORD (II Corinthians 5:6-8). On the other hand, when a sinner dies, he suffers a threefold separation: his body goes to the grave; his soul goes to Hell; and his wicked spirit, after presenting itself before the LORD, is left to wander between heaven and earth. These wandering spirits seek to be joined to the spirits of living persons so they can have a habitation in which to live and a means of continuing their wicked deeds (Matthew 12:43-45; Luke 11:24; I Kings 22).

While this is *reincarnation*, in a sense, it is only temporary. The wicked spirit must leave the body of the person to whom it is joined when the person dies. *Never* does the spirit and soul of a dead person enter into a new body. At the death of an unrepentant sinner, the person's soul is sent to Hell where it is confined until the Day of Judgment.

Wicked spirits like to visit former places of pleasure, par-

ticularly places in which they once lived. This is one very good reason that Christians should avoid partaking of worldly amusements and visiting places of iniquity. In these places there are many wandering spirits of the wicked dead, and they are always seeking to be joined to the spirit of a living person. It is dangerous to allow the barrier of God's Spirit and Word to be lowered for a moment. Furthermore, as more and more wicked persons die, the influence for evil in the world increases, and this intensifies the Christians' warfare against sin and wickedness.

Young people, we live in a world that is wicked and getting more wicked every day. How wonderful it is, then, to have Jesus Christ in our heart as a harbour of safety from the Devil and his cohorts!



"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."
Ephesians 4:32

MISSIONS

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT MISSIONS

Even though teenagers live on a tight budget and have a lot of "wants", they still need to support missions. Read on to see some ideas on how to make some money for missions.

You can get a group together and wash cars, collect cans, sell doughnuts or rake leaves and give the profit to missions. Your youth group can organize one of these activities. If you are a real outgoing person, try to start a young people's missionary group. During the monthly meetings take up dues and have a mission program.

The LORD will really bless you if you give money to missions. It is a great cause and is needed more and more. There are many different ways you can do it, so pick one and start supporting missions!

ARE YOU MEMORIZING THE CROWN SCRIPTURES???

Try this COOL recipe!

ORANGE ICE

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cps. sugar
- 4 cps. water
- 1 small cp. orange juice
- 1/3 cp. lemon juice
- pinch of salt

Directions:

1. Mix all ingredients together.
2. Put in freezer and stir 3-4 times until is is slightly frozen.
3. Serve with fresh lemon slice.

A T T E N T I O N

SEE YOUR PASTOR NOW FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE 1990 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION COMING UP IN AUGUST!!! Don't miss it!

HEALTH HABITS

Do you realize how important it is to take care of your body by eating right and exercising? If you don't eat right and exercise you will find yourself easily tiring and also irritable. Make sure you are eating plenty of fruits and vegetables. If you will do this you will also not have a weight problem. After increasing your fruit and vegetable intake for 30 days, you will find yourself beginning to actually crave them.

Also, be sure that you are on a good vitamin program. Rev. Hicks has a list of vitamins that she recommends and if you will take them, you will begin having more energy and will feel much better.

Young people tend to think their lives will go on forever and that they do not need to watch their diets or exercise but if we will establish these healthy habits now, we will not have a lot of physical problems later on in life, including obesity, that many adults have.

Let's all work on establishing some healthy habits now!

STAYING "COOL" AND
STAYING SEPARATED

Summer is here again and with it comes the hot, humid weather. As Christians we must learn how to dress while we keep our Crucified Way standards. To always be comfortable is impossible, but there are a few ways to dress that help.

Cotton fabrics and materials are ideal for summer clothes. Unlike wool, cotton is very cool and it does not wrinkle as much as rayon. It is commonly used in many clothes so it is easy to find.

For girls, most summer skirts and blouses and many sweaters are made of cotton blends. Casual pants and shirts are also available for the guys in cotton blends.

Another tip is to stay away from dark colors close to your face. This does not always apply but many outfits can turn "summerish" by wearing a lighter color on top. In cooler areas, layering with a cotton sweater is nice. But remember, no matter what you wear, you can always be neat and clean.

People will get a good impression of your Jesus Christ if they get a good impression of you!

Let's hear a testimony.....

When I was 11 years old, I was saved at a youth camp. Even though I was not a great sinner, I felt very clean after I had asked Jesus into my heart. My salvation experience was real and the start of a personal walk with the LORD. Now, 35 years later, I can testify that the LORD has kept me and I am still running on.

Youth camp is a great place for summer fun but more than that, a place where our LORD and Saviour will meet you in a special way.



Dear Aunt Bea:

How can I know how to plan my life and walk with the LORD, how to set goals that the LORD would be pleased with, etc?

Signed: Confused

Dear Confused:

Col. 1:16 tells us that "All things were created by Him and FOR HIM. When Jesus Christ is first in our lives, His Master Plan (not ours) is fulfilled in us and through us. It is only when we take our own way that we miss His purpose for us.

I would encourage you to search the scriptures to find those things pleasing to Him. A good starter is Hebrews 11:6. God is not the Author of confusion. I Cor. 14:33. Be a doer of the Word and an obeyer and you will not go wrong.
Signed: Aunt Bea

Dear Aunt Bea:

I want to be a real friend. Can you tell me how to be one.
Signed: Real Friend

Dear Real Friend:

The only way we can be a real friend is to be a real Christian and follow in the footsteps of the Best Friend known to man, Jesus. Proverbs 17:17 tells us that a friend loveth at all times. That means in pleasure or in pain, in joy or in sorrow.

Proverbs 18:24 gives the answer. A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly, and there is a friend, Jesus, that sticketh closer than a brother. He is a faithful Shepherd and will give you friends in Christ as you follow Him.
Signed: Aunt Bea

Dear Aunt Bea:

I know we are suppose to witness to our friends but how do I do it without sounding weird? What would I say?
Signed: Not Sure How to Witness

Dear Not Sure How to Witness:

The Bible tells us in II Cor. 3:2, ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men. The greatest witness that you can have is to be an example of the believers. (I Tim. 4:12) If we preach but do not live a godly life, we will turn someone away from God, instead of to God.

Prepare yourself with memorizing much scripture and then spend time in prayer and ask God daily to

open the door and lead someone across your pathway to witness to. Instead of pushing your way in, they will open the door to the conversation by asking a question. Speak of those things that have changed your life and let them know that what God has done for you, He not only can, but will do the same for them!
Signed: Aunt Bea

Dear Aunt Bea:

Someone at school told me last week that my church is wrong because we have a woman preacher and the Bible says women are to stay silent in the church. I knew they were wrong but I didn't know how to prove them wrong. What should I have said?
Signed: Loves Sis. Hicks

Dear Loves Sis. Hicks:

People say that God doesn't want women to preach because they lack knowledge of the truth in the Word of God. They themselves don't even believe their own statement that "women should be silent in the church." If this is what they really believed they would not let women join in the

congregational singing, or sing in the choir, or teach Sunday School, etc. This is not being silent.

Do not argue. you will never prove anything. If someone is really hungry and sincere you will be able to show them the truth. If they are only wanting to argue, they won't be open to hear what you have to say anyway.

If you will read Sis. Hicks' book, "And God Made Woman", chapter four, you will have your answer.
Signed: Aunt Bea



What is your youth group doing? We never hear from you!

