Pillars of the Truth

Article #13

*Directing Young People to God*

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Perilous Pitfalls to Youth

(1) Drinking is peril personified. It is a guaranteed way to get hurt physically, mentally, emotionally, economically, psychologically, socially, morally, and spiritually. It has slain its millions. It respects no ages. It is a killer whether the imbiber be nine or ninety. Youth see it glorified in countless advertisements on TV and in other media. They see it served by their parents to every guest in the home. They see the champagne flow freely when a sports team wins the World Series, the Super Bowl or the NBA Championship in basketball. When parents and peers drink regularly it becomes an almost daily temptation to join the “Happy Hour” cult of drinkers. The Bible says to avoid it like a plague (Pro. 20:1; 23:20; Isa. 5:11-12; Hab. 2:15; Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Pet. 2:11).

(2) Dancing is deadly. Its popularity is not exercise but sexual stimulation. It inflames passions that can only be satisfied by overt immorality. Dancing has a ready affinity with petting and then fornication. It is a fatal feeder to such. Only naive church members fail to see what fuels its immense popularity. Forty-four young men were once asked what their thoughts were toward their dancing partners. Forty-one said they had unholy thoughts. When girls are willing, fornication will be the reaped result before the night is history. Dancing is a sure prelude to passionate deportment later. Lascivious means “the unchaste handling of males and females.” Need I say more?

(3) Gambling is a sure bet to poverty and perdition. Brother Garland Elkins and I wrote a 1989 tract in which we heavily documented that very accusation toward the egregious evils of gambling. It is “robbery by consent” ft violates the Golden Rule, the work concept, the prohibition that we refrain from covetousness and every definition given to Christian selflessness.

(4) Parking and petting is a sure way to overt unmoral behavior. There is a mighty thin line between petting and fornication. Like dancing, petting is a passionate prelude to fornication. Petting is not satisfied with just petting. Each advance calls for another and another.

(5) Mixed swimming is a regular flesh parade with girls about ninety per cent undressed and boys about ninetyfive per cent undressed. Modern beaches allow men to look and lust at what previous generations of abandoned men paid to see in X-rated theaters. Water and exercise are not nearly as alluring as scantily clad men and women parading before the lust-filled eyes of each other. The situation is sinful from the word go.

(6) Reckless driving is as lethal as language can depict Jehu is not the last person who drove furiously (2 Kin. 9:20). Job 5:4 mentions children of the foolish who are “far from safety.” David declared that a “horse is a vain thing for safety” (Psa. 33:17). How much more is a high powered automobile with a brainless driver at the controls. Put a few beers into him and he is an unleashed demon on our highways. More than once I have been wrecked because of a drinking or drunken driver. One such driver left the scene. When apprehended he claimed he did not remember leaving the scene of a wreck. The authorities let him sober up behind bars. Reckless driving is as foolish and fatal as playing Russian roulette. Death is in the making.

(7) Drugs, inclusive of alcohol, are the modern curse of human society. A few years ago it was marijuana, LSD, the Uppers, the Downers, heroin, etc., which made the headlines. These are still with us but cocaine has become the headliner in drug trafficking and participation during the 1980s and now into the 1990s. ft is the drug of the elite and big money fuels it. Those who are addicted to if from the poorer side of the tracks will loll, rob and sell their bodies to make possible a continuation of their utter dependence upon cruel and calloused cocaine. It mangles minds and strangles spirituality. It is a merciless killer. A “hands off’ course toward it is wisdom personified.

(8) Nicotine is another popular drug of our society. It is accepted by many as being polite and prestigious. Doctors are giving it up personally. Men are turning away from it because of its lethal potential. Women and girls are adding greatly to the numbers of present smokers. More and more of them will die with lung cancer, throat cancer or lip cancer. Emphysema will take its tremendous toll among them in the future. There is nothing about tobacco usage that marks it with any maturity at all.