

# The Way to Success for Youth in America Today

*“[God] will render to every man according to his deeds.”*

Romans 2:6

## REVIEW

This verse is about the justice of God. We may find this same message with slight variations in wording a hundred times in Holy Scripture. And what is true for the individual is true for the nation. God will render to every individual *and* nation according to their deeds. Psalm 33:12 says, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” Do our nation's deeds indicate that our God is the Lord?

- \* Over 1 million abortions occur yearly, over 50 million since legalization in 1973.
- \* Unnatural lifestyles are being mainstreamed.
- \* Marriage is being slighted and redefined.
- \* Pornography, vulgarity, and foolishness are entertainment for the masses.
- \* Personal and national debt are soaring beyond repair.
- \* Pulpits across America are going cold.
- \* Churches faithful to the Scriptures are becoming rarities.
- \* Good seminaries are shrinking.
- \* God's wisdom is disdained in public discourse.
- \* Evolutionary thinking is firmly ensconced in public schools.
- \* Socialism is advancing.
- \* Free speech is diminishing.
- \* We have elected a President unfavorable to righteousness, even though “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.”  
(Prov. 29:2)

One might wonder how long a righteous God *could* allow a nation that has so forsaken its God to continue. The handwriting of our demise may now be on the wall. This prediction may sound discouraging to youth. Youth may feel robbed of the pursuit of the American dream their forefathers got to enjoy. They may fear upcoming suffering. They may feel unsettled as to how to prepare.

The time may come for us to talk about material preparation, but today we will focus on this spiritual principle: God will render to every man according to his deeds.

This truth is not unique to this age. Living in a certain age does not incapacitate God's people but provides opportunity. Was it a convenient age in which David grew up? His country was at war just down the road with a nation seeking to annihilate them. What were the pleasant conditions in Gideon's time? His country did evil in the sight of the Lord, so God used a foreign nation to humble them. What was easy in Daniel's era, when immorality, spiritual hypocrisy, and defeat covered the land?

Whatever the trials we face, whatever the marks of this era, let us remember that God will render to us according to our deeds. For what that truth means, let's examine I Timothy 4:12.

***Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers,  
in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.***

How rich is virtually every word in that text! See what youth are capable of as youth – to attain a level of spirituality and maturity where everyone is instructed and inspired by who they are.

Surely the spiritual condition of the church's youth is important, both for the present and the future. As for the present: Is a transferal of knowledge, belief, and commitment occurring? Are young people walking by faith even with all the uncertainties in their lives? Can sobriety and deference be observed? Is purity being guarded in spite of the avalanche of temptations today? As for the future: Will they hold to the fundamentals, resisting compromise and liberalism? Will they detect the new threats arising in their age as evil men wax worse and worse? Will they know and love God firsthand? Will they successfully transfer the faith to the generation that follows them?

The first 8 verses of II Timothy 2 provide guidance so youth will indeed be a positive force both in the present and future. There we find the need for . . .

**:1 GRACE** – “Thou therefore, my son, **be strong in the grace** that is in Christ Jesus.”

Yes, grace. The unmerited favor of God. The Lord keeping you from falling. God's riches at Christ's expense. Desire and power from heaven. How can one become strong in grace? Here are 3 answers:

- a. Submitting to elders and others in authority – I Pet. 5:5
- b. Embracing infirmities (feeblenesses in body or mind) – II Cor. 12:9
- c. Fasting and praying – Ps. 35:13

**:2 FAITHFULNESS** – “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.”

The call here is for reliable people. How does one develop faithfulness? By doing the things he knows to do. For example, those who are seeking to know God's specific calling for their life should already be doing His known general callings (which will serve as stepping stones to a specific calling). We are all called to . . .

1. Fellowship – “Ye were **called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.**” (I Cor. 1:9)
2. Holiness – “For God hath not **called** us unto uncleanness, but **unto holiness.**” (I Thess. 4:7)
3. Liberty – “For, brethren, ye have been **called unto liberty.**” (Gal. 5:13)
4. Peace – “God hath **called us to peace.**” (I Cor. 7:15)
5. Eternal glory – “The God of all grace, who hath **called us unto his eternal glory** ....” (I Pet. 5:10)
6. Eternal life – “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on **eternal life, whereunto thou art also called.**”

**:3 ENDURANCE** – “Thou therefore **endure hardness**, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

What hardness do you endure? What unprofitable amusements have you voluntarily restricted from your life? See I Cor. 6:12 – “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.” See Eph. 5:15-16 – “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” Stay *way* away from things that ensnare – Prov. 4:14-15 (4-fold warning).

**:4 SEPARATION** – “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.”

Are we entangled with the affairs of this life? NOBODY who wars for God does that. The things that preoccupy the world are just not what moves us. Some may have some merit. Some may be YouTube humor, movies, games, songs, comedians, sports, financial schemes, fashions, philosophies, and trends, Great masses will fail through entanglement, but we must not! Stay on message. See everything through the prism of spiritual war. Ever think on the pleasure of Him who chose us to be soldiers.

**:5 COMPLIANCE** – “If a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he **strive lawfully.**”

“The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.” (Prov. 13:4) Everyone desires, but doing what needs to be done to succeed spiritually is a rarity. It requires cleansing our hands and purifying our hearts – James 4:8. See also Psalm 15.

**:6 LABOR** – “The husbandman that **laboureth** must be first partaker of the fruits.”

Jesus said, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.” (John 9:4) So also a youth who longs to excel spiritually must set high goals for the amount of time spent reading good books, memorizing and meditating upon Scriptures, preparing and giving witness, and performing good works. “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.” (Titus 3:8) “In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.” (Prov. 14:23)

**:7 MEDITATION** – “**Consider what I say;** and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.”

Spiritual success and prosperity will always require meditation on the Word of God (Josh. 1:8). Soak the riches; make comparisons and contrasts; visualize; link to similar Scriptures; think of illustrations; look to the Lord to open the mind. Make meditation your joy and preoccupation.

**:8 FOCUS** – “**Remember that Jesus Christ** of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel.”

Know all you can know about the resurrected Christ. Enjoy Him. Speak of Him. Pray to Him. Pray God reveals more. Study the uniqueness and essential nature of the resurrection.

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## DISCUSSION

1. In your own words summarize the message of this handout.
2. List 5 good questions that youth may have in response to this message.
3. How do you grow in grace?
4. How do you pursue those 6 general callings to fellowship, holiness, liberty, peace, eternal glory, and eternal life?
5. What have you found to be keys to endurance?
6. What have you learned about separation?
7. Are you meditating as you should? What will you commit to now?
8. Focus on Christ. Record what happens.