

**A Collection of Essays by Twelfth Graders in the Young Adult Class
at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.**

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Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

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Words from Pastor Hunt

Throughout time so many ideas have been lost because someone failed to write. I feel that writing, like long-hand or script is quickly becoming a lost art. Oftentimes as I read notes and some articles written by younger people, I notice that the text language is creeping into every aspect of our lives. I beg each one of you to stop every now and then and write down your feelings, ideas and thoughts and please don't shortcut your words with text language.

I was in the eleventh grade in English class, looking out the window when Mr. Mikulski called to me and said that what I was looking at must have been more important than what he was teaching. He then directed me to write about it. I did and he was so impressed that he had me to read my paper at the general assembly and it opened new doors for me. I would like to encourage you to continue to write and as you do so, remember that no one can see the world the way you do. Allow yourself to plunge into your feelings and remember that you can always edit but you must have something to edit.

As I close, I assure you that the ability to write and express yourself clearly will become the key that will open many new doors for you. I therefore encourage you to continue writing as you grow and mature in life.

Justin Donaldson

Mrs. McNish

Young Adults Class

June 20, 2015

The Origins of the Bible

The Bible is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. We use the Bible to teach ourselves and guide ourselves through life, living it out to the fullest. There's so many great teachings in the bible, but have you ever thought about where it originated? Talking about the origins of the Bible is a broad topic to talk about and it's tricky to talk about in specifics. When doing research, you have to watch out for false information such as conspiracy theories. You also need to make sure that you're researching the bible as a whole, not a particular version such as the New International or King James Version.

The Bible is the account of God's actions in the world and his purpose with all creation, written out by multiple important people. So how did it start? Well, the Bible first started coming together about 3500 years ago. The first five books were attributed to Moses. These earliest accounts were handed on from generation to generation in songs, narratives, and poetry. In the earlier societies, there was no writing yet and people passed on these oral accounts with great detail and accuracy. The earliest writing began when symbols were scratched or pressed on clay tablets. The Egyptians refined this technique and developed an early form of writing known as hieroglyphics. This leads us to learn that the earliest writings of the Bible go back to 1400 BC.

It's now known how the Bible started, but why did it start? What the main message? Well, there is no main message as there are to so many. To my understandings, the Bible was put together to teach us life lessons. That may not have been the actual intentions, but it's put together like a diary and records everything that's happened. The rights and the wrongs are all in there, and we learn a lot from it.

The Bible is a wonderful book that will forever be around to continue to teach and guide us through life. It a lamp unto our feet

and a light unto our path, and we hide its words in our heart that we might not sin against God.

Daniel Lewis

5/31/15

Young Adult Sunday School Class

Mrs. McNish

Coping in College

The college years are a person's most exciting, but often, the most trying time in their life. New, never before seen issues are encountered and temptation to break from one's Christian creed is as strong as it has ever been. However, if one surrounds himself with people who have the same moral standards of right and wrong as they do, they are less likely to fall to the temptations of college life. There are many advantages to Christian friendship during the college years. These advantages include aspects of the social, spiritual, and psychological points of view.

A social advantage of having Christian friends is that they reinforce and strengthen your own faith. Proverbs 27:17 says "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." This scripture further expresses how having Christian friends is beneficial in one's life, especially in college. While having Christian friends a college

student will feel more confident about his faith and will be more likely to abide by it.

On a spiritual level, someone who has Christian companions tends to not have temptation overcome them as easily. This is due to the fact that these friends believe in the same morals as the student. The friends are less likely to pressure the student into ungodly activities. As temptation comes, Christian friends will do their best to avoid the situation and bring the student with them because they do not want them to fall into the ways of the world.

Psychologically, Christian friends make the student feel more confident about their faith. This is because Christian friends reinforce the student's belief and makes the student feel comfortable in believing in God and going about their moral walk. The friendship and faith also creates a strong bond between the friends because of trust formed along with the relationship.

Christian friendship is a very important aspect of the college years because it builds up one's relationship with God, It also creates a barrier temptation by having others around that are as strong in their faith as they are. Finally, it makes one more

comfortable in their faith. The benefits of having Christian friends in college make Christian friendship very desirable not only in college, but throughout life.

Jayson Scott

McNish

Young Adult Assignment

Making God a Priority in your Life

Prioritizing physically includes aspects such as time management, readings, studying, etc. A good amount of time should be put into studying, as well as reading the bible. It should be treated as another course, one with the biggest final of all time. To make things easier for day to day life, making a schedule is an excellent idea. This schedule would include items such as a morning routine, which classes are scheduled for the day, when to start studying, when to pick up a bible, and of course, when to sleep. Also, include items like going to church, hanging out with friends, test dates, etc. “Today will be busy because I have a photo project due tomorrow,” Kristi, a college student says. “And Thursday I have a self-portrait due, and Friday I’m driving home for spring break.” This is just a short glimpse into prioritizing in terms of scheduling. It is always good to check in with teachers, friends, ministers, or anyone to find

out times, dates, and places. One of the worst things to happen while plotting a schedule is to overload one day or even have more than one event happening at the same time. Another important aspect of physical priorities is organizing. It's important to make sure that everything has its own place. Possibly labeling things that you have can help with getting organized, as well as having notes for yourself. Physical prioritizing is fairly easy.

Spiritually, a college student should feel themselves growing as a person and as a child of God. From the moment that high school is officially over with, the thought of the "real world" really settles in. Being ready to make serious decisions, have bigger responsibilities, etc. Part of this is figuring out how to live life. Primarily, living by the bible and how God would want us to. Secondarily, finding out what you like doing, what you want to do, and what interests you.

"I think it's about gaining more direction in where you want to go, discovering more about who you are away from your family and hometown," says Kristi, a native of Becker, Minnesota. For the most part, people are not born knowing what they want to do. God always has plans, to let you see what you were meant to do when you are ready to see it. From that moment on, He will walk with you on the

path that was intended for you, and every step you take along the way builds you up and lets your grow.

Socially, a Christian should know how to prioritize and balance themselves. During college, everything gets a little hectic when it comes to friends and socializing. Study groups is a good way to integrate work and play with fellow students. While combining the social aspect with actual work, you and your friends all benefit from this. And this is not just for classes. Bible study group is a great way to keep in touch with your friends and with God at the same time.

For the most part, we are all equipped with simple guidelines. The bible explains what to avoid and good ideas while decision making. It explains that even through time, there is a lot of different people. There are Christians who can help with advice on what to do, or who to look for, or even just someone to pray with. There are people who can be the nicest people but who have not yet found God, who could just be looking for a little guidance themselves. There are even people who do not believe in Christianity, there are people who are going through struggles silently, there are people who are trying to figure everything out, in other words, there are people who need someone to pray for them and let them know all the

good that God can and will do for them. No matter what kind of people you will encounter, you will know what to do if you keep your mind set on the good Lord.

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Scriptural Solutions for Freshman College Students

**Scriptural Solutions for First Year College Students Facing Difficult
Situations and Challenges**

Carumey Stevens

Young Adult Sunday School Class

Professor McNish

May 26 2015

Scriptural Solutions for Freshman College Students

For all, the undergraduate college experience is full of new experiences academically, socially, and personally. College is a time of self-exploration and discovery in which most adolescents, for the first time, are fully introduced into the “real world.” As a Christian college student, introduction into the “real world,” or secular world, may include several challenges because the values of a Christian differ from the values of the world. One can maintain Christian beliefs by utilizing scriptural solutions to solve typical challenges faced by first year Christian college students. For the purpose of this essay, challenges can be defined as hardships, difficulties, or adversity faced by freshman college students. Christian can be defined as an individual who believes Jesus Christ is the son of God and came from heaven to earth to save the world from eternal damnation. The secular world can be defined as practices and actions of the “world” that do not typically coincide with those of the Lord Jesus Christ’s. In this essay, the Bible will be used to offer scriptural solutions to social challenges, such as drinking and

partying, as well as academic challenges, like commitment, work ethic, and relationships with atheist professors.

Prior to the presentation of a solution, one must identify a problem that needs solving. One of the many problems or issues that Christian college students face includes partying and the activities closely related to one's typical college party. Traditionally, college parties often include activities that contradict Christian beliefs and practices. First, if a Christian college student is questioning whether or not that type of partying is ungodly, he or she should reference Galatians. These scriptures states that partying is a "work of the flesh" and those who engage in activities as such "will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21). Once Christian college students understand that partying is of the flesh and not of God, he or she can now understand the issue that may arise when in situations involving partying while away at college. A scriptural solution to a student in a compromising situation regarding partying would reference Titus which asserts that Christians must "renounce all worldly passions" and "live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age" (Titus 2:12). The scripture stands as an appropriate scriptural solution for a college student in a challenging

situation because not only does it clearly rule against partying, but it provides students with a clear alternative way of living instead of partying. The alternative way of living is to live “self-controlled” and “upright” (Titus). Although it may be difficult for Christian college students to avoid partying, there are clear biblical solutions, like the scriptures in Titus, which can guide them in the direction of the Lord and not the secular world.

To elaborate on the topic of partying, in today’s society, alcohol consumption and partying seem to coincide all too well. Although the bible does not rule against alcohol consumption in its entirety, it does rule against debauchery. The first issue students may face with drunkenness is questioning if it is truly wrong in the eyes of God. Christians should study the book of Ephesians which clearly tells Christians “do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery” (Ephesians 5:18). After understanding that drunkenness is wrong in the eyes of The Lord, one can confront the battle he or she may face when tempted by desires to get drunk. In this battle, one can continue reading Ephesians 5:18 which tells Christians to “be filled with the spirit” instead of alcohol (Ephesians). This is a viable solution because the Bible presents Christians with an alternative to

secular behavior. For instance, if a Christian college student is tempted to go out to the bar or local club and get drunk, he or she can turn to the Lord in prayer and worship; thus filling oneself with the spirit. Therefore, the scriptural solution for excessive alcohol consumption can be found in the book of Ephesians. Using this scripture and others in the Bible will help a first year college student in a difficult situation regarding debauchery.

In addition to the social life component of college life, one may also face challenges in the academic spectrum of college life. With all of the other distractions and excitement that come along with going away to college, students often forget that their main focus and real reason for being there is to learn. In comparison to high school, college is a monumental transition for most students. The work increases in difficulty, educators expect students to be self-motivated, and students, for the first time, are virtually free from their parents' jurisdiction. The Bible proclaims, "When someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required" (Luke 12:48). With this new found responsibility and academic rigor, naturally students will need the Lord's guidance to bear the new responsibility and be victorious. The complexity of college level work may

sometimes be perplexing. Despite committed attendance to a professor's office hours, countless hours spent in TA discussions, or the meticulous study and highlighting of one's textbook, he or she still may not understand the material. In this situation more than ever, a Christian college student should turn to the Lord for assistance. Referring to the story of Daniel, specifically Daniel 9:22, would be optimal. Daniel's story follows him through his time as a young adult, a time in which he was close in age to a freshman college student. In this story, Daniel prays wholeheartedly to The Lord. Subsequently, God grants Daniel wisdom and understanding (Daniel). Moreover, God not only granted Daniel with intelligence and wisdom, but in Daniel 1:17 God granted four other young men "an unusual aptitude for understand every aspect of literature and wisdom" as well (Daniel 1:17). When faced with academic challenges, one can find refuge and a solution in Daniel because the Lord granted Daniel, a boy close in age to a college student, wisdom and intelligence through his prayers. Clearly, when a college student begins to struggle with academic material, he or she should pray like Daniel and study the chapter of Daniel for solace and a solution.

Continuing with a focus on academia, students will need to develop or maintain a strong work ethic. All too often people think if they just pray, the Lord will grant all of their ambitions, hopes, and desires, and in the meantime he or she can just sit back and relax, but that is not so. The formula for success and acquisition of one's aspirations is a combination of prayer and trust in God with active work towards accomplishing one's endeavors. For this reason, students must be committed to their work in order to truly excel. Students can find reassurance in their commitment to their work and long hours spent in the library or countless trips to their college's Writing Center in the book of James. James asserts "faith apart from works is dead." James 2:24 also states "a person is justified by works and not by faith alone" (James 2:24) (James 2:26). Both scriptures reasserts the need and importance of actively working towards one's goals while simultaneously trusting and following the Lord. These scriptures clearly illustrate that a student must not only hope and pray for academic success, but also work for it. Working, studying, reading textbooks, doing homework, attending office hours, seeking help when needed, putting in the extra time, choosing work instead of play when necessary, while praying relentless is the

true key to success. During my four years in high school, this scripture was my motivation to study. Irrefutably, time spent dedicated to studies in addition to trust in God and prayer will yield academic success.

At most accredited universities, one is surrounded by professors and academic instructors decorated in terminal degrees and academic honors. To a timid freshman college student bearing only a high school diploma, these professors may appear brilliant or genius-like. But one must be watchful with what teachings he or she accepts from the professor because professors may impose their own beliefs on students, beliefs that do not coincide with those of the Lord's. It is not uncommon that some professors attempt to discredit and diminish Christian beliefs in the classroom. These times may be increasingly uncomfortable and awkward for Christian students, but in this time of discomfort, there is a scriptural solution for refuge. 2 John preaches "Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, 11 for whoever greets him takes part in his

wicked works” (2 John 2:9-11). These scriptures discuss and challenges the beliefs and ways of those who contradict the teachings of God. One may use this scripture as a solution to a situation in which his or her professor is anti-Christianity because it recommends that students “do not receive him [her],” or accept his or her beliefs and teachings (2 John 2:10). As a solution to a Christian student faced with an atheist professor, he or she must simply not receive or entertain his teachings.

Subsequently, it is easy to say that the solution is to just ignore or “not receive him [her]” contradictory teachings, but what if the professor has a compelling argument? (2 John 2:10). What if he or she challenges or questions topics you gave never truly understood regarding Christianity or Jesus? In that case, one can find solace and a solution in both Proverbs and Isaiah. Proverbs 3:5 charges Christians to “trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding” while Isaiah 55:8 proclaims “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5) (Isaiah 55:8). Both scriptures encourage Christian believers to trust in God and to understand that he has a higher understanding of all things in comparison to their own.

Therefore, there are certain facets of Christianity and the Bible that may be confusing and may be challenged by professors, but in those instances believers must understand that the Lord knows more than they do. His methods and ways of handling things are not like the world's, therefore people may not understand them. Although professors may propose compelling arguments against Christianity that, in the moment, may seem valid, or allow doubt to fester in your soul students must believe that the Lord has a superior understanding in comparison to their own and the professors. Therefore, one must trust him wholeheartedly, even when we are unsure, bemused, or skeptical. Both scriptures in Proverbs and Isaiah stand as strong scriptural solutions to difficulties faced by Christian first year college students.

In closing, although college is an exciting process, it is evident that one will encounter countless trials and tribulations relating to the pull between the secular world and the way of the Lord. If one looks to the Lord and the Bible for refuge in their times of weakness throughout college, there relationship will blossom beautifully with the Lord. As one enters college and begins to become assimilated, it is advisable that he or she finds Christian organizations, makes

ample time for study of the word, and prays relentlessly for guidance as well as both academic and spiritual growth. With a strong combination of both sedulous work and faith in Christ, first year Christian college students will survive their first year in college.

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"Luke 12:48 But the One Who Does Not Know and Does Things

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**The Presentation of Christianity and Islam in the Life of a Christian
College Student**

Natia Tonge

Young Adult Sunday School Class

McNish

May 30th, 2015

Religion has been part and a guide of people's lives since the beginning of time. There are a numerous amount of religions that have comparing and contrasting beliefs. Many people would believe that all monotheistic religions are alike. Although there are a few similarities in the Christian and Muslim faith, from the view of a Christian college student, there are many major differences between the religions of Christianity and Islam that separates them. For the purpose of this essay the word presentation reflects the display of two different religions. The term Christianity refers to the most popular religion in the world that is based off of the teachings of Jesus. The term Islam is another popular religion that revolves around the guidance of a prophet named Mohammad. The term the life of a college student is in reference to being a teenager faced with different cultures and belief systems in current times. Many of these differences are not known by many people outside of these religions. Some of these differences are included in the major beliefs and rituals.

One major belief in the religion of Christianity is Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, it is the

main thing that separates it from other religions. For Christians, Jesus is the founder of their own religion, Christ which is the reason that the religion is called Christianity. It is also believed that Jesus Christ is the son of God and belongs to the holy trinity. For many Christians, the trinity represents the three dimensions of one God, God the son, called Jesus, God the father up in heaven and God the Holy Ghost that resides within a Christian's soul. According to the book of first Corinthians,

"For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do...When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or

sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall" (1 Cor. 8. 1-13).

Unlike Christianity, the major beliefs of the Islamic faith does not include Jesus as the Christ and instead revolve around Allah.

One major belief in the Muslim religion is the belief in Allah. For the people of Islam, Allah-meaning one God in Arabic, is the creator of the universe and all the things within it. People of the Islamic faith also believe that a prophet named Mohammed was the founder of their religion and is considered holy. Although Muslims do believe that a prophet named Jesus existed, they do not believe that he is divine and holy. According to the New International Version of the Christian Bible, only the people that are accepting of Jesus as their lord are accepted into heaven, "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, 'Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.' "(Rom. 10. 9-11). There are many other differences between Christianity and Islam. Besides their major beliefs. For example, there are differences in their rituals as well.

One ritual that the Christian faith revolves around is Easter. Easter is a religious holiday that Christians celebrate to acknowledge the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For Christians, Easter is the most important holiday of them all. It is believed that without the resurrection of God's son Jesus who died for our sins we would have all died. Jesus taking our place and dying on the cross for us represent the death of our sins which are all forgiven through his death. After being raised from the dead on the third day and ascended into heaven, Jesus now sits with God the father up in Heaven. The first book of Corinthians states,

"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied" (1 Cor. 15. 13-19).

This Christian ritual is not shared with the people of Islam. Instead most Muslims take part in Ramadan.

One ritual that Muslims celebrate is Ramadan. Ramadan is one of the few holidays that Muslims celebrate every year. Ramadan is a monthly fasting that prohibits eating from dawn until sunset. This ritual recognizes the period of the Qur'an being sent down from heaven to the prophet Muhammad. According to the New International Version of the Christian Bible, Jesus Christ is the only Lord and savior and the only way to salvation, "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'" (John 14. 6-7). The rituals of the Islamic faith is only one difference that separates it from other religions like Christianity.

There are many differences between the presentation of Christianity and Islam in the life of a college student. One difference was in major beliefs, for the Christians, the belief that Jesus is Lord and Savior is what defines a person as a Christian. Muslims believed that there is only one God, called Allah, who is the creator of all things. Another difference is in the rituals that are practiced yearly.

In Christianity, there is the celebration of Easter, which is the recognition of the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus for their sins. For Muslims, a monthly fasting called Ramadan was exercised to show appreciation for the period of the Qur'an coming down to Earth to guide the people. There are many other differences between Christianity and Islam that are not included in this essay.

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Afterword

Jacqueline Goffe-McNish

June 20, 2015

Building our Life in Christ

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain” (Psalm 127:1). This well-known Psalm reminds us that the building and development of the Church has to be by the Lord and according to His will. It also asserts that it is futile to try to progress in the building of any spiritual ‘house’ if God is not at the center of our efforts. In the same way we are reminded that the Lord is the ‘watchman’ and without His protection, all our efforts to protect ourselves from outside danger is useless. This reminds us that we must be totally dependent on God for our growth and development as well as our protection. No one would argue against the assertion that the church is the spiritual center where a group of baptized believers gather to study, worship, and fellowship. The church is a

group of forgiven individuals in fellowship harnessing the power of the Holy Spirit to “grow in grace” and “be continuously filled” (II Pet 3:18 and Eph. 5:18). It is the responsibility of every member to grow spiritually as they become more like Him (Rom 12:2). The believer is called upon to confess that “Jesus Christ is Lord” (Rom. 10:9). This is done by confessing with our mouth, believing in our hearts, studying the word, and walking in grace.

Confessing Jesus acknowledges that Jesus was born in the flesh and entered earth as the son of man. He lived on earth and ministered to the people of His time. He felt all the emotions of a human being and taught the correct way of responding to emotional, social, and psychological pain by the way he responded to his enemies. The believer is able to see love in action as Jesus continually forgave others and focused on pleasing his Father. At His death He forgave the ones who had placed Him on the cross as He said “Father forgive them for they know not what they have done” (Luke 23:34). This Jesus knew that He was on earth for a greater purpose: to be the ultimate sacrifice.

The name Christ refers to Jesus as the promised Messiah. The believer must acknowledge that Jesus is the promised one who God

said in Genesis will be the seed of the woman who will “bruise the head of Satan” (3:15). This is the one who was promised by the prophets of the Old Testament who would come to rescue the children of Israel. This is the child who came at the ‘Christmas’ to die at ‘Easter’. The believer must acknowledge that since “without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin”, Christ paid the ultimate ‘price’ for sin by bleeding to death for us (Heb. 9:22 and I John 2:2). This also justifies the believer who is now brought back to right standing with God (I John 1:9). The response of the believer should be to acknowledge Him as Lord of his life.

The lord of any kingdom is the one in charge. This individual has the highest status and ultimate power. The believer must confess that Jesus is Lord. Jesus must be the final word in all decisions. He must not just be consulted but His decision must be followed. He has laid out the plan for the believer’s life in the Bible and this must be diligently studied and practiced. One is reminded to “hide the Word in your heart” (Ps 119:11). Paul in encouraging Timothy as a young pastor in his growth and development tells him to “study to show (himself) approved, a workman who will not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth” (II Tim. 2:15). One

cannot simply acknowledge Jesus as the one who came earth and who gave His life for sin and stop there. One must embrace Jesus as the Lord: totally in charge of one's life.

Jesus the Christ is Lord of our lives. We must “walk in Christ” (Col. 2:6). This ‘walk’ with God begins with this confession. It continues as one acknowledges that this is nothing we have done but simply by the grace of God. One is sanctified as the Holy Spirit empowers them to actively ‘walk’ in holiness; living in the authority that God has given. The ‘walk’ culminates in heaven as the believer lays down his crown at Jesus’ feet.

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Disclaimer

This booklet contains essays by Young Adult Sunday school students who have taken the time to meditate on the Word of God and write down their understanding of God's message to them. They acknowledge that they cannot live a complete life outside of Christ. This includes being conscious of God in their social, intellectual, psychological, and physical development. This assignment was given to all of the members of this class and only these students have chosen to complete the assignment. It is my prayer that, in the future, other students will avail themselves of the opportunity to meditate on what they have learned during the years they attended Sunday school.