

EVEN A CHLD IS KNOWN BY HIS DOINGS

PROVERBS 20:11; NUMBERS 32

Text: Proverbs 20:11

Proverbs 20:11

¹¹Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work *be* pure, and whether *it be* right.

Introduction:

On April 20, 1999 in the small town of Littleton Colorado, two high school students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold enacted an all-out assault on Columbine High School.

The boys plan was to kill hundreds of their peers using guns, knives, and homemade explosives. They walked the halls and classrooms killing at will.

When the day was done, 12 students, 1 teacher, and both Eric and Dylan were dead.

Since then we have seen the Virginia Tech shootings, the schoolyard shootings in NY and other tragedies involving young people and violence.

As a church and as parents, we have a responsibility to our young people.

We read in Proverbs 22:6, and 23:13-14:

Proverbs 22:6

⁶Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

There are several things that contribute to a wayward child, or as we read in our text verse their doings.

- Acquaintances – Friends

Friends often have the most influence on youth because that is who they spend most of their time with. There are warning signs that a friend may be a bad influence.

Proverbs 1:10-19

¹⁰My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. ¹¹If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: ¹²Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: ¹³We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: ¹⁴Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse: ¹⁵My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: ¹⁶For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. ¹⁷Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. ¹⁸And they lay wait for their *own* blood; they lurk privily for their *own* lives. ¹⁹So *are* the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; *which* taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

This shows how the bad influence of a friend can lead down a path to destruction.

Even a good Christian can be lead astray by the wrong friendships.

Proverbs 12:26

²⁶The righteous *is* more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them.

Proverbs 22:24

²⁴Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

Paul recognized how friends can mislead us.

1 Corinthians 15:33

³³Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

“Klebold was a follower, not a leader, who went astray after he met Harris, friends say. In Cub Scouts, he was a bright, dedicated boy who worked hard for his badges. He also got along well with his older brother. But four years ago, he met Harris. ‘Dylan was real quiet, real smart,’ said Baumgart [who knew Klebold from grade school]. ‘When Eric and Dylan got together, Eric changed Dylan’s demeanor.’ The two got their own home computers, and linked them with modems. ‘They had death matches with violent computer games, matching computer to computer,’ Baumgart said. ‘... they’d play these games for hours and hours and

hours” (The Wichita Eagle, Wichita, Kansas, Thurs., April 22, 1999, p. 8A).

- Articulation – Language

The words that are spoken are they godly or are they worldly?

Proverbs 8:8

⁸All the words of my mouth *are* in righteousness; *there is* nothing froward or perverse in them.

Psalms 19:14

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Too many people today use the world’s words – slang, off color, words as they speak.

Parents you should pay close attention to the articulation of your children; it is often the result of their associates.

- Appetites – Desires

Desire is that internal act, which, by influencing the will, makes us proceed to action.

1 John 2:15-17

¹⁵Love 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. ¹⁶For 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.

¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Titus 2:12

¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Our desires give testimony of the thoughts of our heart.

- Attitudes

The attitudes that every Christian should have are found in what we know as the Beatitudes delivered by our Saviour in the Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 5:1-13

¹ And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: ² And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, ³ Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. ⁵ Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. ⁷ Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. ⁸ Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God. ⁹ Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. ¹⁰ Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. ¹² Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. ¹³ Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be

salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

- Attire

We could say no doubt a lot regarding this subject but all I will say for now is that our attire shouldn't draw attention to our body.

Parents you should never buy clothes that do such or allow you children to wear such.

- Activities

Much is said by the activities our children are involved in.

- Ambitions

When I served as a youth director I would always try to speak to each who was graduating, and would find out what their plans were after graduation.

Most all of them had some idea as to what they were going to do, but I would always ask if that was what the Lord wanted or was this something that they wanted.

All of these things or "doings" make know the child.

I want us to consider an example from the God's Word that I feel show why many young people become

distracted, home become devastated, and some are destroyed.

Notice in Number 32 if you will:

Numbers 32:19

¹⁹For we will not inherit with them on yonder side Jordan, or forward; because our inheritance is fallen to us on this side Jordan eastward.

The Israelites had conquered the country possessed by Og, king of Bashan, and Sihon, king of the Amorites; and the tribes of Reuben and Gad, having great quantities of cattle, thought that the pasture country there would be suitable for them and for their flocks.

Their choice of land was one very suitable for sheep. They then ask Moses for that country. Moses objected.

These people didn't want to stay in the wilderness, but this place was good enough. They knew that God's desire was for them to cross over Jordan. They said in verse 5, "Wherefore, said they, if we have found grace in thy sight, let this land be given unto thy servants for a possession, and bring us not over Jordan."

But they decided that this place was good enough for them and wanted to stay there and go no further and fight no more battles.

Let me say that we have too many just good enough preachers who are content to stay put and go no

further. They don't want to be ungodly or new evangelical, but they are content to go no further.

We have too many parents who are just good enough who are content to stay put and go no further. Fearing that they may be known as a fanatic, they go no further and in the end they will find themselves floundering or a failure.

The task set before us will not be done by good enough Christians. That job can only be done by sold out Christians, giving everything to Jesus Christ, saying I'll cross the Jordan River, I'll go into the promise land, and I'll be everything that God wants me to be.

Notice with me:

1. GOD'S DESIGN

God had planned on them crossing the Jordan and dwelling in the promise land.

Note:

Crossing the Jordan is not a picture of a Christian dying, but rather a Christian being surrendered to the Lord.

Romans 12:1

¹I 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.

Illustration:

We often sing words that we are not willing to do.

All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give.
I will ever love and trust Him in His presence daily live.

2. THEIR DESIRE

A. They wanted to stay right where they were.

B. They wanted what they could see instead of what God would supply.

Note:

They tried to make it sound spiritual.

Numbers 32:19

¹⁹For we will not inherit with them on yonder side Jordan, or forward; because our inheritance is fallen to us on this side Jordan eastward.

They tried to make it sound like it was the will of God.

Someone once said, "Selfishness is never worse than when it puts on the garb of religion."

3. THEIR DEFICIENCY

A. We exposed unnecessarily to their enemy

Note:

Those who are content to be just good enough are always more vulnerable to the enemy.

These people were not still in Egypt, but there were closer to Egypt than the Lord wanted them to be.

B. They missed many blessings

Numbers 32:16

¹⁶And they came near unto him, and said, We will build sheepfolds here for our cattle, and cities for our little ones:

The things that were built beyond Jordan would now have to be built by those who tarry behind – those who were content with just being good enough.

C. They excluded their families from seeing the victory at Jericho.

We need to allow our families to see the victories that God brings and allows, and in doing so their faith will increase.

Close:

- Parents we must allow God to help us to build a God-fearing home.
- Parents you must be dedicated to your children, and that doesn't mean giving them everything they want but again as we read in Proverbs:

Proverbs 22:6

⁶Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

- We must be faithful to church.

Exceptions aside, godly, fruitful young people are the product of God-fearing homes working in harmony with God-fearing churches.

Acts 2:41

⁴¹Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

1 Timothy 3:15

¹⁵But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Hebrews 10:25

²⁵Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

The world is the Christian's enemy (James 4:4) and God's people are warned not to love the evil things of the world (1 John 2:15-17). The world is under the dominion of the devil (2 Cor. 4:4). He tries to gain access into people's lives through the evil things that he offers as enticements, as he used the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil to entice Eve (Gen. 3). Parents must jealously guard against evil and worldly influences coming into their home. They must carefully monitor what their children watch, hear, and read. It is absolute insanity for parents to allow their children unsupervised access to television, Internet, etc.

The two high school seniors who murdered fellow students in Colorado were allowed to spend countless hours unsupervised by their parents, during which they played violent video games, surfed wicked sites on the Internet, watched vicious movies, and conjured up the details of a horrendous massacre. Evil influences entered these young men's lives through the wicked things they were allowed to entertain. Many parents worry that their children will rebel if they separate them from worldly things, but if the young people are allowed to associate with evil things, the battle is already lost.

- Parents you must guard against unwholesome friendships.

It is absolutely essential that parents jealously guard their children's companionships.

- We must be alert to the warning signs

Most children and young people exhibit problems in their lives from time to time, and wise parents will not ignore these. When a warning sign occurs, it is not time to despair; it is time to act. The problem must be confronted; help must be obtained if necessary from pastors and teachers and other wise people (rather than from psychologists and humanistic teachers). Like warning lights in our automobiles, to ignore problems in our children's lives will not solve the matter but will lead to a much more serious problem.

Pray earnestly that your children will be born again and that God will give us wisdom in creating an environment that they will want to serve the Lord with all their heart, not being content being just good enough.

Genuine salvation produces a change in a person's life. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

If a young person has no personal interest in the Lord and His Word and will in his daily life, there is no biblical reason to think he or she is a born again

Christian. What does the young person do with his time and money when he has the opportunity to do exactly as he or she pleases?

Paul was concerned about the Christians at Galatia that they were not yet born again. He said: “My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you. I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you” (Gal. 4:19, 20).

This is what we need to do with our young people when they exhibit signs that they have not repented toward God and have not been born again by the Spirit of God. We must not be content that they have made an empty profession of faith, but we need to earnestly plead with the Lord about them until repentance is evident in their lives. We can enlist prayer support from others. We can fast and pray. We can pray without ceasing, casting ourselves and our children upon God’s great mercy.