

The Sooner, the Better

by Bill Crews

In one of our old songs we sing:

“How shall the young secure their hearts, and guard their lives from sin?

“Thy word the choicest rules imparts to keep our conscience clean.

“‘Tis, like the sun, a heavenly light, that guides us all the day; And through the dangers of the night, a lamp to lead our way.

“Thy word is everlasting truth; how pure is every page!

“That holy book shall guide our youth, and well support our age.”

The words are by Isaac Watts, and the melody by Beethoven, but the idea for the song was suggested by Psalms 119:9-16:

“Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way?

By taking heed thereto according to thy word.

With my whole heart have I sought thee.

Oh let me not wander from thy commandments.

Thy word have I laid up in my heart,

That I might not sin against thee.

Blessed art thou, O Jehovah.

Teach me thy statutes.

With my lips have I declared

All the ordinances of thy mouth.

I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies,

As much as in all riches.

I will meditate upon thy precepts,

And have respect unto thy ways.

I will delight myself in thy statutes:

I will not forget thy word.”

Every accountable person should want to do the best possible thing he can with his life, doing good and not evil, doing right and not wrong, doing God’s will and pleasing Him, being what God wants him to be and doing what God wants him to do, giving as much of his life as possible in service to God, beginning early and serving to the end. And all of this requires that we have reverence for God and respect for His revealed word — especially that which was revealed through Christ (Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:1-4). **The sooner in his life a person is taught, and therefore learns, to give God God’s rightful place in his life and the Bible its rightful place in his heart, the better it will be for him here — and hereafter.** What a waste of our lives, what a squandering of our time, what a misuse of our abilities, what a neglect of our opportunities will occur if we leave God and His word out. But what joy, peace, comfort, contentment, example and good influence, spiritual fruit, and hope if we put them in and keep them in.

301303