



God is to make a horrible mistake. The Bible simply says, **“Remember also your creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, ‘I have no delight in them’”** (Ecclesiastes 12:1-8). Don’t tell yourself that you will get wisdom and be an example when you’re older. Now is the time to take action and grow closer to God!

I understand how hard it is to find the time for

spiritual things. There was a time in my life when I was going to school, working a job, playing baseball and trying to maintain a social life. Don’t misunderstand me; school, work, hobbies, and relationships are all important. In the end, though, nothing is more important than taking the time to know God. Consider all the activities you’re involved in. Are they worth more than your soul? Set your mind on things above now, while you’re young. Please, don’t neglect God! Pushing God off to the side while you’re young may just be the biggest mistake of your entire life.

By writing this letter, I’m not suggesting that I have all the answers. I simply know that **“iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another”** (Proverbs 27:17). John wrote, **“This is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another”** (1 John 3:11). Friends, I write these things because I love you and I want to experience the glory of God with you one day. Let’s work together to achieve our common goal!

In Christian love,  
*Andrew B. Dow*



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Faithful Sayings Issue 16.12 March 23, 2014

## Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.  
Please come again.

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

16.12

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

March 23,  
2014



## Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:20 AM  
6:00 PM  
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

### Elders:

Pat Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Kyle Pope

### Deacons:

Eddie Cook  
Steve Dixon  
Jack Langley  
Neil Ledbetter  
Brady McAlister  
Walker McAnear  
Lance Purcell  
Rusty Scott

### Evangelists:

Kyle Pope  
Andrew Dow

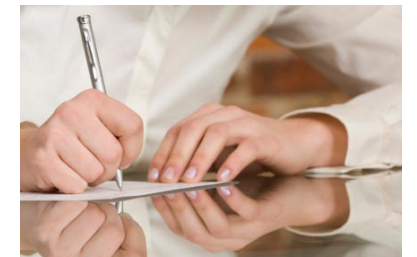
## A Letter to the Young People

By Andrew Dow

**D**ear young people,

Whether you believe it or not, I’m not that much older than you. While most days I still feel like a teenager, I’ve only just turned twenty-one years old. It hasn’t even been one year since I took my last test in school. You see, it wasn’t that long ago that I was facing the very same struggles and pressures that you are facing. In fact, in some ways, I’m still facing similar struggles. I would guess that we have more in common than you think.

Paul wrote that we are to **“encourage one another and build up one another”** (1 Thessalonians 5:11, NASB). The Bible also says, **“let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,... encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near”** (Hebrews 10:24-25). With these things in mind, I would like to do what I can to build you up as we all anticipate Christ’s glorious return. Please allow me to make three suggestions.



### First, I encourage you to get wisdom now.

Wisdom is simply the application of knowledge. The book of Proverbs is full of wisdom. The first nine chapters contain the wisdom given by king Solomon to his son. In these chapters we learn why wisdom is important and how to attain it. The author proclaims, **“How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. For her profit is better than the profit of silver and her gain better than fine gold.... Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor”** (Proverbs 3:13-

16). Do you see how wonderful wisdom is? The ability to apply knowledge is described as more valuable than money, and we are told that it is capable of lengthening life! Why would we not want to find, hold, and use wisdom?

Where can we find wisdom? **“The Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding”** (Proverbs 2:6). **“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God”** (James 1:5). Wisdom is the result of a proper relationship with God! Wisdom will come only when you listen and talk to God. We listen to God by reading His Word; we talk to God by praying to Him.

Friends, I encourage you to start making wisdom a priority in your life right now! Make an effort to search God’s word daily. Embrace every opportunity to learn (Bible classes, sermons, articles, devotionals, etc.) and consider them a blessing, not a burden. Surround yourself with older, wiser Christians and take advantage of what they can teach you. Above all, please take time to read your Bible. Don’t read it just because you have to get ready for Sunday morning or Wednesday night, but because it is the only way to know God. If you start seeking the wisdom of God now, you will be better off in the future.

**Second, be a leader, not a follower.** The world wants to lead you. If you haven’t already done so, you will encounter worldly people who want you to follow them. These people will disguise themselves as your friends and they will expect you to do what they do. These worldly friends will try to lead you in every aspect of your life. They will tell you where to go, who to hang out with, what to say, how to dress, and more. As a result, you will be required to make a daily decision to follow your friends, or to follow Christ. As Paul points out, we must choose to follow Christ. **“Even so, consider yourself to be dead**

**to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus”** (Romans 6:11).

The Scriptures plainly say, **“Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company corrupts good morals”** (1 Corinthians 15:33). Friends, be extremely careful with whom you choose to spend your time. It is fun and popular to make worldly friends, but keeping this kind of company will corrupt you! Consider this proverb, **“Can a man take fire to his bosom and his clothes not be burned? Or can a man walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?”** (Proverbs 6:27-28). Have you ever heard the saying, “if you play with fire, you’re going to get burned”? It’s the same with friends! Why do we hang out with people who use inappropriate language, dress immodestly, go to immoral places, and do immoral things, then wonder why we aren’t growing spiritually like we should? These ‘friends’ will lead you away from Christ if you follow them.

Rather than being led by the world, you must take initiative and lead the world! You must come to recognize that you have an incredible influence. **“Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself and example of those who believe”** (1 Timothy 4:12). Make this verse your motto. Unfortunately, some people make a habit of looking down on young people simply because they’re young. You have an opportunity right now to change that! You have an opportunity to demand respect by the way you live your life. Be an example. Live a life that is worth following! Jesus said, **“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no**



**longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world.... Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may... glorify your Father who is in heaven”** (Matthew 5:13-16). Friends, don’t let the world lead you away from Christ, lead the world to Christ!

**Finally, never neglect God.** Paul wrote, **“Keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on the things of that are on earth”** (Colossians 3:1-2). It may seem like a struggle to keep up in this fast paced society, but to neglect

