

Paul H. Dixon
Remember Now Thy Creator
circa 1979

Unedited Transcript

Paul H. Dixon:

The theme that the sword bears have taken for this conference, is remembered by Creator and by you. Now, I think we recognize that this comes from a familiar verse scripture found in Ecclesiastes chapter 12, if you'll turn there, please. I trust you brought your Bible. If you didn't, look on with somebody else. And I want to read that first verse of Ecclesiastes chapter 12. Remember now thy Creator in the days of the youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.

Paul H. Dixon:

In times past, I've been impressed to pray upon this text as we've had time to share with young people. But as I thought about today, and as we waited before the Lord, the Lord impressed me with some things about this text that I'd never seen before. And I do trust that the spirit of God will impress them upon you as he's impressed them upon me. And I think to really get the importance, the thrust of this verse, we have to realize who God used to say it. The man who wrote the book of Ecclesiastes is none other than Solomon himself.

Paul H. Dixon:

King Solomon, son of King David, the man after God's own heart. Never did a man get the start in life like Solomon got. No one could say that he had a father quite like Solomon had. He inherited all of the wealth of his love, the prominence of his father, the stature of his father. He stepped into his place as king. And yet as we study this man, Solomon, we find that this man who started so well ended so terribly. And the book of Ecclesiastes is a record of why he turned out to be a flop.

Paul H. Dixon:

Now, as I study men of the Bible and castaways of the Bible disasters of the Bible, there are many men who stand out to me like Absalom and Judas, but especially two men Samson and Solomon. Now I have Difficulty deciding who failed the furthest. As I think about Samson, what a terrible fall, but I think somehow Solomon's fall was the greatest. Here was a man who wrote over a thousand songs. 3000 Proverbs had sets potential for God as a young man, and yet he blew it all. He decided to go down to Egypt to get his queen. And when he started down to Egypt, it was just a continually going down and away from God. Alexander White, who incidentally young people, if you'd like to buy two books for your library, that'll help you to understand the Bible in a unique way, buy the two volumes of Alexander White.

Paul H. Dixon:

There are biographies of men and women of the Old Testament and New Testament. Alexander White says of Solomon, the shipwreck of Solomon is surely the most terrible tragedy in all of the world. For if ever there was a shining type of Christ in the old Testament, it was Solomon, but every day, sensuality made him a Castaway. If ever ship set sail on a sunny morning, but all that was left of her was a border to on the night, that ship was Solomon. I want you to bear this background of Solomon in mind, as we look at what he said, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth". Three things impressed me as I read this. Number one, the importance of you. Solomon knew this. That's why if you go through the book of Ecclesiastes again and again, you see him talking and directing his remarks to young people.

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Paul H. Dixon:

I think he's saying this look, young people. I blew it when I was young. Don't you make the same mistake. If you'll remember your Creator in the days of your youth, I believe you can have a better finish than I've had. I believe he's old, when he writes Ecclesiastes. God also used him to write the book of Proverbs. Did you that 60% of the chapters in the book of Proverbs have something to do with young people? I believe that Proverbs is the greatest book for young people in the Bible. Let me give you a tip. We're just starting November. There are 31 Proverbs, read a proverb every night before you go to bed tonight, Proverbs four, you can skip the first three. You can get them next month, tomorrow night, Proverbs five. And when you hit a month, it just has 30 days in it.

Paul H. Dixon:

You can double up on the closing day. It won't take you long, but what practical, sensible advice, Solomon gives us in Proverbs, the importance of youth. We see it in the Bible, but we'll just see it in the Bible. We see it today on November the 7th Americans go to the poll. Many of you have been following this campaign, just like I have. George McGovern and Richard Nixon running for the white house. These two men have stressed again and again in this election, the importance of youth. The reason being the 26th Amendment to the constitution was ratified on June the 30th of 1971 because of this amendment 11 and a half million new voters will vote in this election who would not have been able to vote. They are young people. There are 25.7 million potential voters between the ages of 18 and 24. That makes it such a prize to get the youth vote.

Paul H. Dixon:

This represents one fifth of the voters. The biggest single block ever that why George McGovern is counting heavily on the youth vote. And The New Republic magazine in August, one writer said without the youth vote, George McGovern will surely lose. Therefore he has spent \$100,000 to register young people, but Richard Nixon hasn't counted them off either. If you watch the convention in Miami, where did he go after he was nominated? He went into a hall that was jam packed with young people. And the first message that came out was here was Richard Nixon. He was running again for four more years. There were those young people who kept shouting it again and again, four more years. He went in there, they were screaming at there with Sammy Davis, Jr. And all the rest of them who introduced him.

Paul H. Dixon:

The chairman of young Republicans for Nixon and George McGovern has spent a hundred thousand dollars for the youth vote. Richard Nixon has been a cool \$1000000 and an effort to get young people to vote for him. Politicians recognize the importance of youth. Solomon recognize that again and again in the Bible. It's impressed. Let no man despise. I, you, God knows that Solomon knew it. The governor knew it. Nixon knew it. The question is, do you know it? You're here today. You are a young person. Do you really realize how important you are? You say that's kind of egotistical, isn't it?

Paul H. Dixon:

Sometimes we get messed up on this thing of humility. What did the Lord Jesus say, "thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself". Evidently it's not wrong to love yourself.

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Evidently he knew that very realistically, we do love ourselves. And he said, if you would just love your neighbors as much as you do yourself, you would be all right. And God knows that we have to have a certain amount of self respect and we have to know our value before we can ever accomplish anything. You are important. Young man, young lady, you're important to God. You're important to those people at that school that you go to school with. If anybody's going to reach them for Christ, you have to reach them for Christ.

Paul H. Dixon:

We're talking about the importance of youth. But how do we realize this importance? Let's look at the impetus of youth As well as the importance of youth. Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth. Now, when I speak of impetus, I'm talking about the challenge. I'm talking about the earth. This verses be seating as the news, something, and there are two words that leap out, remember and Creator. Remember, now this is amazing that Solomon say, remember thy creator. How can you forget your creator easily? Solomon knew it, Solomon experienced it. And he said, I don't want you to do the same thing I did along the way in the course of life, don't forget God. I've been speaking.

Paul H. Dixon:

The last few weeks on the subject, lest we forget. Why deal with the cross and the Lord Jesus Christ and what he did for us, and when he gave us the communion and said, this do in remembrance of me, how can we forget what we do? And Solomon did.

Paul H. Dixon:

Let me show you how he forgot. He forgot by living for pleasures. First of all, take your Bibles and turn back to the second chapter. Chapter one, as we talk about this challenge to remember God while we're young, Solomon started out remembering God, he was very humble. And you remember, God said, I'll give you any desire of your heart. And Solomon's prayer was give me wisdom And God was so impressed. He said, I'm not only going to give you wisdom, I'm going to give you wealth as well. He started out so humbly, but he got away from God and it all started with living for pleasure in chapter two, verse one, he's testifying. I said in mine heart, go to now. I will prove thee with Mirth therefore enjoy pleasure and behold, this also is vanity.

Paul H. Dixon:

Now he's going to give a catalog of these pleasures. I said of laughter. It is mad. And of mirth, what doeth it? I sought in my heart to give myself unto wine yet acquainting my heart with wisdom and to lay hold on folly till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life. I made me great works. I builded me houses. I planted me vineyards. I made me gardens and orchards and I planted trees in them of all kinds of fruits. I made pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees.

Paul H. Dixon:

I got me servants and maidens, had servants born in my house, also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that runs Jerusalem before me. I gathered me also silver and gold in the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces. I gat me men singers and women singers and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts. So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem, all my wisdom remained with me and whatsoever mine eyes desired,

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I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy from my heart rejoiced in all my labor, and this was the portion of all my labor.

Paul H. Dixon:

Now notice, I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought and, on the labor that I had labored to do, and behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun. He said, I take my fill a pleasure. And he got swimming pools and he got women and he got wine, and he got song and anything to somehow give his life meaning, he tried it all. He turned from God for pleasure. And he looked at it all and he said, it's a waste. It's empty. It's vanity. Now there's nothing wrong with pleasure. In fact, you go down this catalog and you won't find many things that a Christian cannot enjoy. The point is that he began to emphasize these things and fail to emphasize God in his life. And when he did this, he got in a back slim condition and it was a steady roll down. Listen, young people pleasure will not meet the need in your life. Therefore remember now thy Creator, but he didn't just try pleasure. He also tried possessions in chapter five, verse 10.

Paul H. Dixon:

He mentioned some of these possessions in the passage we read, but in chapter five, verse 10, he said he that loveth silver, he's testifying out of experience, shall not be satisfied with silver nor he that loveth abundance with increase, this is also vanity.

Paul H. Dixon:

Let me give you a verse to jot down. 1st King's 10:21 through 23. I'm not going to turn there, put it in the margin of your Bible. 1st Kings 10:21 through 23 next to Ecclesiastes 5:10. You say Paul, when he says that silver doesn't satisfy, did he know what he was talking about? I'll tell you what he had Navy's' at sea. And all they did was spend their time going to all the countries of the world to glean things, to gather possessions, to bring them to give to Solomon. He was the wealthiest man in the world and he said it's vanity, it's empty.

Paul H. Dixon:

But he not only turned from God because of pleasures and possessions, but also because of popularity. Look at chapter six, verse two, He's speaking of himself when he says a man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honor. Popularity, respect so that he wanted nothing for his soul of all that he desired. Yet God giveth him, not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it. This is vanity and it is an evil disease. He had the slaps on the back of the world. Everybody hailed him as the greatest man in the world. And he said, it is empty. You might jot next to that verse, 2nd Chronicles 9:1 and 6 to find out what people of the world thought of Solomon and yet young people, how many of you are just living for the slap on the back for the praises of the world, the popularity of the world.

Paul H. Dixon:

That's the only thing that really matters to you. In fact, if some of you feel very insecure because you're not captain of the football team, or you're not the homecoming queen, or you're not the president of the class, this is not what really matters. Thank God, some of you have become very popular in your school and you can maintain a testimony for Christ and be popular. There's nothing wrong with popularity, just as there's nothing wrong with pleasures or possessions. But it's when they get out of place.

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Paul H. Dixon:

The point is remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth above everything else. Now, you know what God cursed his blessing. Did you know that God cursed his blessings? God blessed him with wealth and he cursed it. God blessed him with pleasure, and he cursed it. God blessed him with wisdom and he cursed it. You read Malachi chapter three, and God says, if you give me not the glory, I will curse your blessing. Many of you are nice looking. Many of you have talent. Many of you have great potential for God. But if you use that for yourself and not for God, God will curse your blessing.

Paul H. Dixon:

Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth. I would just add this, the word here for Creator is not singular, it is plural. Add an S to the word. Remember now by Creators. It's not just speaking of the God who made us. It's not just speaking of God, the father it's speaking of God, the father, God, the son and God, the holy spirit. And I think you can make the applications yourself. But I want you to know this. Look at what happens, if you do not remember thy Creator chapter 11, verse nine.

Paul H. Dixon:

You talk about sarcasm, cynicism. Notice what Solomon said. Rejoice O young man in the youth, that's good, let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, nothing wrong with that. Uh-oh, and walk in the ways of thine heart and in sight of thine eyes. In other words, he's talking to a young man, who's doing his own thing. Who's going his own way. And he really thinks he's on top. He says, go right ahead and do it. But no doubt That for all these things, God will bring thee into judgment. And he knows because God judged him. Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, the importance of it, the impetus of it, the thrust of it, and notice the impact of youth today.

Paul H. Dixon:

The word that I call your attention to now is the word. Now, N O W remember. Now The politicians are after young people and they're not concerned about what they're going to do a week from now. They're concerned about right now. The election is upon us and they want them to be dedicated with all their energy and enthusiasm for their cause right now.

Paul H. Dixon:

They're making more plea to the young voters than they are to the old voters. They're concerned about now. We talk about the now generation. I heard Paul Tassel bring a message at Why not awake, and he breaks down new, now and necessary. Now is the time to live for God. Now is the time to get down to business for God. The impact that young people have had the on the world is history. Frank Donovan said in his book on the wild kids, that 50,000 teenagers ran away from home. Now get this, we talk about teenagers running away from home and going to San Francisco or going to New York today and hitch hiking down the interstates. But they were doing it then. And 50,000 from France and Germany ran away from home in a children's crusade.

Paul H. Dixon:

Their lives ended in death, slavery, disaster, and a lost cause. But all the impact they had in that day, When Lennon was plotting the overthrow of Russia, he made this statement in 1905. He said, men go to the youth. Hitler built his new Germany on a foundation of teenage Nazis. China's red guard that is

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closer to our time was made up mostly of teenagers, and they turned China upside down. In America, we have seen what young people have accomplished and the impact that they've had upon our nation, even in the war, in Vietnam, even in the draft.

Paul H. Dixon:

Now, whether we like it or not, whether we like what their cause is, young people do make an impact today. And the point I am making is that God can use you to make an impact for his glory, that God can make an impact through you in that community where you live and that school, where you attend, on that team that you play on. God can use you to turn that school upside down, to turn lives upside down. If you'll remember now, not tomorrow, not five years from now. Not when you get older, not when you get in college, but remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth. Now is the time to get saved. Now is the accepted time. Now is the day of salvation. Now is the time to get down business for God.