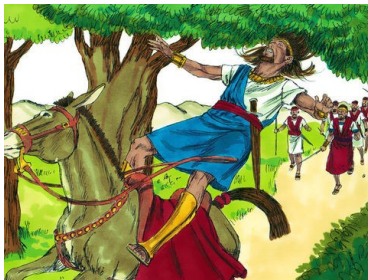


ARE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE?

Text: *2 Samuel 18:29: And the king said, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Ahimaaz answered, When Joab sent the king's servant, and me thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what it was.*

This is not a hard question to answer. How can any young man be safe when his character is like Absalom's and with the life he lived? He was vainglorious, worldly-minded, disloyal, passionate, and disobedient to his loving father, revengeful, deceitful, and without moral or spiritual principles. How could even a father's love save such a boy from the inevitable ruin? About the only good such a life can do is to serve as a beacon on the shores of time to warn others from the same fate.



This is a very touching picture of a father who had seen his son go wrong and treacherously turn into a traitor, yet loving him to the extent that he now sits in the city gates, waiting tidings from the battlefield which was raging in the woods of Ephraim. The forces of David swept the revolutionary forces of his son, Absalom, from the field, and Absalom had been captured and slain. While

trying desperately to escape his captors, his hair was caught in the bough of a great oak tree, and he was taken up amid earth and suspended by his hair. Vengeance would not permit him to escape, for Joab, the commander of David's forces, came and thrust him through with three darts.



The watchman upon the walls of the city saw two men running and called down to David that they looked like Ahimaaz, the son of Zadok, and Cushie, who in haste brought the message to the king of the battle. King David called out to Ahimaaz: "Is the young man safe?"

2 Samuel 18:27, 29a:

²⁷ And the watchman said, Me thinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok.

^{29a} And the king said, Is the young man Absalom safe?

If you could put your ear to the ground or to the keyhole of tens of thousands of

homes tonight, you would hear the same question falling from the lips of broken-hearted fathers and mothers. Is the young man safe? Are the young people safe? The great question can only be answered by the gravest facing of the facts of life. Are the young people safe who have lost a sense of respect for parents and the sacredness of the home? A man or woman never becomes unsafe until they deny righteous principles and love for that which is sacred and holy. That is the time when young people begin to backslide — when they think father and mother are old fogies and too straight-laced, and that it is not essential to have a family altar and prayers.

Two students were returning from a lecture delivered at Harvard University delivered by Bob Ingersoll. One said to the other, “Say, Jim, didn’t old Bob mop Christianity off the map tonight? Jim replied: “I don’t know. I am inclined to believe that my old Mother is still right, and I would not give her — with her sweet Christian life — for all the Bob Ingersolls¹ you could crowd onto the earth.”



Bob Ingersoll

Are the young people safe who have no respect for the House of God and the Word of God? In the days of Jesus, a young man came running to Jesus and said:

Mark 10:17: Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

Jesus said,

Mark 10: 19a, 20b:

19a Thou knowest the commandments, . . .

20 And he answered and said unto Him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

Jesus looked on him and loved him, and said:

Mark 21b: One thing thou lackest; go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in Heaven: and come, take up your cross, and follow Me.



Jesus loved the young man who lived respectably. But no young people can break the Holy Sabbath by work, joyriding, Sunday movies, baseball, card parties,

¹Bob Ingersoll (August 11, 1833 – July 21, 1899) was an American writer and orator during the Golden Age of Free Thought, who campaigned in defense of agnosticism. He was nicknamed "**The Great Agnostic**". From Wikipedia

dances, and excursions, and not suffer for it. Every person buying the Sunday newspaper desecrates the Lord's Day by abandoning the Bible for a paper, and neglecting the House of God for a newspaper. Your example will lead the ones who follow in your footsteps into worse desecrations.

Are the young people safe who are living in worldly pleasures? They are bombarded with countless forms of sexual stimulation from movies, videos, television, and the internet, and they are paying the ruinous consequences. The filth in movies and on the internet are a greater curse in America than are outlawed liquor traffic. There are more pictures magnifying vice, lewdness, drinking, smoking, loose morals, disgracing the sanctities of the home, murders, and robberies, and they have wrecked and cursed more men and women from youth than all the remaining vices put together. Many a young girl is selling the most priceless and precious thing God ever gave to a woman for a good time and popularity.

Are the young people safe who are living only for worldly ambition?



The supreme aim of Absalom was to make a name for himself. He was snared by his beauty, having been declared to be the most handsome man in Israel. His head of hair seemed to be his crown of glory. His beauty and personality became his curse, like many a young man today. It is worse among the young women who spend countless hours at the beauty parlors and before the mirror primping up.

His vanity is seen in his hiring runners to go before him upon entering a city and crying, "*Absalom is coming*". His vanity also reached to the grave. He had a pillar built to perpetuate his memory, not having any family. To this day, when a Jew is passing Absalom's place or pillar, he will cast stones at it.

Are the young people safe who are making it their supreme business of life to prosper? Jesus said,

Matthew 6:33: Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Many today seek the Kingdom last, not first.

Proverbs 8:17b: and those that seek me early shall find Me.

You cannot expect to have treasures and a glorious welcome in Heaven if you live for self alone. That is the worst kind of paganism.

Are the young people safe who are rejecting the Lord Jesus from being their Saviour? Shut Him out, and you shut out your only hope of eternal life.

Some young people are lost in spite of all that can be done to save them. The swift messenger returns to David with the tidings from the battlefield of life. David's first words are:

2 Samuel 18:32a: Is the young man Absalom safe?

The news broke his heart:

2 Samuel 18:33: And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!



But One did die to save you — Jesus Christ. Your separation from Him comes, young people, when you feel something you're about to do is questionable, and you do it anyway.

You are not safe when you do something wrong and do not confess and forsake it. You are not safe when you give up your devotional time with Jesus for other things. You are not safe when you are ashamed of Jesus and His Words before your friends and those who speak lightly of Him.

Stay safe — keep you eyes on Jesus, and never allow the enemy to cause you to deviate from following after Him.

Akron Shalom Bible Learning Center
www.AkronShalomMinistries.org