

THOUGHTS FOR YOUNG MEN

*An Exhortation Directed to
Those in the Prime of Life*

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THOUGHTS FOR YOUNG MEN

‘Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.’

Titus 2:6

When Paul wrote his letter to Titus about his duties as a minister, he mentioned young men as needing particular attention and encouragement. After speaking about older men and older women, and then younger women, Paul adds this pithy piece of advice: ‘Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.’¹ I am going to follow the apostle’s advice. I want to offer a few words of friendly encouragement to young men.

I am growing old myself, but I remember my days as a young man so well. I have most vivid memories of the joys and the sorrows, the hopes and the fears, the temptations and the difficulties, the mistaken judgments and the misplaced affections, the failures and the ambitions that go with being a young man. If I can say something which helps just one young man go in the right di-

rection, and saves him from faults and sins which may ruin his prospects for both this life and eternity, I shall be very thankful.

In this short book, there are four things I want to do:

- I will mention some *reasons* why young men need encouragement
- I will point out some special *dangers* which young men need to be warned about
- I will offer some *advice* which I beg young men to take seriously
- I will suggest some *rules* which I strongly advise young men to follow

I have something to say on each of these four points, and I pray that what I say may be useful to some people.

I. REASONS FOR ENCOURAGING YOUNG MEN

In the first place, what are the reasons that young men need special encouragement? I will mention several.

FEW YOUNG MEN SEEM TO HAVE REAL CHRISTIAN FAITH

For one thing, there is the painful fact that very few young men seem to have real Christian faith. I am not pointing the finger at a particular kind of young man; I speak of all young men. High-born or low, rich or poor, sophisticated or unsophisticated, educated or uneducated, in the city or the countryside—it makes no difference. I tremble to see how few young men are genuinely led by the Holy Spirit, how few of them walk in the narrow way which leads to eternal life, how few are setting their hearts on the Lord and on things above, how few are taking up