

Billy Graham's



"My Answer"

DEAR DR. GRAHAM: I am a teen-ager in high school, and I gave my life to Christ several years ago. However, I have a difficult time of fighting peer pressure. It seems like all I want to do is go along with the crowd, and I know this is wrong. How can I fight this? -- G.I.

DEAR G.I.: The Lord Jesus Christ does not want you to be a follower of the crowd -- he wants you to follow him. Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Yielding to peer pressure usually leads to trouble; following Christ leads one into a new life and an adventure of faith.

The Bible contains so many accounts of men and women of God who were used by him in dynamic ways because they were willing to stand firm on what they knew to be true. How can you follow their example? Let me suggest four things to get started.

First, cultivate your relationship with Christ through daily study of the Bible and prayer. This will keep you in touch with "headquarters", so to speak.

Secondly, cultivate Christian friendships. Gather about you a mutual support team of Christians your own age. Share difficulties and joys and pray together.

Thirdly, follow the guidelines for daily living that you discover in the Bible. Ask God to help you apply his principles to your daily situations.

Lastly, be a friend to non-Christians, but do not follow them in evil. Witness to them about Christ and set an example of godliness for them to follow. "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night ... Whatever he does prospers" (Psalm 1:1-3). God bless you.

History of Hymns

by William J. Reynolds

Come, ye thankful people, come,

Raise the song of harvest home!

All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin;

God, our Maker, doth provide

For our wants to be supplied:

Come to God's own temple, come,

Raise the song of harvest home.

Thanksgiving is a favorite season of the year. Our urban society is not so aware of the harvest of crops in the fall as those who live in rural communities. Nonetheless, "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come," a hymn long associated with this season, will be sung in many churches throughout the land.

Henry Alford, the author of these lines, was an Anglican clergyman gifted in many areas. A noted scholar, theologian, poet, writer, and musician, he had a distinguished career in the Church of England.

A little more than a dozen years after he wrote the hymn in 1844, he was appointed dean of Canterbury Cathedral, where he remained until his death in 1871.

He lived a full and productive life, yet he thrived in the investment of his energies in many activities. One of his friends commented that at the end of the demanding day, Alford would "stand up, as at the end of a meal, and thank God for what he had received."

NEXT WEEK'S HYMN: "Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying"

Dr. William J. Reynolds is on the faculty of the school of Music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He is immediate past president of the Hymn Society of America and was formerly secretary of the Church Music Department of the Southern Baptist Sunday school board. A lecturer, musician and composer, he was written several books on hymns and was general editor of Baptist Hymnal.

Marse Grant

Continued from page 1.

View: Do you remember your first job as a newspaper delivery boy?

Grant: (smiles) I believe I do. I paid 13 cents a week for the papers to the Greensboro News and I collected 20 cents. That's 7 cents a customer. I carried 125 papers, and in a good week that \$9 to \$10. This was when work in the mills brought in about \$11 a week.... You know, I've never been part of an intellectual elite in North Carolina. I worked in a mill, and I've always been very proud of that.

View: Marse Grant, thank you.

Thursday, November 19, 1981

Read Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. —Ephesians 5:21 (NRS)


LEARNING three basic principles can help us avoid self-centeredness, immorality, and wanton destruction.

Those principles are obedience to authority (when that authority is exercised without tyranny), respect for others (including one's own family), and respect for property (including one's own possessions).

Learning these principles may not be easy, but as Christ's disciples we are called to learning, to apprenticeship. Jesus said, "Come . . . and learn of me." His greatest teaching calls for concentration upon God's love and for caring for each other. That care is to be equal to the care we bestow upon ourselves.

In an undisciplined society, Christians are called to discipline themselves to love and care for one another.

PRAYER: Dear God, help us this and every day to learn from Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us. We pray as He did, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."*



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