

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Youth

"Youth lives on hopes, old age on remembrance." – French Proverb

"In youth we learn; in age we understand." – Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach

"The most underused, under-appreciated group of people in the world is our youth." – Ian Somerhalder

"That's where the future lies, in the youth of today." - Willie Stargell

We should not underestimate the importance of our young people. Scripture would seem to suggest that they are extremely valuable. If one were to mention Bible characters such as Joseph and Daniel, they would say they were outstanding young men.

But as a matter of concern, this past week, a news report came out noting that "one-third of adults under 30 have no religious affiliation." This is obviously a matter of grave concern since we are talking about the future of society and the church.

One of the strongest indictments in this report mentioned that "the unaffiliated say they are not looking for a religion that would be right for them. Overwhelmingly, they think that religious organizations are too concerned with money and power, too focused on rules and too involved in politics."

This is disturbing as it would seem to suggest that religious organizations are not interested in young people, except those they can use to further their agenda. It is this disenchantment with this generation that is a matter of concern. The obvious worry is how this will affect future generations of the church?

Now we can be delighted that 2/3 of those young people under 30 polled said they believe in God. That is encouraging especially in light of what is taught in classrooms today. Evolution is being taught as a fact and not a theory. Yet, young people thankfully are seeking to rise above it.

Overall, the numbers of adults in our country that are unaffiliated with any religious body have risen in the past five years from 15% to just under 20%. More and more people are getting away from churches and are going under the guise of "Jesus yes, the church no."

We need to be concerned about our young people. Yes we are grateful that not all have been duped by the modern atheist, but we do need to take note that the numbers of the "separated" believers from churches are on the rise.

Why is this a grave concern? It is because salvation cannot be found apart from the church. Paul clearly stated, "...Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body" (Eph. 5:23), and the body is the church (Eph. 1:22-23). The Lord saves those who are in His body, the church.