



THE ENCOURAGER

Help for Sunday School Teachers— Dedicated to those who take the Word of Life to Children Everywhere

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LET'S GET AT IT

There's work to be done. Souls to be reached. Communities to touch. Families to be contacted. So much need all around us.

With things as they are in our world—we might be tempted to slack off. Life is busy. We have many commitments - legitimate and upright. Time seems to escape us. Our days sap us of the strength to do any more. Let's face it—there are times when we are just plain tired. Sometimes results are discouraging or apparently non-existent.

When Paul talks to Timothy about discouraging conditions, a flood of immorality and carelessness—I am so thankful that he does not give up. He does not bow his head with discouragement. He stirs Timothy up with these words. "But continue THOU in the things that thou hast learned... And from a child thou hast know the Holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation." Further he goes on to remind him that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God."

I was most interested to read J R Baker's Comments in 'What the Bible Teaches'. He reminds us that "In the original text, "but continue thou" really begins with and EMPHATIC "THOU". Have we not felt that God at times seems to point His finger at us and say "YOU" "You continue"! "You" keep at it! Are you keeping at it?"

Further he comments on the passage in this way, ' As the evil increases, the man of God can take courage from the fact that the *Truth Remains Constant* and is *unchanging* in it's character.' 'Timothy had the great benefit of being taught the truths of Holy Scripture from infancy. "Child" here is "new born babe" or "infant" (*brephos*); the same word is used even of the unborn child (Luke 1:41-44)' 'The "Holy Scriptures" are literally the "sacred writings". Strictly it can refer here only to the Old Testament.' 'This verse declares the sufficiency of the OT to lead a soul to Christ for salvation. When teaching the word of God, we are not attempting merely to impart knowledge, but rather to put within the mind of the hearer that which can bring divine life.'

Wow—if we really believed the Word of God was so powerful and mighty—would we not do everything we could to plant it in one more soul?

Toil on, faint not, keep watch and pray; Be wise the erring soul to win;
Go forth into the world's highway, Compel the wanderer to come in.

BHB #387 Horatius Bonar



Time seems to escape us.



"Golden days of youth"

If this publication provides any help or encouragement to you—please let us know



THE GOLDEN YEARS ...

are not the retirement years! Ask any Senior Citizen. They will tell you. Solomon called those years "the evil days", "when thou shalt say, 'I have no pleasure in them.'" Rather the Golden Years are the "GOLDEN DAYS OF YOUTH" - full of promise and possibility. May the Lord "teach us to number our days" and sow the Seed into the receptive hearts of the young.