

# **The Question & The Answer**



**By**

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*Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?  
By taking heed thereto according to thy word. Psalm  
119:9*

There is a line in the movie classic **It's A Wonderful Life** that says "Youth is wasted on the wrong people".

The implication is that young people don't value their time as wisely as more mature people do. They don't know how to spend their time as wisely as older people would. I would not necessarily dispute that argument except to say that those of us in the mature category were once young and immature too and I'm sure that what is said about the youth of today would have applied to us in our youth as well. In fact, there is another old phrase that bears out what I am saying: "If I knew then what I know now". What we discover is that the dilemma of youth is nothing new. Having said that, please understand that it is not my intent to

diminish the importance of the need for our young people to become better stewards of the most precious gift given to mankind on this side of eternity, Life. The Psalmist faces this challenge head on. He ask the question: *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? How shall a young man steer an honest course? How can a young man live a clean life?* Before we can answer this question we must first understand what prompted the question in the first place. From the moment that we come into this life **The Question** awaits us. We don't know that it is there for some time. We are distracted by more immediate questions like why is pain the first thing I experience when I am born. Then there are the questions of who am I and what is this existence? What am I doing here? Now we don't really ask these questions when we are born, but the answers to

these questions are provided, you might say, automatically. It's just what happens with new life and we cruise through these formative years on automatic pilot with prompting and guidance by the adults around us. But **The Question** is present and ever with us. At first it seems undetectable, but it's there. It's like an itch, but you don't know where to scratch. But as we get older, slowly but surely, it makes its presence known. And then one day out of nowhere **The Question** explodes onto our consciousness, catches us off guard and demands an answer. All of the earlier questions by now have been addressed and now here we are faced with this big, wide, world and we must answer **The Question**, which path in life do I choose? How can I be sure that the road I take is the right one? How can I avoid those things that sit, waiting to destroy me?

*Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?  
How shall a young man steer an honest course? How  
can a young man live a clean life? Is there an answer  
that is doable? With all of the world's glamor and  
bright lights, with all of the darkness and treachery  
waiting to beset us, how can we be sure?*

Well, to **The Question** comes **The Answer**; *by  
taking heed thereto according to thy word.* The world  
offers many different paths and some are obviously  
wrong and then there are those paths that seem right  
to a man, but the end to those paths lead to death.  
The Word of God is the one sure and secure path  
that leads to life. *“Blessed is the man that walketh not  
in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way  
of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

*2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his  
law doth he meditate day and night.”* Psalm 1:1&2

The Word of God is consistent and unchanging. No matter how the world may alter its views and judgements, the Word remains illuminatingly clear, true and unaltered. That is why later in Psalm 119 verse 105 the Psalmist declares *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* If we follow the path set out by the Word of God we won't falter or stumble in the dark. **The Answer to the Question** is the Word of God! The Word tells us in Matthew 7:13 *"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at:"*

The path to hell is crowded and just because there are a lot of people on it doesn't make it the right way. That "everybody does it" mentality is the surest way to destruction. Again, **The Answer to the Question** is the Word of God.

This is no new phenomena, every generation faces this **Question** and the **Answer** remains the same follow the Word of God if you want to make sure that you are on the right path. You will find that the Word of God is **Fortifying** Psalm 119:11 says *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."*

The Word of God is **Available** In Romans 10:8 *"But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;"*

The Word of God is **Nourishment** to your soul; Jeremiah 15:16 *"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts."*

The Word of God is **Powerful** Hebrews 4:12 *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the*

*dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

The Word of God Is **Everlasting** 1Peter 1:25 *“But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”*

Finally, The Word of God is **Salvation** John 1:14 *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”* Jesus Christ is not only the Word of God, He is **The Answer to The Question!**