

Are You Able AND Willing?

“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land”, Isaiah 1:19.

Just a few years back, it was a major news item if a woman was attacked and raped. To day it hardly rates a mention.

It is not because it is not happening, it has become a ‘common event’, and no longer a news item, even if it is an older lady in her own bed.

It is the same with teenage abortions. It is the same with teenagers and drugs – unless you are a ‘pop idol’. It is the same with teenage alcoholic binge drinking and suicides.

If you ask a teenager why they are indulging in these habits, the common answer is “But everybody is doing it”.

Why should any teenager say that? It is a simple answer. Many mothers take their daughter to a clinic to obtain birth control.

Academics have gone from handing out Bibles to condoms.

Leaders of most countries have now deleted the words ‘honesty and truth’ from their vocabularies.

The word of God, has been removed from many places of education, and is treated as an obscene subject.

To teenagers who used ‘You are just trying to all the fun out of life’ as a stock answer, I have a stock reply for them, ‘No, I am just trying to put life back into your eternal life’.

Friend, does it surprise you that chastity is regard as out of date, and therefore not a desired option?

Sorry, but many parents, academics, and leaders have got that wrong. Everybody is NOT doing it, and if those around you want to jump into the water with the sharks, it does not mean that you have to, and I doubt if many would.

To return to the question at the top, ‘Are YOU Able...’? The answer is ‘Yes you are’. If you have repented and turned to God, He has given you the ability. The ability you have is the POWER of the Gospel Message.

Jesus said. “Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves”, Luke 10:3.

No shepherd would ever encourage his lambs to go near wolves. Jesus sent His Lambs AFTER He had empowered them.

Peter, in his Epistle sums it up for us, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom according. His abundant mercy has

begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”, 1 Peter 1:3.

We build our ability upon the foundation of our Lord’s Resurrection.

‘...AND Willing?’.

Allow me to give an illustration here. You have been to church on a Sunday morning. You have openly proclaimed that you are a Christian. There is a knock on the door, and when you open it a well-dressed man is standing there, and greets you with the question, “I saw you come out of the Church this morning, are you a Christian?”

With very little conviction, you replay positively. In your mind, you hear the words, ‘This is my nap time’, and the eye in your mind can see nothing but your favourite chair!

The well-dressed man hands you a Bible, with the words, “Just take this, and offer eternal life to those you meet.”

The man at the door leaves, and you feel that maybe He will be watching to see if you do go out.

You put aside the idea that it nap time. You cast away the vision of your favourite chair. You speak to a young lady, sitting on a seat in the park. She is contemplating an abortion, which means the taking of a life, or suicide which involves two lives.

She listens to you, and accepts the Lord as her Saviour.

Friend, you did not save one life, you saved two lives!

You randomly open the book He gave you, and see the words, “His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord”, Matthew 25:21.

You go, not willingly, but under duress. You are thinking more about that chair and a nap.

The message, if you hear it, is more likely to be “Mr Grouch, we have a warm welcome awaiting your arrival!”