

Lessons & Observations from Paul's Early Life & Training

1. A person's early training has a tremendous influence on the future direction on one's life.
2. Throughout life we will be referring back to our youth. Therefore, we should make the days of our youth the best they can be.
3. Religious training is acutely important to the period of youth.
Ecclesiastes 12:1 – "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them"
4. Over a lifetime, a person may know many homes, but only one place of birth.
5. It is important to know:
 - a. How to live.
 - b. How to make a living
6. Education is good . . . Christian education is ideal
7. Good teachers will long be remembered in the lives of their pupils.
8. A knowledge of Bible history can be helpful to one's Christian growth.
 - a. **Romans 15:3** – "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."
 - b. **1 Corinthians 10:6** – "Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted."
 - c. **1 Corinthians 10:11** – "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."
9. Lessons for the present can be learned from the experiences of the past.
10. Zeal is good . . . but it must be according to knowledge. **Romans 10:2** – "For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge."
11. Paul had been sincere in his zeal . . . but wrong, We can be as well.
12. The misuse of knowledge is the wrong use of knowledge.
13. There is a great difference in having character and being a character.
14. A person may be religious . . . but religiously wrong.
15. A person may be sincere . . . but sincerely wrong.

16. A person may be serious . . . but seriously wrong.
17. A person may be honest with himself but hurtful to others.
18. Defending what is wrong does not make a person right.
19. Defending what is right does not make a person wrong.
20. Defending what is wrong does not make the wrong right.
21. Pleasing one's self and others is no guarantee that one is pleasing to the Lord
22. It is good to be faithful to one's belief . . . provided the beliefs are faithful to the truth. **John 17:17** - Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.
23. Always be willing to tell the truth.
24. Always be willing to admit your mistakes.
25. Being conscientious is a good quality in a Christian . . . an anyone else.
26. Our standard should ever be God's Word and not the traditions of men. **Matthew 15:6** - ". . . Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. "
27. The traditions of men must never be substituted for God's will.
28. A strong religious background does not necessarily mean a right religious background.
29. One may be taught "according to the perfect manner" of the gospel.
30. Those who question the truth will question those who profess the truth. **Acts 23:6** – "But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, 'Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!'"
31. "I thoroughly believe in a university education; but I believe a knowledge of the Bible without a college education is more valuable than a college course without the Bible." William Lyon Phelps
32. When one fights against God . . . he cannot win.
33. A list of one's credentials should be used only for right motives and purposes.
34. Be careful when considering past achievements lest they get in the way of:
 - a. One's relationship with Christ.
 - b. Present opportunities.
 - c. Current responsibilities.
35. Yesterday's homeruns will not win today's ball games.

36. The past has brought us to the present . . . the present will take us to the future. What then?
37. A person's faithfulness to God should be the highest priority in his life.
38. The church and Christian schools cannot alleviate the responsibility parents have to teach the Word of God to their children.
39. If one wants his children to follow God, then he should make God a part of his everyday experiences.
40. No matter how shameful one's past, God can forgive them and use them mightily.
41. Fighting against the wrong things does not justify the fight.
42. Be true to what is right.
43. Religious fervor does not automatically mean religious accuracy.
44. Everyone will receive some manner of training . . . make sure it is the right kind of training.