

# PLAIN SPEECH

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**“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)**

By Scott Parker

## **SOME THINGS I WISH I UNDERSTOOD WHEN I WAS YOUNGER**

I have been a Christian 8½ years. Unless the Lord returns before June 6<sup>th</sup>, that day will mark the beginning of my 9<sup>th</sup> year sojourning behind enemy lines (**1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:19**).

Today I’m striving daily to walk worthily (**Ephesians 4:1**). Yes, I am putting forth the effort to fulfill passages like **Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Titus 2:11-12; et al.** But this was not always the case.

Growing up in a severely broken home, I certainly learned quickly to lead a reckless, riotous, ungodly life. Partying – and partying hard – was the norm. Lying was common. Girls were trophies. When I think about my former manner of life one passage comes quickly to mind. Can you guess what it might be? Here it is:

***“What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death” (Romans 6:21).***

Oh I wish I knew then what I know now. Yet, one cannot rewrite history. However, it is possible to pass on life lessons so as to help others not make the same kind of mistakes (**cf. the whole book of Ecclesiastes**). That is my objective in what follows. Below are some things that I really wish I would have understood when I was a younger person.

I wish I would have understood that...

- ▶ Obeying God early is very, very, very important (**Ecclesiastes 12:1; 2 Timothy 3:15**).
- ▶ Riotous living lands you in the pig pen of life (**Luke 15:11-16**).
- ▶ Alcohol brings you nothing but trouble (**Proverbs 23:29-35; Ephesians 5:18**).
- ▶ Worldly women bring the same (**Proverbs 23:27-28; Mark 6:17-28**).
- ▶ It really does pay to manage your money (**Proverbs 23:21; Ephesians 4:28**).
- ▶ Curse words are a horrible use of the tongue (**Proverbs 6:12; 8:13; Ephesians 4:29**).
- ▶ Decisions cannot be made out of fear of men (**1 Samuel 15:1-24; Proverbs 28:1; Hebrews 13:6**).
- ▶ Time is precious (**Ephesians 5:15-16; Proverbs 27:1; James 4:13-14**).
- ▶ Worthwhile things require time and hard work (**Ecclesiastes 5:3; Proverbs 14:23; 2 Peter 1:5-11**).
- ▶ The popular decisions are never the right ones (**Matthew 7:13-14**).
- ▶ My best friends would be people other than who I grew up with (**2 Corinthians 7:6; 2 Peter 3:15**).
- ▶ Premarital sex is a dangerous and shameful endeavor (**Ephesians 5:1-5; 1 Corinthians 6:15-16**).
- ▶ Honesty is always the best policy (**Ephesians 4:25; Proverbs 12:22**).
- ▶ Material things do not bring true happiness (**Proverbs 13:7; Luke 12:15; Proverbs 8:18**).
- ▶ Worldly companions corrupt you (**1 Kings 11:11-3; Proverbs 13:20; 1 Corinthians 15:33**).
- ▶ Sin is so bad that Jesus had to die (**1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 4:9-10**).
- ▶ There was such a better life available for me in Christ (**John 10:10; Ephesians 4:17-18; Mark 10:29-30**).

On and on the list could go!

The sad thing is that I would not have paid attention to an article like this one when I was younger. If you are a young person, I hope you do not make the same mistake. Learn your lessons now, before you learn them the hard way.