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your standards, being influenced to think and act without regard for Bible principles. When you stand up for what is right and conduct yourself as a Christian, fellow students will often be cutting and at times vicious in voicing their disapproval. They may call you a "square," a "religious bug," and many other even more unkind things. Because you will not let the barrier down, you are not invited to various functions in school and in the neighborhood and are more or less left alone. Be thankful for this, for it is actually a protection for you. Wisely continue to stick to what is right. Keep in mind Exodus 23:2, which says, "You must not follow after the crowd for evil ends." You know the evil that is being practiced. Do not let it or those who practice it influence your decisions. Do you want to be a minister of God's Word? Then take the right course!

¹² The influence and spirit of this world is to get ahead, to make a name for oneself. Many schools now have student counselors who encourage one to pursue higher education after high school, to pursue a career with a future in this system of things. Do not be influenced by them. Do not let them "brainwash" you with the Devil's propaganda to get ahead, to make something of yourself in this world. This world has very little time left! Any "future" this world offers is no future! Wisely, then, let God's Word influence you in selecting a course that will result in your protection and blessing. Make pioneer service, the full-time ministry, with the possibility of Bethel or missionary service your goal. This is a life that offers an everlasting future!

12. How does the world view higher education, and how should we reason on this?

DECISIONS CHRISTIANS FACE

¹³ Now that we have discussed the influences that we must guard against in making decisions, let us turn our attention to some of the decisions we must make and to those things that will influence our decisions for good. It is vital that we build a pattern of making right decisions in our everyday life. Some of the decisions we face each day may seem small and unimportant, having little to do with our receiving everlasting life. But does not God's Word counsel, "The person faithful in what is least is faithful also in much"? (Luke 16:10) If we can be influenced to disregard Bible principles in making small, everyday decisions, then what assurance do we have that, when we are faced with the necessity of making a decision affecting our everlasting welfare, we will suddenly reverse the trend and decide in harmony with Bible principles?

¹⁴ Then there are vital decisions that may arise very unexpectedly. Suppose we were involved in an accident and were faced with the decision of whether to submit to blood transfusion either for ourself or for one of our family. Are we convinced in our heart that we could undergo and withstand the pressure from doctors and unbelieving friends and relatives? Are we prepared to take a firm, unshakable stand because of our knowing what God's Word says, although death may face us? Many of our Christian brothers and sisters have already been faced with this sobering decision.

¹⁵ There is also the matter of neutrality. More and more the emotional tide of nationalism is increasing its demands toward

13. Why should we never be careless in making small decisions?

14. (a) What issue could arise that would demand an on-the-spot decision? (b) What should we consider now?

15. The influence of nationalism poses what question to us all, and how real is this issue?