

**ARE YOU T.H.U.G.?**  
**PART ONE OF THE SERIES “SEEK THE OLD PATHS”**  
**JEREMIAH 6:16**

- A. Crime, violence, and ungodly living are nearly old as the human race (Gen. 4, 6).
- B. Today, one could turn on his radio or television at any time of the day and either hear or view ungodly behavior being praised.
- C. With the arrival of music videos and “rap” music, there has been an increase glorification of lawlessness.
- D. In the early 1990s, a movie was made depicting gang life in Los Angeles entitled *Colors*.
- E. Foolishly and tragically, many young men and women in other urban, suburban, and even rural areas began imitating what they saw at the movie theater.
- F. Cities such as Atlanta and Houston, who previously did not have any gang problems, were now infested with gangs and their associated violence.
- G. In response, these cities had to form gang task forces to combat the onslaught of mayhem and murder associated with the newly formed gangs.
- H. In fact, the police chief of Houston stated, “We did not have a gang problem until this movie was aired.”
- I. LESSON: We should never underestimate evil’s influence and man’s willingness to embrace evil behavior.
- J. There are terms affiliated with the gang lifestyle that supposedly are terms of “honor.”
  - 1. “Gangsta” or “G” means that one is committed to the gang lifestyle.
  - 2. He has shown his loyalty to a particular gang or the “street life;” this means that he has participated in something unlawful and is proud of the fact that he has an arrest record, which include felonies up to murder.
  - 3. There are so-called “O” and “New” “Gs.”
  - 4. Then there is the “thug.”
  - 5. This term originally referred to a group of lawless individuals in India who murdered and robbed people in service to their so-called god Kali.
  - 6. Webster Collegiate Dictionary defines the term “thug” as “a rough, brutal, hoodlum, gangster, robber, etc.”
  - 7. There was a rap group from Cleveland, Ohio by the name of Bone, Thugs, and Harmony.
  - 8. When asked what do they do with their time, they responded, “Thugging.”
  - 9. The most infamous promoter of this wasteful lifestyle was the late Tupac Shukur.
  - 10. This misguided young man had a tattoo “Thug Life” put on his chest.
  - 11. Tragically, he died via the very lifestyle he so brazenly promoted.
- K. Our lesson will take each letter of “thug” and apply a Bible meaning to it.
- L. Therefore, the lesson asks the question: Are you T.H.U.G.?

**BODY:**

**I. WE MUST ALWAYS BE THANKFUL AND THOUGHTFUL**

- A. Because we are so richly blessed, we should be thankful.
- B. Both testaments are filled with examples of sincere expressions of thanks or thanksgiving.
- C. The Jews had an actual thanksgiving offering, which was one of the peace offerings (Lev.7:11-15).
- D. It was considered a fellowship meal; as well, the worshipper shared with family and the priest received a portion (Lev.7:28-38).
- E. The Jews were accustomed to giving thanks to the Lord (1 Chr.16th; Psm. 26:7; 50:14; 69:30; 95:2; 100:4).

- F. In the Old Testament, the sacrifice had power or say concerning when it would be offered.
- G. The Christian, as a living sacrifice, has the power to offer up praise and thanksgiving at any time (Rom.12:1-2; Php.4:6; Col. 2:7 & 4:2; **Heb.13:15**).

## **II. WE MUST BE HOPEFUL**

- A. The worldly will perish because they do not possess godly hope (Eph.2:12).
- B. The “things hope for” are the promises of God (Heb.3:6; 6:11;18-19; 7:19; 11:1; 1Pet.1:3, 13, 21; 1 John 3:1-3).
- C. In order to receive the promises of God, we must “hope unto the end.”
- D. This means that the Christian must not allow anything or anyone to influence him to quit running the race that is set before us (Heb.12:1).
- E. We who will finish the race will all receive a victory crown (2 Tim.4:6-8).
- F. Those who turn and walk away from the Christ do not possess Bible hope (John 6:66); they are not rooted and grounded (Matt.13:20-21; Eph.3:17; 2:7).

## **III. WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE UNIQUE**

- A. The psalmist praised God because he was fearfully (reverently) and wonderfully made (created) (Psm.139:13-16). See Jeremiah 1:5.
- B. God forms the spirit that is in us (Zech.12:1).
- C. God is the Father of all spirits (Heb.12:9).
- D. We each possess distinct features and abilities (1 Cor.12).
- E. We have a divine purpose for which to live (Ecc.12:13).

## **IV. WE MUST FOREVER BE GODLY**

- A. Godliness is imitating God or living by His commands (1 Pet.1:16-17).
- B. The faithful Jews lived by this principle (Psm.4; 12:1; 32:6).
- C. The Christian lives by the same principle (Tit.2:12; 1 Tim.2:2, 10; 3:16; 4:7-8; 6:3-8).

## **CONCLUSION**

- A. The end of those who live ungodly lives is tragic.
- B. Let us, young, old, and in between, compare what the world has to offer with what the Father offers.
- C. Let us be T.H.U.G.