

To Paul, age 16, from his Dad, Jim Reese

Dear Paul:

Happy sixteenth Birthday!

And congratulations on becoming old enough to drive! Driving a car is like living a life – it's great as long as you obey the rules. Thus I recommend to you two books: for driving, *The Driver's Handbook*; and for living, *The Bible*.

Now's the time to study the rules. Ignorance of the law doesn't excuse you from the law. Someday, maybe, you'll have to appear in court to answer for how you drove. Someday, surely, you'll appear before Christ's judgment seat to answer for how you lived. May you have no regrets.

A great, unknown, but wonderful road lies before you. It's a road no one has travelled before, but, praise the Lord, you don't have to travel it alone. Jesus has promised, "I am with you always." Trust Him fully to guide you in every decision. Let Christ always sit in the driver's seat of your life. Let Him control the accelerator, the brakes and the steering. He'll chauffeur you through some great country, and you'll never end in a ditch!

Enjoy fully the path He's planned for you. Fuel is expensive and time is a non-renewable resource, so don't let your vehicle or your life wander aimlessly. Seek to be goal-oriented like your namesake, the Apostle Paul, who said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." There are many forks in the road that call for decision. When in doubt remember this road sign, "Keep to the right."

Live the Golden Rule of the Road, "Drive unto others as you would have them drive unto you." You are totally responsible for how your vehicle affects others. The safety of your passengers rests fully on your shoulders. No one drives unto himself, and no one lives unto himself. May no one, including those most dear to you, ever be able to point a finger at your driving or your living and say, "You failed me."

On my sixteenth birthday I made a covenant with my mind and my body to keep myself "tuned up" for the Lord. I've never been sorry for that vow. Let me challenge you to make that same commitment today and to renew it daily for the rest of your life. It will keep you from heartache and wreckage and will give you a rewarding and fulfilling life. May both you and I so live that at the end of the road we will be able to look back and say, "Jesus led me all the way!"

Have a wonderful trip!

Love always,

Dad