

To Paul, age 18, from his Dad, Jim Reese

Dear Paul:

Congratulations on this your 18th birthday! The United Nations has designated 1979 as "The Year of the Child." But for you this is "THE YEAR OF THE MAN." Welcome to the age of majority!

Today new rights are bestowed on you by law. Briefly stated, your rights allow you to run your life the way you please as long as you keep the law. These basic rights are not earned, they are given, and they are to be used wisely. So consider your rights as privileges and exercise your privileges as responsibilities.

Your greatest right is to be called a son of God. You didn't wait till you were 18 to receive this. It was given to you by the Lord the day you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior. This right of sonship in God's family gives you a whole world of privileges:

- The privilege of living a holy, happy life
- The privilege of claiming God's promises
- The privilege of discovering God's will for your education, vocation and marriage
- The privilege of doing anything you please as long as you please Him.

Your greatest privilege is to surrender your total rights to the total Lordship of Christ. Though you are now officially a man, Mom and I don't expect today the maturity and productivity of which you should be capable when you are 25, 30 or 40. You have another 12 years yet before you reach the age when Christ began His public ministry. So don't rush the preparations that God is developing in your life.

But neither should you waste these vital years. The Bible says, "It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth." You possess capacities today – physically and mentally – that are at their prime. The way you harness them now will set the pace for a life-time either of fulfillment or folly. Now's the time to get "under the load and on to the road."

Today the calendar calls you eighteen. Today the world declares you a man. May Heaven be able to say the same: PAUL REESE – A MAN OF GOD.

Loads of love and prayers from someone who's running the same race with you,

Your Dad