

Date: Sunday, July 17, 2022
Speaker: Pastor Dr. John Geeter
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Title: Growing Up: Your Life is Significant, It Has Value & Meaning to God

Reference: 1 Kings 3: 3, 7, 14, Luke 15:13-17, 30

Opening Remarks: Our goal is to make the richer known of His glory to every boy and girl and make them a tool in growing up in Jesus. Just like Daniel, Meshack, Shadrach, and Abednego, who still stood firm in God even in the face of opposition. In Daniel 1:8, Daniel purposed in his heart that he knew he would not defile himself by eating and drinking what the king ate and drank.

To teenagers and young people: How can we be Christians in a Secular Society?

1 Kings 3: 3, 7, 14
Solomon loved the Lord. Young people need to have a testimony that they love the Lord. There will be ups and downs, but do you love the Lord? Solomon started walking out in the statutes of David, his father. Solomon started out right but didn't end up right. However, young people can start up right and end up right.

Solomon said that he was just a child. We have a lot of young people that don't really know what to do. Children need guidance and direction on how to make good choices in life. Solomon started out loving the Lord, but he started making bad choices. We don't have to fall into the trap that he fell into.

Luke 15:13-17, 30
Parable that Jesus is giving to Pharisees, Parable of the Prodigal Son.
After the young son received money from his father, he wasted it by partying and drinking. A famine came into the land. Sometimes, you think that everything is going good until something bad happens.

1 Kings 3:3 And Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places.

1 Kings 3:7 And now, O Lord my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

1 Kings 3:14 And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

Luke 15:13-14 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent it all, there arose a mighty famine in the land; and he began to be in want.

The son became down on his luck and became so desperate that he met a Gentile who sent him to feed the hogs. He would eat the slop that the pigs would eat because he had no money.

When you're not living right, God will chastise you to get you to come back to your senses. You have to let God be God and not interfere.

To young people: Your life is significant, your life has value and meaning. So many times young people don't understand their life and meaning. We are going to look at why it's so important to love the Lord and live in the Lord when you are young.

Four questions: Who am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going? What is my purpose in life? Young people have to be aware of these questions.

Why did God allow me to be born with certain parents, environments, and social standings? God created you for a purpose. Youth need guidance, training, and examples for them to follow.

Stay Faithful to the Lord

Daniel stood the test of time and held fast to his faith. When taken captive to Babylon, the king was looking for the best of the best of men to learn. Daniel and his friends were 10 times better than the young men around them. Young people should learn and develop good study habits. They need to know they can be all what they can do. As they continue through this life they should live for the Lord. Daniel followed the Lord throughout his life, up to 80 years old. He was thrown into the Lion's Den, but he stayed fast in his faith.

Young people, learn the Lord's prayer and learn how to pray. Read and learn your Bible.

Have a devotion. You need to have alone time with God, every day. Read your bible,

Luke 15:15-17 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, 'How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!'

Luke 15:30 But as soon as this thy son was come who hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

devotion, and have a prayer with God. Young people, learn the Lord's prayer and learn how to pray. Read and learn your Bible. Pray for your family, the church, and the school. Pray all the time, not only when you're in need. Tell people about the Lord.

God asked Solomon to ask him anything and he would give it to him. Solomon didn't ask for wealth or a long life, but he asked for wisdom. Don't ask for looks or wealth, ask for something you can use. Solomon got side-tracked later in life. He married strange women that turned his heart from the Lord.

Ecclesiastes 1:14 Solomon has had it all, all the money, the women, and the wine in the world. And it's all was vanity because in the end it won't give you satisfaction.

1. Start Serving God today
Bring your kids to church. The youth need to start remembering the Creator in their youth. Ecc 12:1. Church should not be boring. There's a warning against life misspent. Just like Solomon, you can end up on the wrong side. Social media is ruining the quality of the youth's lives. We need to get back to spending time with God. You don't need the world to accept you. You are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). God created you to be special. You don't need people's approval, look to the Lord. God has a plan for you. Don't end up compromised like Solomon, don't mess your life up.

2. Be like the prodigal son
Even if he started out wrong, he repented. Adam and Eve rebelled against God and caused the world to go into sin. Everyone sins. The prodigal came to his senses. He went from a prince to a slave, from being rich to poor. He repented, changed his direction, and changed his mind. Isaiah 55:7 "Let the wicked man forsake his wickedness". The prodigal son affected his

Ecclesiastes 1:14 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth.

family by his wrongdoings. He came home and fell on his face for the mercies of God. You can come home to God.

3. Pray for Your relationships, your career, your life, and your future marriage to bring glory to the Lord

Pray for your children to have Godly relationships right now. Have friends who you can trust in. Pray that your kids' careers work out, that their schools matter. If you want to do something from the Lord, do it now. Don't allow the devil to steal that thought from you. Psalm 84:10, "I'd rather be a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord, than dwell in the tent of the wicked." Do something for the Lord and in the house of the Lord. If you have a problem, go to Jesus.

When you serve God as a young person, God will take care of you. The door is open.