Graduation Message

Intro.

Remember: Time Flies

1. Enjoy your youth

Ecclesiastes 11:9

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these *things* God will bring thee into judgment.

2. Remember God in your youth

Ecclesiastes 12:1

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

3. Be an Example in your youth

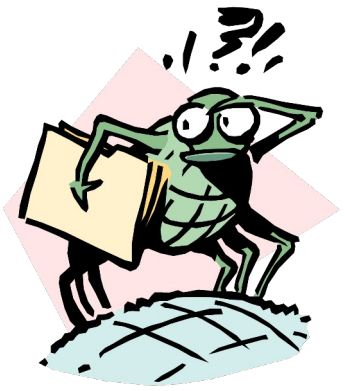
1 Timothy 4:12

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Being young is no excuse for bad language (“in word”)
Being young is no excuse for bad conduct (“in conversation”)
Being young is no excuse for selfishness (“in charity”)
Being young is no excuse for bad attitudes (“in spirit”)
Being young is no excuse for lack of convictions (“in faith”)
Being young is no excuse for bad morals (“in purity’)

"THE WILL OF GOD"

(How do I know what God wants for my life?)
ACTS 12:25-13:5



**** We must let God lead us to do His will!***

2 questions need to be answered before we know whether or not our next move is the will of God:

I. WHO DOES GOD LEAD TO DO HIS WILL?

A. GOD LEADS THOSE WHO ARE BUSY SERVING HIM (v. 2)

("As they ministered to the Lord")

1. Barnabas & Paul faithfully served (12:25)
   (They were dependable; they finished the job)

2. Barnabas & Paul continually served (v. 2)
   (They were consistent; they didn't quit the job)

B. GOD LEADS THOSE WHO ARE EAGERLY SEEKING HIM (v. 2)

("As they . . . fasted")

II. HOW DOES GOD LEAD YOU TO DO HIS WILL?

A. GOD LEADS YOU IN THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (v. 2, 4)

1. The Spirit's Leading is personal

2. The Spirit's leading is specific

B. GOD LEADS YOU INTO A NEW MINISTRY, NOT OUT OF THE MINISTRY (v. 5)

(He leads us into service, not out of service!)

C. GOD LEADS YOU THROUGH THE AUTHORITY OF A LOCAL CHURCH (v. 2)

Bill Gates' SPEECH TO MT. WHITNEY HIGH SCHOOL in Visalia, California.

To anyone with kids of any age, or anyone who has ever been a kid, here's some advice Bill Gates recently dished out at a high school speech about 11 things they did not and will not learn in school. He talks about how feel-good, politically correct teachings created a whole generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world.

Rule 1: Life is not fair - get used to it

Rule 2: The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3: You will NOT make $40,000 a year right out of high school. You won't! be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

Rule 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping-they called it opportunity.

Rule 6: If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7: Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you are. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parents' generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

Rule 8: Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life has not. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as many times as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

Rule 9: Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time.

Rule 10: Television is NOT real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

God's Perfect Will

(Topical Message)

Introduction:
When we speak of God's will, we are speaking about what He wants;
What does God want for our lives?

There are two major aspects to the will of God:

1. God's desired will
2. God's decreed will

- ***Principles regarding God's will in the lives of His children:***

I. God is concerned about the significant details of your life - *Luke 12:6-7*

II. God has a specific plan & purpose for you to fulfil
Examples: Jeremiah - Jeremiah 1:5 & Paul – Gal. 1:15

III. God's will is not a "bitter medicine"*Psalm 16:11*

IV. God's will is knowable and doable - *Eph 1:18-19*

V. God never leads a person contrary to His Word - *Psalm 119:35*

VI. God only moves those who are in motion for Him; He does not steer parked cars
Acts 13:2

VII. God gives you the desire and ability to do whatever He wants you to do
Php 2:13

How do I know that my decision is the will of God?

Ask yourself the following questions before making the choice:

1. **Am I presently & actively doing both the moral and general will of God for my life?**

2. **Have I <u>prayed to God</u> about this decision? -** Proverbs 3:5,6

3. **Do I need <u>Godly counsel (advice)</u> about this decision? -** Proverbs 12:15

4. **Do I have a <u>solid Bible reason</u> to justify this decision? -** Psalm 119:105

5. **What is really <u>motivating</u> my decision making process?**
   Lot: an example of a man who made bad choices (Genesis 13:9-13)

6. **Which of my choices should be my <u>priority</u>? -***Mt 6:33*

7. **Which of my choices would most <u>please & glorify</u> God? -***Eph 5:10*

8. **What would be the <u>long-term effects</u> of my choice? -** *Pr 14:12*

9. **Do I have <u>peace</u> about my decision? -** *Phil. 4:7*

Conclusion:

If we fight against God's will, we will not succeed, but will fail miserably.