Sweet 16 Birthday Message

Intro. The best year of my life was 1976 (when I turned 16). Why? That was the year I came to know Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. Added to this, I found a great Church, bought my first car, and was employed at my first job.

Remember: Time Flies

1. Enjoy your youth

Ecclesiastes 11:9

Rejoice *(be glad)*, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee *(make you happy)* 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. Therefore remove sorrow *(anger)* from thy heart, and put away evil *(badness)* from thy flesh, for childhood and youth *(blackness of hair or dark dawn of life)* are vanity *(fleeting)*.

[Enjoy the life God has given you with a sense of sobriety, seriousness, and responsibility knowing that you will be held accountable by God. And live your life without angry emotions and bad actions knowing that the days of your youth swiftly fly away]

- Psalm 16:11 - Thou wilt show me the path of life; in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.
- Psalm 37:4 - Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

- Don't do things that take the real fun and enjoyment out of life!
- It will go well (good) with you if you honor your parents continually.
- Ephesians 6:1-2 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor thy father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise, "that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

2. Remember God in your youth

Ecclesiastes 12:1

Remember (bring to mind or think about) now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil (bad) days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

Older people tend to become set in their ways; Your youth is the greatest time to grow in your walk with God.

The Bible teaches us about certain priorities that we should incorporate in our lives when we are young.

What should be sought **<u>early</u>** in life?

- **Seek God's <u>Mercy</u> early** (His Salvation)
  Psalm 90:14 - O satisfy us <u>early</u> with Thy mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- **Seek God's <u>Face</u> early** (His Presence in prayer)
  Psalm 63:1 - O God, Thou art my God; <u>early</u> will I seek Thee. My soul thirsteth for Thee, my flesh longeth for Thee, in a dry and thirsty land where no water is"
- **Seek God's <u>Wisdom</u> early** (His Word)
  God's Wisdom calls out to you saying: "I love them that love me, and those that seek me <u>early</u> shall find me."
  Put yourself in the path of God's blessing! (Proverbs 3:5-6)

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')

4. Be Pure for Jesus in your youth

Introduction: 2 Corinthians 11:2

**** All of us should be pure for Jesus!***

2 aspects of Purity:

a. ***To be Pure for Jesus is to be*** **PURE IN <u>HEART</u>** (Matthew 5:8)

b. ***To be Pure for Jesus is to be*** **PURE IN <u>BODY</u>** (I Thessalonians 4:1-8)

My Vow of Purity

Today I make the following promises
to the Lord Jesus Christ:
I purpose in my heart to keep myself pure
from all sexual defilement;
I will be careful to avoid any circumstances that would tempt me to be impure in my thoughts or actions;
I will not date a non-believer;
I will pray for God's leading
as to who and when I should marry;
I will obtain my parent's blessing
on my courtship and marriage;
I will keep myself a virgin until my wedding day.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20; * 2 Corinthians 6:14; *
1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; * Hebrews 13:4

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