



17 MAY 2026 AM

Titus 1:1-2

STRATEGY

= a carefully designed plan

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; Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:1,13

INTRODUCTION

- for this COVID generation graduating from high school and college, the world has taught you several things that just aren't true:

we've taken God out of the equation

we've told you that you evolved from nothing

we've totally confused you with bad examples of parenting and family

we've convinced you that you can change your gender simply by dressing differently

we've taught you that sex can be with anyone at anytime for any reason...and be safe

we've taught you to take the path of least resistance and stare into your phones to find the answers to life's hardest questions

- and now, you stand on the precipice of a new life, with new choices...and many of you wonder what the next days, months, and years will hold for you

- tonight, we will give each of our graduating seniors a Bible and a book, *Don't Waste Your Life*
both of them need to be read
- and this morning, most of us are not graduating towards anything...except maybe eternity

the challenge I am presenting to these graduates is a challenge that every person needs to take up in our lives

it is never too late to start fresh and dedicate this life God has given you to His **purpose** and **priority**

Joshua 24:14-15

Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Ecclesiastes 12:1,13

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...Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

- in Titus, Paul was writing to a young pastor who had a great work set before him:

Paul was nearer to the end of his ministry than to the beginning of it

he was instructing Titus about structuring the churches on the island of Crete

he wanted Titus to channel his energy into building something that would outlast him

and to give this instruction, Paul began by reminding Titus about his mentor...about the choices and direction that Paul's life had taken

his **STRATEGY** for life, if you will...

1. PURPOSE **Titus 1:1a**

Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ,

SERVANT

Paul identified himself first of all as a *servant*

the Greek word he chose (*doulos*) was indicative of the lowest servant in a household...one who chose to be there so as to pay off a debt he owed

as a servant, he lived by the preferences of God...His choices, His timeline, etc.

Romans 1:1

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God...

James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ...

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ,

no doubt graduation speakers will tell you that the world is your oyster...you can do anything...go far and make the most out of life

but Paul said there was no greater priority in life than serving God

SPEAKER

Paul also called himself an *apostle*

apostle = one sent with a message

to be sent meant someone had to have the authority to send out the apostle

Matthew 28:18-19 All power is given unto me...go ye, therefore...

it also implied there was a message worth repeating and an audience who needed to hear it

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

you may not be called to be a preacher or missionary...to stand in a pulpit or to move to a foreign country

but every saved person is called to speak about the grace of God in their lives...to be a witness

1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

welders, wives, waitresses, waiters,
web designers, writers, well drillers,
and watchmakers all need to be **witnesses**

John 13:16

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

2. PRIORITIES **Titus 1:1b**

...according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

SALVATION

...according to the faith of God's elect

Paul told Titus his priority followed the faith of God's elect...in other words, his priority was to get people saved and help them to grow in that salvation

the world needs welders and waitresses; those are noble pursuits and honorable jobs, but...

what **ETERNAL** impact do those jobs have in the lives of others???

do you know this morning you are **saved**?

beyond whatever life choices you make for yourself, do you know Heaven is your eternal home?

SCRIPTURE

...the acknowledging of the truth

Jesus said, 'Thy word is truth' (John 17:17)

the world will tell you to follow your heart...to follow your dreams...to believe in yourself

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

there are a lot of issues in life: who to marry, where to live, education, finances, friendships...

one false move and you are stuck... for life

far too many people run out of options far too early in life

Ecclesiastes 6:8

For what hath the wise more than the fool?
What hath the poor, that knoweth to walk
before the living?

Solomon answered his own question:
the key to life is knowing how to walk
through this life with wisdom

Proverbs 4:7-8

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and
with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she
shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honor, when
thou dost embrace her.

SANCTIFICATION

...which is after godliness

look around you and find godly examples to follow
and associate with...there are very few of them

2 Peter 1:3

According as his divine power hath given unto us all
things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the
knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

1 Timothy 4:7

But refuse profane and old wives' fables,
and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

to paraphrase Paul:

But refuse Facebook and Tik Tok videos
as your examples in life, and instead,
live godly lives.

verse 2

In hope of eternal life, which God, *who*
cannot lie, promised before the world began...

this life is not all there is, so we must make it
count for the life that is to come