

So many people today have categorized the "teenage years" as ones distinguished by rebellion and foolishness. Characterized as a time to "find yourself," a time when a young person can only associate with their peers, a time of understandable disobedience of authorities, a time where we are incapable of responsibility and a time where being friends with your parents is just downright weird. This is clearly not the way that God characterizes our teenage years in the Bible...

In 2 Tim 2:22 it says...

... So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Jesus Christ is the Master of our lives who has complete ownership of them. Why? Because He is the one who created us for a very unique purpose... to bring glory to Himself. Even greater than that, every part of our lives belongs to God because He purchased us with His Son's redeeming blood that was shed on the cross. Our lives are ALL about Jesus. All parts of our lives. So with the knowledge of the Master in mind... what is the Message? This verse compels us to exemplify Christ during our teenage years.

God commands us to FLEE youthful passions and to pursue righteousness, and we are able to do these things during our teenage years! We don't have to wait until we are adults but we can seize the opportunity that God has so graciously given us in these years. This means seeking out the input of your parents and our youth pastors. It also means diligently searching the Scriptures and making your faith your own.

Don't wait until you are "older" to really start to read and meditate on God's word. God can use you even now while you are young just as He used Timothy or Jeremiah. Jeremiah 1:6-8 says, "Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go,

and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord." Even at his young age God used Jeremiah in great ways.

The more that we realize how short and fleeting our time on earth is, even more so our time as youth... the more we will want to pursue our Savior. This realization is something that we should be praying for daily so that we can put our lives into perspective and apply the gospel to our lives in this season of life.

The Word commands us to not waste time given to us, but to pursue Holiness even in our youth and set an example to other believers.