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# First Baptist Dyersburg • Sermon Notes

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## Senior Commissioning Sunday

Sunday, April 26, 2026 • Mike Hickman, Senior Pastor

### 1. These years have been an important part of God's plan of preparation for your future.

➤ **BE \_\_\_\_\_!**

*Throughout the Bible, you see the hand of God at work even in the early years of people's lives preparing them for their future.*

- Jeremiah – Jeremiah 1:4-10
- Samuel – 1 Samuel 1-3
- David – 1 Samuel 16-17
- Daniel – Daniel 1-3
- Jesus – Luke 2

<sup>52</sup> Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people. (Luke 2:52, NLT)

### 2. The choices you make in the years just ahead will carry lifelong consequences.

➤ **CHOOSE \_\_\_\_\_!**

*You will be developing new habits; making new friends; identifying and studying for your career; finding a spouse; deciding where to live.*

<sup>8</sup> But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. <sup>9</sup> Now God had given the chief of staff both respect and affection for Daniel. (Daniel 1:8-9, NLT)

*Being part of a church is an essential part of your college experience. What we know is that 70-80 percent of students who attended a church while in high school will not attend church for an extended period of time during their college years. Being a part of a church isn't just a part of your college*

experience; it's an essential part of your relationship with God. (Ben Trueblood and Brian Mills, **A Different College Experience**, page 53.)

Thoughts from my son, Sellers Hickman, College and Teaching Pastor at Northstar Church in Kennesaw, Georgia:

1. **Choose your church early.** You've looked up your roommate, your major, where you'll live.....but have you looked into where you're going to church the first Sunday you are at college? Failure to plan is planning to fail.
2. **Go deep.** Vulnerability breeds vulnerability and every other freshman is in your boat. If you're looking for community, so are they. Stay up late hanging out. Talk about the deep things early.
3. **Live sent.** Luke 10:2 says that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Will you commit to being a laborer on your campus and submitting to the leadership of the church you choose to attend so you aren't a lone ranger without direction?

<sup>5</sup>That night the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"

<sup>6</sup>Solomon replied, "You showed great and faithful love to your servant my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued to show this great and faithful love to him today by giving him a son to sit on his throne.

<sup>7</sup>"Now, O LORD my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around. <sup>8</sup>And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! <sup>9</sup>Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?"

<sup>10</sup>The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. (1 Kings 3:5-10, NLT)

### **3. Only God knows the purpose He has created you to fulfill.**

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ **CLOSELY**

<sup>13</sup> You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous – and how well I know it. <sup>15</sup> You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. <sup>16</sup> You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. (Psalm 139:13-16, NLT)

<sup>8</sup> God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 2:8-10, NLT)

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. (Proverbs 3:5-6, NLT)

Don't listen to the lie of Satan that we can be anything we want to be in life. God has a distinct plan for each one of us, and as we pray and read His Word and engage with His people through the Church, then He will direct our steps to help us fulfill every purpose for which He has created us to fulfill.

### **4. Trust God to guide you down the right path day by day.**

➤ **STAY** \_\_\_\_\_!

<sup>9</sup> We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps. (Proverbs 16:9, NLT)

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. <sup>2</sup> He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. <sup>3</sup> He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. <sup>4</sup> Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. (Psalm 23:1-4, NLT)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. <sup>2</sup>We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. (Hebrews 12:1-2, NLT)

When you obey God, He will accomplish through you what He has purposed to do. When God does something through your life that only He can do, you will come to know Him more intimately. If you do not obey, you will miss out on some of the most exciting experiences of your life. When God purposes to do something through you, the assignment will have God-sized dimensions. This is because God wants to reveal Himself to you and those around you. If you can do the work in your own strength, people will not come to know God. However, if God works through you to do only what He can do, you and those around you will come to know Him. (Henry Blackaby, *Experiencing God*, page 153)

- 5. The race the Lord has set before you will never be about you. You do not now nor will you ever have full control over your life and destiny. Your happiness is not the prize. Bringing glory to Jesus is what we have been created to do.**

➤ **ONLY \_\_\_\_\_!**

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name goes all the glory for your unfailing love and faithfulness. (Psalm 115:1, NLT)