



“When everything considered valuable in life is seen to be nothing in comparison to the glory of Christ, you learn rather well that Christ alone is worth living for.” —Matt Chandler

As we get to the end of summer, routines are going to change again and you'll be back to spending more of your day in a classroom.

Be intentional with the upcoming weeks and months, and make plans for the upcoming year. Set some goals. Figure out what the new attention-grabbers might be in this new season. Expect temptation. Remember to be wise in your choice of friends. It is equally important that you commit your school year to the Lord daily so as to not waste the opportunities given to you.

Pray for your upcoming school year, but also remember to obey God in the little things daily. Francis Chan encourages us: “God cares more about our response to His Spirit’s leading today, in this moment, than about what we intend to do next year. In fact, the decisions we make next year will be profoundly affected by the degree to which we submit to the Spirit right now in today’s decisions. It is easy to use the phrase “God’s will for my life” as an excuse for inaction or even disobedience. It’s much less demanding to think about God’s will for your future than it is to ask Him what He wants you to do in the next ten minutes. It’s safer to commit to following someday instead of this day.”

As school approaches, let us do some heart checks and remind ourselves how God commands us to live in obedience.

Questions:

Read 2 Timothy 2:22. What does this verse call us to pursue?
[Righteousness, faith, love, and peace.]

As you think about some of the activities you pursue during the school year, what would it look like to pursue what this verse is calling you to?

Read Proverbs 16:3. If you have not done it yet, commit to praying for the new school year. Pray for your teachers, your classes, the people you will be surrounded with, etc.

Galatians 5:1 reminds us that Christ has set us free and to live like we are free! How should being free from the yoke of slavery change the way we live?

Sometimes the school year brings new problems, temptations, and struggles. As you go forward into this season, let's read Proverbs 2:6-8. From these verses, what is given and who gives it to us? [The Lord gives wisdom, knowledge, understanding, protection.]

1 Peter 5:7 says we have a God who cares for us and who we can cast our anxieties to. Stop and take a moment to pray and cast any anxieties you might have about the school year to God.

There are many verses about standing firm and being strong at all times, but so often new experiences can make us nervous, fearful, or feeling like we are failures. As you go forward in the new year, remember that standing firm is not relying on strength in yourself. You will quickly grow tired or proud if you try to depend on your own strength. That is a recipe for an early burnout. True strength is admitting where you are weak and realizing that God is strong.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. Why do you think it is hard sometimes to have the same attitude as the author of this passage?

From 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. What reasons does the author mention for being glad about his weaknesses? Take a moment and ask the Lord for protection against discouragement about your weaknesses and that you would be made content in the knowledge and promises of your Savior this year. [When we realize our weakness, then Christ becomes more beautiful and His power more evident. We realize that God's grace and what He has done is enough, and it is not about our own strength, but His.]

Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Then take a moment to praise God for the grace He gives us, the power He has, and the rest and contentment He offers us

as a gift. How can this knowledge affect the way we live going this school year?

Challenge for the Week: Read Romans 12:9-21. Which of these areas do you need work on? Write down some spiritual goals for the next school year.

[Author Note: An additional challenge is to have your students write an encouraging letter to themselves with the goals they have set for themselves that year. In a few months, send the letter to them so they can see and heart-check where they are in accomplishing the goals. Another option is to have students write encouraging letters to each other about accomplishing goals in the new school year.]

Verses for the Week: Take time each day this week to read over these passages. Journal them in a notebook or in your phone. What are the principles and lessons found in these verses? If you had to sum up those lessons in one sentence, what would it be?

Day 1 - Proverbs 3:5-6

Day 2 - Proverbs 17:24

Day 3 - Proverbs 8:33-35

Day 4 - Matthew 5:6

Day 5 - Psalm 119:2

Day 6 - 1 Corinthians 15:58