Introduction: A while back was at the doctor’s office, it was cold and snowy outside, when he advised me to stay inside. Her then used the words, “considering your age.” Ouch! I was mildly upset and felt like telling him I am doing fine and don’t worry ab out my age. Then in the spring and I had another doctor’s visit in which some blood work was done. This being a different doctor, t old me my blood work was good, “considering your age.” Besides being a little hurt, perplexed, and aggravated I started to think about my age. This got me to this lesson in which the Bible speaks about different ages.

**I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake.**

**13 I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. 14 I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one. 1 John 2:12-14**

**I) Little Children, Young Men, Fathers**

**A) Two or 3 Groups Addressed?**

1. Two groups –

a. Little children refers to all since all had been forgiven.

b. Then the two groups would be “young men” referring to younger Christians and “fathers” referring to older more mature Christians.

2. Three groups

a. Little children a tender way of addressing new converts, babes in Christ.

b. Young men, would include women, they were steadfast and faithful to the Lord.

c. Fathers referring to the older and mature Christians.

**B) Each group listed as having blessings or advantages.**

1. Little children had their sins washed away.

2. Young men they had overcome the wicked one, been translated from the power of darkness to the kingdom of the son. Colossians 1.13.

a. Those who have “overcome the wicked one” Greek tenses worked differently than our in English.

b. This is a past perfect tense in which it denotes what they had done and are continuing to do.

3. Fathers those who “know God” as they have an intimate knowledge of Him, a knowledge which comes from living a life serving Him.

**II) Other Facts About the Young (Considering your age)**

**A) Strengths**

1. Clean slates –

2. Vitality

3. Teachable –

4. Great ability

5. Strength

6. Adaptable.

**B) Weaknesses**

1. Naïve

2. Impulsive

3. Suspectable to peer pressure

4. Sexual temptation.

**C) Bible Passages to remember**

1. **9 Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. 10 Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, For childhood and youth are vanity. Ecclesiastes 11:9-10**

a. The time to learn about God is now.

b. Your actions now will affect the rest of your life, good decisions and bad decisions.

c. Enjoy your youth for you will now be young forever.

2. **Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12**

a. “Let no one despise your youth” can either mean, don’t live so as to give others a reason to despise you; or, don’t let people disregard your teaching just because you are young.

b. Live so as to leave a good example, especially for younger Christians.

c. One place I preached at, had a large High School and College age group, The younger children looked up to the High School group, the High School group looked up to the college group.

3. **11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 1 Corinthians 13:11**

a. Probably dealing with maturity than age but there is a time to be a “child” and a time to grow.

b. Growing is more than time related, it is development related.

**For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Hebrews 5:12-14**

c. As Christians we are to be growing in Christ, in our abilities, in our spiritual nature.

4.Considering your age – develop good habits, think of what you want to be in your service to God. Look at the qualifications of elders in 1 Timothy and Titus.

**III) Young Men/Women**

**A) John list three things.**

1. Their strength “you are strong”

a. One might say, you are in your prime.

b. This is the time to be stepping up to the plate.

2. “The word abides in your”

a. Their knowledge “You know the scriptures”

b. A Never-ending process but by this time you are no longer babes in Christ but now can eat of the solid food.

3. “You have overcome the wicked one” they had proved themselves.

a. Not like the rocky soil which lacks depth, many will leave the faith due to the cares and riches of this life.

b. You are to produce fruit in your lives.

**B) Warning to not forget God**

1. David was in his prime when he committed sin with Bathsheba.

2. Don’t let your strength be your downfall.

**1 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; 2 For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you. 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, 4 And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:1-6**

**IV) Fathers (C**

**A) Strengths “You have known Him from the beginning”**

1. Wisdom and knowledge. Use these to help the younger generation.

**29 The glory of young men is their strength, And the splendor of old men is their gray head. Proverbs 20:29**

**2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; 3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— Titus 2:2-3**

2. Have to use your abilities and acknowledge your limitations. “The reason most old men get hurt is because they are acting like they are young men,”

**B) Weaknesses, Ecclesiastes 12**

1. Loss of… strength, hearing, eyesight, etc.

2. Mental abilities might also decrease.

3. Living in the past.

Conclusion: Let us all pray we can be a Moses,  **“Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.” (Deuteronomy 34:7)** But to act your age you have to be born, to be born in Christ, John 3.5. How about you this morning, have you been born again?