

Here we are with our annual Truth & Life Conference, numerous class sessions, and Disney Day already in the rearview mirror. Only a few more weeks and it will be spring break. Midterm exams now loom in the not-so-distant future. Once spring break passes, it is only five more weeks until finals and commencement.

Wow.

For those of us in administration and faculty, the spring semester moves much faster than does the fall. With the spring comes daylight saving time, with its warm and longer days tending to make it a challenge for students to stay focused. I know that some of you moms and dads can't believe that four years have passed so quickly, and I am sure you all can't believe how quickly time has gone by this year.

I'm sure your student can't believe it either. For the freshmen, the first adjustment came last fall semester when that first exam snuck up on them. For many upper-division students, the shock came with that major term paper later in the year. Time can easily slip away from them at this stage of life — and distractions don't help the matter.

Whether it's Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, or video games, when you are 18 to 21 years old, it is pretty hard to think in terms of wasted time.

As parents, you know by experience in your own lives how fast time gets away from you. I would suggest in the conversations with your son or daughter to just encourage them. A phone call can be very uplifting. Obviously, the most important thing is your consistent prayer for them. These four years are their bridge to adulthood.



Throughout history, God's chosen servants — like Moses, Paul, and our Lord — were set aside by God for a time of testing. Moses spent 20 years in the Arabian desert in preparation to lead the Israelites out of Egypt into 40 years in the wilderness. The Apostle Paul was sent away for three years to prepare for his ministry that would change the Western world. Even Christ spent 40 days of testing after his baptism. You have sacrificed greatly to give your student this opportunity to begin to grow into the fullness and stature of the Lord Jesus Christ and to grow in love for Christ and Scripture.

In closing, speaking for our administration and faculty, thank you for your willingness to trust us with your most precious possession. It is not only a major responsibility but also a wonderful privilege to work and shepherd these precious students.

Blessings,

Dr. Stead

