

GRADUATION 2019
LIVING A LIFE OF SIGNIFICANCE
Proverbs 3:1-8

Congratulations, class of 2019. What you have accomplished is noble. Years of hard work have earned you the cap, the gown, and the degree or diploma. But remember, degrees and diplomas don't guarantee your success...whether it be in the eyes of the world or especially in the eyes of God.

I want to give you three things to remember as you make this transition in your life.

“Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

~II Timothy 3:7

I. SEEK WISDOM:

The first *three manifestations* of the *Spirit* listed in **I Corinthians 12:**

- **Wisdom**
- **Knowledge**
- **Faith**

WISDOM: *Wisdom* vs. *Knowledge* (*Wisdom...211 times*)

*Wisdom...*The *ability* and *willingness* to see things from God's *perspective*...to *see* from *heaven's perspective*.

Knowledge without *wisdom* can lead to *pride*.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments.”

~Psalm 111:10

“For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

~Proverbs 2:6

“How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding.”

~Proverbs 3:13

“Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments and live; Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth.”

~Proverbs 4:4b-5

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

~Proverbs 9:10

“The mouth of the righteous flows with wisdom...”

~Proverbs 10:31a

“...Get wisdom and instruction and understanding.”

~Proverbs 23:23b

II. DESIRE CHARACTER vs. SEEKING A REPUTATION:

Seek to *grow* and develop *righteousness* (*godly character*) ...more than a seeking a *reputation*.

Character...*internal*. Who you really are. (The private you).

Reputation...*external*. Who others think you are.

John Piper...*Seashells sermon* (**Reader's Digest**).

Kristen Welch (**Mercy House Global**)...*Are we raising kids to stay or go?* Scott said that this was the culture and nature surrounding our family.

“Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals.”

~I Corinthians 15:33

“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.”

~Proverbs 13:20

“Leave the presence of a fool, or you will not discern words of knowledge.”

~Proverbs 14:7

Life is not all about the journey. The journey is all about the destination...it’s about where you arrive.

There will be *times*...there will probably be *many times* in your life...where it *will look* to you like God’s *truth* and *promises* are *not real* or *will not come true*. At those moments...and I can’t stress this enough...*don’t trust your emotions* or your *own perceptions* or what the *world around you* says. I have learned this lesson over many years and in many different, and at times, severe ways. I tell you the truth...*not once has God’s Word failed me*. My *emotions* and *perceptions*...they have *deceived* and *failed* me many times.

So, *live* in the Word...*immerse* yourself in the Word...*hide* God’s Word in your *heart* and it will become the *foundation* of your life...it will *give* you life!

“Keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.”

~I Peter 3:16

“...Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

~I Corinthians 10:31

III. CONTINUE TO GROW:

- **Grow and mature spiritually...*discipleship*.**

God doesn’t make us fully *Christlike* the moment we’re *born again*. He *conforms us* to the *image of Christ* gradually. In our *spiritual lives*, as in our *professional*

lives, and in *sports* and *hobbies*, we *grow, mature, improve* and *excel* by handling *failure* and *disappointment*...and *learning from it*. Only in cultivating *discipline, endurance, and patience* do we find *satisfaction* and *reward*. And those *qualities* are mostly developed through *some form of refinement* or *suffering*...going through the *refiner’s fire*.

Maturing involves the ability to *recognize the distinction* between *who you are today* and *who God desires for you to become*. My hope is that you will begin to own the *Augustinian awareness* that *not everything we long or lust for is something we should really want*.

- **Grow deep roots of faith.**

Trust God’s Word...not your emotions.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

~Proverbs 3:5-6

Know the Word. Do not *neglect* the Word. *Meditate* on the Word. *Memorize Scripture*. *Store* the Word in your heart.

“Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.”

~Psalm 119:11

“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

~Colossians 3:16-17

Daily Bible reading has nothing to do with your *performing* a *ritual* for God's *approval*...but it has everything to do with your *spiritual survival*. Scripture will keep you *firmly rooted*...because the Bible tells you what is *real*. What you *perceive* with your senses, how you interpret your *perceptions*, and how your *emotions* respond, are *unreliable indicators* of *reality*. They will frequently *not tell you the truth*. You need to know what God says is *true* and *plant* yourself there.

- **Grow in Grace.**

God's + God's = God's
Invitation Power Will

Receive Grace...*Give* Grace...*Walk* in Grace

IN CONCLUSION:

- **Recognize and know that God has created you for something with purpose.**
- **Identify and use your God given giftedness and talent.**
- **Make God's Word the foundation of your very being.**
- **Learn how to pray...and *pray continuously*.**

Graduate...if God is your *treasure*, you will *gain everything*. If He isn't, you will *never find joy, contentment, fulfillment, or purpose*.

Now that you have your degree...go out and get your education!