



WHEN WILL YOU GRADUATE?

Today, we are honoring one of our members who graduated from High School. We are also honoring three who graduated from Jr. High. This morning I thought I would consider your graduation as well.

When we graduate from a school, we go to a commencement exercise where we get a diploma. So, let's consider these terms! Why? Because they apply to our Christian walk as well.

Have you ever considered why God didn't take you home to be with Him as soon as you were saved? Why does God leave us here for a while?

Is it so we can fulfill the "Great Commission?" Well, we are supposed to do that, but God could do it better. What is God's plan for us? Beginning with Peter we have these words, *as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,*

I Peter 2:2

When we are born again, we need to grow. We start out with milk which is all we, as young Christians can handle. We are then to grow. Paul adds, *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ*

Ephesians 4:14-15

Just as when children have been weaned from milk, are ready to start their education - preschool, K-12, etc., we too are to start our Christian Educations - *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

II Timothy 2:15

We need to learn more and more about God and, as Paul said, *Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those*

things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

Philippians. 3:13-15

So, then, our "commencement" will be when we have completed our Christian education are are ready to move out to that new home. We can say, like Paul, *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

II Timothy 4:7

Since I made a mistake and used the graduation bulletin several weeks ago, I am going to reproduce the back for today (below).

TO THE GRADUATES

Along this road of learning you have traveled far, my friends.
But this road has so many miles, It has its curves and bends.
You've made a good beginning now, the first few miles are past.
That long, long hill you once saw; You've reached the top at last.

So many hands along the way have helped you so very much.
You've needed understanding and a strong, yet gentle touch.
You've had the help of family and teachers, quite a few.
And now you stand with miles behind; Horizons are brand new.

You've added to your knowledge in these years now left behind
Your vision has expanded and you've challenged heart and mind
You've grown in body stature, You've made old friends and new
And in it all as we have watched, You've grown up in plain view

The Lord in His great wisdom made you in three parts, my friends,
You're body, soul, and spirit and on this your life depends
You've spent these years developing your mind and body strong
But don't forget you priceless soul to God in heaven belongs

Remember God while you are young, Give Him your youthful years.
He'll stand beside you all your life, removing doubts and fears
The day will come when you will see you made the perfect choice
Allowing God to guide your life and listening to His voice.

- William F. Sherbert

Wayne

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