

SPIRITUAL WISDOM FOR GRADUATES

Introduction

- 1) At the end of each school term, a commencement ceremony is held to confer degrees on graduating students – usually called a “**graduation**” (high school, college, etc.)
- 2) On these important occasions, speeches are given by students, teachers, and prominent guests which usually contain standard advice for future success and happiness
- 3) Lots of secular advice and memorable phrases are heard, but precious few spiritual principles from the word of God are included – this is regrettable!!
- 4) What words of truth would be given if Jesus, Paul, and Peter spoke to our graduates, and to all of us, today?

I) **SUCCESS**

- A) *Jesus*: Matthew 5:3-12 – the path of blessedness/happiness
- B) *Paul*: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 – renewing the inner man for heavenly glory
- C) *Peter*: 1 Peter 3:10-12 – living a righteous and enjoyable life

II) **INFLUENCE**

- A) *Jesus*: Matthew 5:13-16 – salt and light in this world
- B) *Paul*: 1 Timothy 4:12 – young are to be a good example
- C) *Peter*: 1 Peter 2:11-12 – abstain from evil and do good works

III) **TREASURES**

- A) *Jesus*: Matthew 6:19-21 – lay up treasures in heaven
- B) *Paul*: 1 Timothy 6:6-12 – learn to be content and faithful here
- C) *Peter*: 1 Peter 1:3-4 – inheritance reserved in heaven

IV) **TRUTH**

- A) *Jesus*: John 8:31-32; 12:48 – His word is truth and will judge us
- B) *Paul*: Colossians 1:9 – be filled with the knowledge of God
- C) *Peter*: Acts 10:34-35 – fearing and obeying God is the right and true way

V) **FOCUS**

- A) *Jesus*: Matthew 6:31-33; 7:21 – seek first the kingdom and will of God
- B) *Paul*: Philippians 3:12-14 – press toward the prize
- C) *Peter*: 2 Peter 1:5-11; 3:10-14 – be diligent to live godly every day

VI) **BEWARE**

- A) *Jesus*: Matthew 7:15-20 – wolves in sheep’s clothing
- B) *Paul*: Ephesians 5:11; Colossians 2:8 – works of darkness; earthly philosophies
- C) *Peter*: 1 Peter 5:8-9; 2 Peter 2:1-3 – Satan, false teachers, and destructive heresies

Conclusion

These words offer **true wisdom** for successful living now and eternally. Any graduation is a step toward greater service and opportunities. The greatest graduations are when we are baptized into Christ and become a Christian and are judged righteous for eternal life. It is more important to have your name in the Book of Life than on any earthly diploma. Obey God today!