

After My Tassel Has Turned

Introduction

- A. A famous statement is appropriate for high school graduation: I stand at the end of a long road, but the beginning of an untraveled road opens before me.
- B. Graduation from high school is a major milestone in our society
 - 1. A bigger change than almost any - except marriage
 - 2. There are usually many memories associated with high school
 - 3. You'll browse through your yearbook and say things like, "Do you remember when"
 - 4. For some there is a sadness that it's all coming to an end
 - 5. For others, a sense of relief
 - 6. Graduation from high school represents the achievement of a goal
- C. History tells us the first graduation ceremony took place in Greece, before the time of Christ
 - 1. The children of the nobility spent years learning from a special teacher, and their parents wanted a celebration to mark their achievements
 - 2. A special dinner was prepared and at the appropriate time, the graduates came out
 - 3. To their parent's dismay, they were dressed in common robes with a mortar board in their hands
 - 4. The teacher explained, "Your children are prepared to be builders. Some may build great buildings, some great cities, some great lives. Whatever they do, I have prepared them to build"
- D. I would like to encourage all graduates to be builders
- E. The lessons from today's lesson are aimed at our young people, but we all can learn some valuable lessons

I. Build Up Yourself

- A. God created you with talents and abilities. These need to be developed...built - **Psalm 92:12-15**
 - 1. God will bless you if you will live for him
- B. Build yourself up by:
 - 1. Having good role models - watch the faith of others in action
 - 2. Being courageous in life by standing by the truth
 - 3. Keeping the Scriptures as a part of your daily life

II. Build Up Your Community

- A. Try to leave this world better than the way you found it
- B. Be an encourager, not a complainer - **Philippians 2:14-16**
- C. Respect civic leaders, and try to assist all that is good

III. Build Up Your Family

- A. Prepare to build up your future husband or wife
 - 1. Decide now that when you make a marriage covenant, that it will be for life
 - 2. Be the kind of person that your husband or wife can turn to for encouragement and help in difficult days – **Ephesians 5:21-28**
- B. The best legacy we can leave our children is a good family life while they are young
- C. Make family the priority of your life, for God created it to be such

IV. Build Up The Church

- A. Don't just attend church - become involved - Make the church important to you - **1 Timothy 3:14-15**
- B. Encourage people to come to Christ as you can

1. This will keep your fire burning
2. No other organization deserves your attention, devotion, or efforts as much as the church
3. The church is the one part of your life that will last eternally

C. Never let the church become second place to anything

Conclusion

- A. Graduation begins a new road of greater blessings, freedom, and responsibilities.
- B. Build up the things that matter in your life

1. Your self, your community, your family, and the church. These are not items for the future, but they deserve your attention now

"I Felt Your Touch"

Whatever our hands touch --
We leave fingerprints!
In walls, on furniture,
On doorknobs, dishes, books;
As we touch we leave our identity.

Please Lord, wherever I go today,
Help me leave heartprints!
Heartprints of compassion,
Of understanding and love.
Heartprints of kindness
And genuine concern.

May my heart touch a lonely neighbor
Or a runaway daughter,
Or an anxious mother,
Or, perhaps, a dear friend!

I shall go out today
To leave heartprints,
And if someone should say
"I felt your touch,"
May that one sense be...Your Love
Touching others through Me.

- Author Unknown -