

GRADUATION?

VIRTUE: We never graduate from learning about Jesus. . . we are lifetime students of God!

SCRIPTURE: Luke 9:23-26

OBJECT: A graduation picture, graduation cap, or paper rolled up to look like a diploma



One of the happiest days of a person's life is the day they graduate. Graduation marks the day for a person to celebrate their hard work and achievements. It is the end of many years, studying to prepare for a person's future. Our Graduation day is a happy day - we may even find ourselves wishing that it would never end.

Even though a graduation is a very happy day, would it have been a good thing if it had never ended? No! That day was not a stopping place . . . it was a starting place. It was the start of a wonderful journey with a bright future ahead. There would be many more happy days to come, such as finding the perfect job, earning a nice salary and all the things that go along with that type of success.

Have you ever had a day that was so wonderful that you wanted it to last forever? I am sure you probably have. Did you know that Jesus' disciples had days like that too? Our Bible lesson today is about one of those days.

One day, Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him up onto a mountain to pray. As Jesus was praying, something very strange happened. The Bible says that the appearance of his face began to change and that his clothing became as bright as a flash of lightning. Then, Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus. When Peter saw this, he was so excited that he told Jesus that he thought that they should just stay up there on the mountain and build three tabernacles -- one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.

Peter didn't understand that this wonderful experience on the mountain was not a stopping place -- it was a starting place. It was a starting place for God's greatest gift -- the gift of salvation. Following this moment on the mountain, Jesus died on a cross, was buried, and rose from the grave so that you and I could have eternal life in heaven.

God sends a lot of happy days into our life. The day that we meet Jesus is, without a doubt, the happiest day of our life, but it isn't a stopping place -- it is a starting point for a journey that leads to eternal life in heaven with Him.

Dear Father, we thank you for all of the happy days that you send our way, but most of all, we thank you for the happiest day -- the day we met Jesus and invited him into our hearts. Amen.