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**THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison**

**Article Title:**

**THE FINAL GRADUATION**

This is the time of the year for students to graduate from high schools, colleges and universities. Students have spent several years preparing themselves for what comes next in their lives. Some will go on to a higher education. Others will join the work force and begin their careers. Some will succeed in reaching their life goals, but others will fail.

The most important goal that every graduate and every other person should pursue is salvation. Jesus said, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works" (Matthew 16:26-27). In view of the certainty of the coming judgment the goal of being prepared for an eternal existence in heaven must take priority in our lives. Such preparation requires a Bible education. The Bible is the revelation of God's plan for eternal salvation. Its pages contain the necessary information for our salvation from sin and its eternal consequences. Consider James 1:21 which tells us, "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls." The Bible also tells us that the "gospel is the power of God to salvation" (Romans 1:16-17). Jesus said that the word of God is truth (John 17:17) and that it is the truth that will make us free (John 8:32).

The knowledge one receives from a college or university education is wasted if one fails to use it. Likewise, simply knowing the truth is insufficient to save. The book of James tells us that we must be "doers of the word and not hearers only" and one who hears but fails to do what he hears deceives himself. "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:22-25). Dear reader, are you a doer of God's Word or just a hearer?

Every person reading this article will one day experience another graduation. This will be the final graduation experienced by man. And each of us will graduate either to exist eternally in heaven with God or to be separated from Him forever in hell. Jesus put it this way, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment but the righteous into eternal life" (Matthew 25:46). Each of us are preparing now for that final graduation. We plead with each reader to make heaven the primary goal of your life so that your final "diploma" will be that "crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him" (James 1:12).