

I'm Through Learning!

by Wayne Goff

High school graduations for another year have come and gone. What an accomplishment and a milestone for the young to cross! Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors! May God bless you with all good things in Him.

I remember graduating from Conway High School in Conway, Arkansas in 1972. In fact, I still have my blue and white tassel hanging in my office! My parents and siblings were present for the graduation ceremony. My maternal grandparents and a couple of my aunts and uncles were even there. I *distinctly* remember thinking, "Well, what's the big deal?!" It was a **big deal** to my family because they knew it represented a chapter in my life that would never be repeated. A great foundation for any future success I might have as a person had been laid.

My parents even had a *graduation party* for me, and I remember several members of the church coming to celebrate it with me. The greatest gift I ever received in life from my parents was my graduation present: a **Dickson Study Bible**. *Honestly*, at the time I think I would rather have had a new car, or a new hunting shotgun, or fishing rod, or cash -- but that Bible was my parents' way of saying, "Son, you are about to embark on a life away from home and away from our guidance. Let this Book be a lamp to your feet and a light to your pathway." That *silent* testimony weighed **heavily** on my mind throughout those first few years away from home. I never wanted to displease my Lord or my parents!

Is That All There Is?

Unlike many graduating seniors today, I knew absolutely what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. I *knew* I wanted to be a gospel preacher. I was ill prepared for preaching when I graduated high school, even though a solid learning foundation had been laid. Though I had taken a few courses in public speaking, I was a poor speaker! I *knew* that I would have to go to college for further education and chose a junior college that emphasized God's Word as life's platform for living. I graduated from that college and have that gray tassel hanging in my office as well. But I never thought I was through learning.

A Lifetime Of Study

I have come across many people who thought that as soon as they graduated from high school or college that they were **through learning!** I never felt that way. I felt that when I left school I was **just beginning** my journey of putting my knowledge to use, and that I would *continue* learning. It's embarrassing to look back thirty-nine years and recall how little I knew! But I continued to study, to build a religious library, and to learn enough of God's Word that I might be "*a worker who does not need to be ashamed*" (2 Tim. 2:15). I have preached two sermons every week (with the exception of two weeks vacation yearly), plus many week-long gospel meetings, taught Bible classes on just about every book of the Bible, and have tried to train others about Bible study as well. Lord willing, in the summer of 2014 I will have been doing this work of studying for forty years! I have nothing about which to brag. God has blessed my work.

Albert Einstein

I came across this story recently on the internet. Albert Einstein was at a dinner party when a young neighbor asked the white-haired scientist, "What are you actually by profession?" He replied, "I devote myself to the study of physics." The young girl looked at him in astonishment and said, "You mean to say you study physics at your age? I finished studying physics a year ago" (via *Today in the Word*).

Poor girl. I'll bet she never became an Einstein! (*Forgive me, I had to add that comment.*) Dear reader, when you think you have quit learning, then you are *mentally* and *spiritually* as good as dead! Study God's Word for the rest of your life. You will never learn all that is there, and there will never be a day when you won't need the instruction found in the Holy Pages. God bless you. May you go with God.

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