

God Establishes Your Steps (Graduation) – by Thailer Jimerson

This year marks one of the most important for many of our flock as we'll witness the graduations of Tori Edwards, Megan Hobson, Eric Lewis, Jesse Mizell, Madison Pullum, and Emily Roberts.

Graduation season means the huge rite of passage, the embarking on the journey of adolescent autonomy, growth in individual personhood, and the development of character in this transitional, and sometimes awkward, period. For most of you, you're just excited to finally leave the clique-culture of High School behind to join the real world which is so satisfyingly different than High School.

Looking back on my own graduation, I realize now that I had no clue what was going on. (Part of the reason was that I skipped my graduation ceremony. The opportunity to walk across the stage to receive the paper-symbol of my accomplishments, to signify with the tassel this major transition, to be applauded towards maturity, I gave up for front row seats to an Eric Clapton concert. Why'd he have to choose that day?) I also realize now how important prayer would be in those post-grad days to follow. So here's what I want you guys to know:

"The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps." (**Proverbs 16.9**)

What Solomon is saying is that it is natural for all of us to have future goals and make plans for our course in life, but ultimately it is God himself that establishes our very steps. How necessary will it be, therefore, to trust in God every step of the way? Trust him. Pray frequently. Try to figure out what his will is in your life. Don't make the mistake of thinking your life is in your own hands. So when trials come and life inevitably happens, go to God. When you have no clue what route to pursue, go to God. When your friends are sucking you in an ungodly direction, go to God. When you're tempted to walk the typical, clichéd path of "self-discovery" and "self-fulfillment" that promises individuality – when, in reality, it makes you the same as everyone else in the God-ignoring world – go to God.

In whatever your hand seeks to do – to better this world, to grow a family, to bring God's glory into whichever career path interests you – you're going to need help. So go to God. We all encourage you to plan your way, but don't forget that the LORD establishes your steps.

Listen, we love you. We're proud of you all. We share in your excitement. And we're praying for you all the time. Now go and magnify Christ in all that you do.

Give me Father, a purpose deep,
In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;
Faithful and true what e'er the strife,
Pleasing Thee in my daily life;
*Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.*
(Only One Life – C.T. Studd)