



Decisions for Graduation

This time of year is filled with anticipation and excitement as young people who have spent more than half of their life in school will graduate and move on to the next phase of their lives. With eagerness graduates will enter the world with naïve expectations and goals. There will be many lessons to learn from the "university of hard knocks" and without proper guidance, these decisions will lead to life long regrets. How can the young secure their hearts to make decisions that will offer a life time of rewards? The answer lies within the pages of God's word.

The fifth book of the Bible is a place of transition for a newly formed nation. From the days of Abraham in Genesis through the stories of the Exodus, the nation of Israel was formed and delivered from the bondage of Egyptian oppression. Because of rebellion, the nation had spent forty years wandering through the wilderness. Joshua has taken the lead of the nation following the death of Moses. The Lord's advice to Joshua in Joshua 1 is an important foundation that young people should build their lives upon.

In verse two, Jehovah says to Joshua – *Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.* Joshua needed to recognize that the days of Moses were passed and that a new day dawned. There was a time of mourning for Moses (Deuteronomy 34) but those days were passed. There was work to be done and goals to accomplish. The Jordan River needed to be crossed to conquer the land. Joshua should focus on the task at hand without the regrets and disappointments of yesterday. *Continued on next page... ..*

