

My Good and Dear Graduates,

For some reason, each time I meet with different groups of graduates or listen to the local “catch phrases” of the year, the overall theme of ***faith, family and friends*** seems to be in the forefront. These three words identify a great theme which can guide you (and all of us, for that matter) out of the narrow and sometimes dark road of our lives. As we get a bit more serious about our lives and search deeper into our faith, what appears on the other side of formal education is the real world. It will be a world where ***faith, family and friends*** can direct us towards a good life....a Godly life...and a gifted life.

***Faith.*** Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservation...

Elton Trueblood

***Family.*** Behold! How good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

Psalm 133

***Friends.*** The most I can do for my friend is simply to be his friend. I have no wealth to bestow on him. If he knows that I am happy in loving him, he will want no other reward. Is not friendship divine in this?

Henry David Thoreau

I chose these three very short verses to capture the theme a bit more holistically. You see; the theme, ***faith, family and friends*** does not just pertain to our lives, I truly think that it pertains to the whole world's ability to survive and co-exist.

May I leave you with a little quote that I had taped on my desk for the longest time...which states that,

***...the world doesn't care how much you know...  
until they know how much you care!***

I join your families who never stop  
praying for your continued success,

