

ADDRESS TO GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Deuteronomy 7:18; 8:2; 32:7; 11:17; 13:4; 30:20

Introduction: Ever try to read what was on the T-shirts people wear now days? If you could design your own shirt, what would you put on yours? If you could express your real attitude about life, what would you have printed in big letters on the back? The Book of Deuteronomy is about God's people getting ready to settle down in their new land. It is a beginning and God tells them three things that will hold them together.

I. REMEMBER! THINK!

1. An absent minded person went to the doctor but forgot why he/she went. The moral of this little thought is that EVERYBODY has trouble remembering!
2. Israel was called upon to remember the past (7:18; 8:2; 32:7), slavery, the wilderness, idol worship, disobedience, their leaders.
3. What should YOU graduates remember?
 - Somebody spanked your bottom and got you started breathing.
 - Somebody fed you and changed your diaper.
 - Somebody taught you how to talk and to walk.
 - Somebody provided you a home, clothes, piano (instrument) lessons, ball gloves, dolls, your FREEDOM.
 - Somebody took you fishing, shopping, taught you how to drive.
 - Somebody taught you how to read and write, so that you COULD WEAR THAT GOWN you have on right now.
4. THINK: of parents, teachers, friends, pals.
 - Things don't just happen! A whole lot of LOVE and a lot of people made it possible for you to be graduating. THINK!

II. OBEY! DO!

1. During a ball game a dog wandered out on the field and everybody started yelling at him to get off the field. Finally somebody had to go out and pick the dog up and carry him off the field. There were so many yelling at him he couldn't understand a single word or distinguish a voice clear enough to understand what to do.
2. There will be a world full of voices calling to you.
3. In a large family with one bathroom, there's got to be rules.
 - Few like to obey rules, but most do and with one bath room, rules are rules.
 - What would it be like if there were no STOP signs or door locks or laws?

4. Many live for just a weekend of partying, beer, dancing, girls and guys. That is "living" for many.
 - Sadly, it will take a tragedy of some sort to cause those partying people to make them realize just how EMPTY that kind of life is.
5. EVERYONE has got to come to terms with the action word: DO!
 - Some rules are more important than others and you are going to have to master what to accept and what to leave alone.
 - You can't listen to every voice you will hear. You will have to decide what to DO!
 - Practice, it is said, makes perfect. Practice deciding what to do that is best for you.

III. FINALLY, BEHOLD, LOOK - DREAM!

1. There is something "out there" for you. You have a future and everyone needs to have a dream, an idea, a hope, a vision.
2. Don't you think that God made you for something other than sex, beer and drugs?
3. Don't you think that God had more in mind for you than dying at 18 by jumping off a bridge or sticking a water hose in the tail pipe of a car or by sticking a gun at one's head, all because THERE WASN'T ANYTHING LEFT TO LIVE FOR?
4. Life for you is just beginning, don't forget the word DREAM, big dreams, don't give up dreams.
5. Ten years from now your class will have a reunion probably. What will have happened? Where will you be? What will you have accomplished? Will you be happy? Will you even be alive?

CONCLUSION:

1. In a little while you will hear your name called and you will walk to the platform and receive your graduation diploma. Part of your life will be over and you will be entering a new part. What would you write on that T-shirt then?
2. THINK about others. DO follow the rules. DREAM big dreams. REMEMBER who helped you get to where you are now.