

A comm address is an almost impossible assignmt. The faculty has in their collective mind a certain concept of what should be said; the graduates want not only a fitting climax to their course of study but also a word of confirmation to their parents and friends of the truths of the Xn faith which they hold dear. Even the speaker, bel it or not, has ideas about what ought to be said, and everyone has a rather firm opinion about how long the address should be. Sometimes one wonders if the assignmt could be fulfilled adequately by the angel Gabriel.

Even so, where angels fear to tread I find myself running in, and, right or wrong, I propose to speak primarily to the members of the graduating class, for in a special sense this is their service. But even having made this decision all my problems are not solved, for there remains the question, Shall I give an address or preach a sermon, or what? Perhaps I shall do a little of both.

I must take a few moments to remind you of the world into which you are being graduated. In a word, it is a mess. Social upheaval, eccl. apostasy, lawlessness on every level, and the increasing tolerance of sin-both public and personal-are making major and all too effective contributions to the confusion and complexity of the day. But I do not wish to dwell on these things. I simply want to emphasize such a situation as we find ourselves in today should be no surprise to the Christian. The Bible warns us that evil men and seducers shall

wax worse and worse. We are killed all the day long, we are accounted as shepp for the slaughter. Men shall be lovers of their own selves, trucebreakers, fierce, despisers of these who are good. If we believe God's Word we cannot expect the world situation to become better. Yet this should not discourage us nor make us think that we have a far more difficult situation than anyone has ever had before. Things weren't too good in the first century when the gospel made some of its greatest triumphs. Social injustice, political intrigues, wars, immorality, and general viciousness characterized distatorial Rome. But the gospel came and triumphed in a world like that.

Now the point is this: the world has not and will not change because man remains basically the same in every age. The power of the Word of God is also unchanged. Therefore, we had better look at ourselves, and particularly at how a graduate can gear his work and guide his life so that God can reward it. Now I have heard and preached sermons on the Christians rewards particularly emphasizing the fact from 1 Cor3:13 that it is not quantity but quality of works which counts in God's sight. This teaching, of course, is for Xns only. Unbels in X can only expect judgmt which will bring them eternal separation from God. Bels, whether in Xn work or not, can anticipate rewards from the Lord for the works of their lives depending on what sort of works they were. So the imp't Ques is, What determines quality works? This is the ques I want to ans <sup>to day</sup> tonight. How can I give quality control to my service for X.

Suggestions for answers to this ques are found, I bel, in other passages which concern rewards.

I. Matt. 6:1-8.

Subj-almsgiving and prayer. Alms=giving to poor, 1-4. Do not announce but do anonymously so not to embarrass poor. If make show, have reward; if not, God will reward.

Prayer,5-8. Some do to be seen,5; some repeat to be heard;7.some to have heart-to-heart fell with God. Impress men, or express love to God? Point is that reward is determined by motive. If to be acclaimed by men, then men will reward. If to please God, He will. Quality works are motivated by desire to please God alone.

Application to those going into Xn work. Temptatn to please men for acclaim, promotion, ease. Remember Gal 1:10-If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of X.

II. Matt. 20:1-16. Beg.,3rd,6th,9th hrs. Lord is good and just,15 in spite of what we think. All are rewarded. No man can rightly estimate his worth. He gives whatever is right, 7. Poin t is that rewards are based on His estimate of our work, not ours of own or ours of others. In life keep eyes on His commands for you to be assured that He will be able to give a high estimate of your work. Don't look at others, but Him and His Word.

IIIMatt. 25:14-30. Giving acc to ability, 15. Using, 16-18. Reckoning, 19-30. Talent largest weight man could carry, 66 lbs. If silver, several thousand \$. Same commend of 5 and 2. Cond of 1. Gifts given to match abilities. Distribution acc to capacity and reward is for working to capacity. If have 5 must work like 5, if 2. Not expected for 2 to work like 5. 1 was expected to use his. Point is don't bury what you have been sharpened to use by training here. Make full use of natural and spiritual gifts God has given.

IV. Luke 19:11-27. At Jericho. Archelaus went to Rome to get kgdm from Augustus. Sent delegates who opposed. When got it, slaughtered oppositn Endowing, 1 pound each = 100 days' work, 13. Instructions, <sup>13</sup> occupy = trade = use. Examination, 16-27. Diff rewards bec apparently all could have worked hard enuf to have gained 10fold. Point is; work wisely and diligently. No room for laziness in Xn's life, esp not in Lord's work.

Quality works are those done from pure motives, acc to His estimate of worth, acc to our full capacity and with wise and diligent effort. We started with 1 Cor 3. Let's conclude there and notice that these quality controls are in that context. Pure motive = 1 Cor 4:5; His estimate, § 4:3-4. Capacity = gold, silver, prec stones, diligent work = 3:12, build. Chances of this class beging tog ever again in life are practically nil. But will be tog at judgmt seat of X. There by His grace, the glory of it overshadowing all. All there rewarded but some greater than others. What joy to rec from His hand. May every effort of your life be sent toward bring you great joy on that day.