

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS  
COMMENCEMENT  
GEORGE WYTHE COLLEGE  
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Christianity through Jesus Christ stepped into the arena of world religions as a challenger. The Son of God, just as the ancient athlete did, threw down His gauntlet on the ground and challenged the religions of the world to take it up. Heaven's challenge still stands. Sophisticated religions, uncertainties, philosophic illusions and delusions have claimed the world's interest, but heaven's challenge stands just as vigorously today as it ever did. So long as the Word of God lives in the world, so long shall that challenge endure. Other religions were old, long whiskered and gray-haired when Jesus Christ entered the arena. Christianity was a babe among the ancient religions. Zoroaster had lived, taught his "purification by fire" and worshipped the sun, the fire god. Zoroaster could conceive only one possibility of purifying the human soul, a process of fire cleansing. There could be no other. That was the conclusion of the ancient world.

Buddha followed about 500 B.C., but with no better hope than Zoroaster. His ideal was oblivion, personality lost, individuality gone, merged into the great whole, without distinctive consciousness, vacuity.

Mohammed came at a later period, about 550 years after Jesus Christ. His heaven was a harem, the possibility of everlasting sensuality. Then in modern days the "New Age Movement" has risen with only God Himself knowing what that is supposed to mean.

Into the muck and the mess and the darkness came the Son of God with the glory of holiness, with divine righteousness, with heavenly purity, with angelic estate, never ceasing consciousness, perpetuated individuality, life forevermore, resurrection from the dead, man's enjoyment of God eternally, yourself a son of God, like the Son of God, Himself, in His likeness immortalized.

Heaven stood aghast, earth stood aghast, and hell stood aghast when Jesus Christ stepped into the arena. Could He accomplish the thing He talked about? Was there power in heaven or on earth to revolutionize the nature of man, change the darkness, take away sin and obliterate the night from his soul? Could the personality of man be preserved? Were Christians going to die just like others did? Did He truly possess eternal life? Could He impart it to others? Was Jesus Christ a boaster or a Savior?

Christianity did not come to the world to apologize for its existence or to beg a place to live. It came as heaven's champion. That unique individual, the Christian, is the champion of the Son of God and a demonstrator of His salvation. He is the champion of God. He cannot be anything else. (1 John 4:17), "...As he is, so are we in this world."

In our day we have almost come to the place where the world is being taught to believe that the message of Christianity is morality - be decent, don't act like a pig, keep the beast under control. That is the message of modern Christianity. Jesus Christ never wasted His time establishing mere morality. Jesus declared IMMORTALITY to be the goal of Christianity. We are begging the

devil for a place in the world, apologizing for our faith in God, trying to conform our religion to the mind of the world.

Sad to say this is exactly what has happened in the fields of higher and lower education. In the "Forward" to the book, "THE FIVE THOUSAND YEAR LEAP, The 28 Great Ideas That Are Changing the World," written by Dr. W. Cleon Skousen, Senator Orrin G. Hatch wrote,

"Here is a book which should have been written 200 years ago. On the other hand, that may have been impossible. We may have needed the obstacles and experiences of the past two centuries to furnish us with a frame of reference which would help us understand what the Founders were trying to tell." Senator Hatch concluded his forward, "As Americans, we should once more lift the lamp beside the golden door. We should demonstrate by precept and practice that we intend to become a more virtuous and intelligent nation. We should return to the high road of sound principles and moral responsibility on which the nation was founded. I believe America does have a divine destiny, and when we perform that great service to humanity which the Founders envisioned, I think the whole world will be a happier, more prosperous, and more peaceful place to live."

These are ideals that should be taught from elementary to university level in every nation on our globe.

In 1993 I sent a copy of Dr. Skousen's book to Nelson Mandela and to F.W. DeKlerk in South Africa, just before their historic

election on April 27, 1994. I do not know how much this contributed to what has happened in South Africa but I would like to think that it set in motion a chain of events that has changed that nation for the better.

When George Wythe College was established, like Christianity throwing down the gauntlet before the religions of the world, so to did we throw down the gauntlet, but this was at the feet of the Educational Goliaths of today. We determined to build a school that would not conform to the established concepts of so called higher learning. Rather we chose to travel a different direction and bring to our students the conviction that in allegiance with God Almighty they could indeed change the world.

*Graduates,* As you prepare to leave George Wythe and move on with your life's calling remember this: without God in your life you will do no more than leave footprints on the sands that will wash away with the first tide. But, as the Apostle Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." <sup>Remember</sup>

Our time on this earth is short. We no longer have the option of "trying to find ourselves", searching to know "who I am". The time is now that you take hold of the gauntlet and determine what the future holds for you. As the song says, "I don't know about tomorrow, but I know who holds <sup>the future</sup> my hand." Stand tall and walk with confidence and know that God is still in control.

As we approach the twenty-first century, as a culture we still seem hell-bent on destroying the very values upon which this nation was founded. It is because of this very culture war that George

Wythe College was called into existence and much like America I believe that she too has a "Manifest Destiny."

As you graduate today, and also those of you who will graduate in the years to come, remember, you brought with you the values, attitudes, morals, and sense of direction, (in most part) imparted to you by your parents and grandparents. Now add to these that which you have received from your mentor's here at George Wythe and go into all the world with the realization that you have been hand picked by our Heavenly Father to fulfill His will on this earth. Today, determine to know that will and fulfill it.

God bless you. We are so grateful to have been asked to have a part in your life. We are proud of you and that which you have accomplished. We expect great things from you and to this end as the President of George Wythe College, I commit our support and prayers for your success.

Now! Reach out and take someone's hand and let's do what most colleges and universities will not do during their graduation ceremonies - LET US PRAY!

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