

## Graduation Central

**“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and Man”, Luke 2:52; “and the child Samuel grew on, and was in favor both with the Lord and with the people”. 1 Samuel 2:26.**

It's that time of year when the weather warms, the birds chirp and the graduates march. The Seventh-day Adventist elementary and middle schools in Atlanta present their graduates and the two academies top it off with Consecration, Baccalaureate and Commencement services. The whole purpose of graduation is to consecrate, commemorate and to celebrate as a rite of passage from one phase to another.

The entire concept of graduation points us to the life of Jesus, to his increase in wisdom in the word of God and in a manner that favored both God and his peers. His physical and mental growth were matched by his spiritual and moral development. In this nice work, the home and the school collaborated through the work of Joseph and Mary as well as the temple school. He was obedient, respectful and ready to take instruction. Although filled with Divine wisdom, he suffered his humanity to be instructed as an example for us. Likewise, today, Christian Seventh-day schools are graduating students who are “increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” for our education is more than a completion of academics. This end product gives clear instruction as to the curricular process and system, one where there is attention paid to spiritual, moral-ethical, physical growth, psychological and mental developmental stages, in a manner that is evidenced by good conduct, in favor with God and man. Without the flavor of the Divine, the graduation product is worthless.

In our lives too, we are marching to Zion, in a grand processional that rolls outward to the end of time. We are part of that eschatological remnant, the faithful few that will prevail in the end time, that keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus. There is a graduation coming when the Master returns to claim his students who are assiduously preparing for that moment. We shall be increased in wisdom and stature, when we don His robes of righteousness. We shall rise to the sound of the last trump. This earthly graduation is but a preparation and practice for the graduation in the great beyond, when this mortal shall put on immortality. “So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, ‘death is swallowed up in victory”. 1 Corinthians 15:54. Let us rejoice today in the surety of our salvation, so that nothing deters or prevents us from that class. We shall proceed with pomp and circumstance and rise to meet him in the air, for so shall we ever be with our Lord.

<https://youtu.be/Kw-Ew5bVxs>