

Dear Graduating Bible School Students,

Before being a minister, be a Son of God. Your first calling is His purpose. You are “the Called, according to His purpose.” And what is His purpose? That you be “conformed to the image of His Son.” That, above all else, is your first calling. Do not first focus on that which is ministerial. Let Christ be your obsession, not your ministry. Do not come to others as a minister, but as a vessel containing Christ.

Many love the blessings of ministry, but are reluctant to bear the cross. Given the choice between living life as a minister or living the Life of Christ, choose Christ. Serve God contentedly as the earthen vessel you are, in the place you find yourself to be. Perhaps the Lord will use you mightily, but if not then be faithful in that which is least.

Let your words be with authority but walk softly, with meekness and humility, and esteem others as better than yourself. Without love, your words will be as sounding brass. Jesus says, “Take my yoke upon you (this speaks of RESTRAINT on the way WE want to go) and learn of Me.” He bids us to be restrained, knowing we can do nothing of ourselves. He does not force us to wear the yoke, but invites us. Let us not only be familiar with His Word, but let us become acquainted with His heart. As we take His yoke upon us and walk in tandem with Him we will soon hear it.

God is more concerned with the messenger than the message. The minister is more important than the ministry. If the messenger is wrong, the message will be wrong. The Lord of the work is more important than the work of the Lord. Meditate on these things. Yield to His molding. It cannot be rushed, but it may hindered. We cannot force the Spirit, but we may quench Him.

Gifts are given to you in a moment’s time, but your fruit, character, and what is YOU, develops over many seasons of God’s dealings. Do not be thrilled with your gifts, only observe if you are fruitful in Spirit, bearing much fruit, abounding in love, joy, peace, faithfulness, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, and self-control. You can be sure that there are more gifted people in the world than you, yet fruit is what will remain when the gifts pass away.

Expect ridicule and when it comes, open not your mouth. Learn to kiss the hands that nail you to the cross. To live, is Christ, to die is gain. It is not a better living we need, but a better dying. Let your only boast be in the things that make you weak, for when you are weak, He is strong in you. Be slow to anger and quick to forgive. Be willing to apologize even when you know you did nothing wrong.

Be afraid of the praise and acceptance of others, for they are the fertilizer for the self-important can engender grandiose thoughts which spring up in the shallow ground of a carnal mind. Refuse to promote yourself, “your” word, “your” ministry. If God gives you something to say or do, let Him promote it if He so desires. I commit you to the care of the Lord Jesus, Who is able to complete the work which He has begun in you. By proceeding according to THESE words, I put my approval on your ministry.

Your Servant In Christ,

Randy Nusbaum