

5-27-1945

Notes: Baccalaureate: 2 Peter 1:5, 1945

O.P. Kretzmann
Valparaiso University

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Baccalaureate Sermon

1. Some of you have heard me speak of the fascinating ~~description~~ - Sir Robert Shirley -
2. Wonder if - without undue pride - these words cannot be applied to most of the men & women gathered here this morning - in an hour of the world's history when all things sacred have been profaned by hate & fear & blood - by the ^{blind} exaltation of many, by the ^{voices} ~~arguments~~ of despair or indifference from exhausted wills - by all the intellectual darkness & spiritual evil which follows the evening sun across the world - at such an hour - some of the men & women present here this morning have ~~these~~ the best things a hoped them - parents who have ^{sent their sons} ~~scribes~~ in

parents-
servants
wishes
youth.

order to give their children an education - teachers who have cast their bread on poor waters in the hearts and minds of these graduates - the graduates themselves into whose hands we now place the pledge & promise of a future which most of us will never see - all these have done the best things in the worst times - this morning they face the future together in the mingled sorrow of sadness & joy which comes to all men when the channels of life ^{separate} & turn toward new & far horizons - distant as we see them, ^{but} near in the heart & mind of God -

historic
recep-
tion -
peace

We have
seen this
war-
power

At this moment it is my privilege to say a few words to you ~~that~~ ^{you go} ^{back at the Lord} in his - Enchiridion Epictetus writes: "Every thing ^{in life} hath two handles, the one by which it may be borne, the other by which it cannot" - once more this morning, it seems to me to be vastly important to speak about the handle by which life may be borne - the things which will always matter when nothing else matters - the strong, silent, powerful, lifting qualities which hold life together in good times & bad - through victory & defeat, through years of war & years of peace - through all that life may bring and life may take away - a handle by which life may be borne.

May 27, 1945

TEXT _____ THEME _____

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Baccalaureate Sermon

4. For this a very simple text - which seems it all of: "Giving all diligence, add to your faith, virtue; and to virtue ~~knowledge~~ - ^{faith, virtue, knowledge} - these are the things - before God and ^{before} man - the only things by which life may be borne - more, ^{in which} by which it can become, a triumphant & a holy journey into the years that now lie before ~~you~~ -

5. Faith - virtue - ~~knowledge~~ ^{XX} - several years ago an American college asked some of its students - catalogue life values - order of importance - the list: Money, Politics, Social Intercourse, Education, Religion - ^{in the difference between these lists lies the whole story of our world - the tragic failure of our ~~civilization~~ - the whole means, ugly degradation of life to the gladiators and the losses which has been a mark of our time -}

Peter: faith, virtue

6. Necessary Mean →

Over against that - we shall expect ^{you at St. Paul} you to recognize the supreme importance of faith in your life - ^{where faith is} faith more than an acceptance by the mind - more than mere recognition of the existence of God or of certain universal principles or truths - ^{principle} faith is a passionate conviction, an incitement to action, a binding of the heart & mind & soul before a power greater than we - a dynamic, personal faith in God, in your Savior, in your Church - a faith by which you will never walk alone and ^{through which} ~~recognition~~ of limitless power will be ^{there} yours for the asking - ^{that's what} ~~not~~ saving faith

7. Only such a faith can stand up in our world of uncertainty & frustration & conflict - it must cover every corner & instant of life - our trouble! not that we do not believe - but not hard enough, wide enough, deep enough - covers out too many things - e.g. the most universal peace & degradation with which man face the future - Russia - our economic ^{labor} order - race - Asia - good to study these things - to ask questions - but beyond them and beneath them must always be our faith in the goodness and rightness of God's purpose in history - so the betrayal kiss of Judas - the tragedy of the Cross - the fall of Empires - World War I + II - all the noise & dust & confusion - all the things man do not do - serve finally the coming of the divine purposes in history - Carlyle: God does not balance his books every day - but in the end He does - His cycles - Adam

At every fear but the fear of God -

At every fear but the fear of God -

Carlyle: God does not balance his books every day - but in the end He does - His cycles - Adam

Jan 23, 54

III

May 27, 1945

TEXT

THEME

your world - will have to know & see a few fundamental things more clearly - more passionately - for example the deep inner relation between your faith & your life - Release Baccalaureate Sermon, in which you will live

OCCASION

8 [Add to your faith, ^{positive} ^{virtues} ^{virtues}] In the world of man there are two kinds of law - law that requires a law that forbids - to a certain extent you will be subject to both - as you in truth must be - but if you do only that, you will never rise above the gray level of humanity. men & women who must be compelled to do something or not do something for their own good cannot possibly feel the challenge and the opportunity of the years before us - here is the tragedy of much of our planning for the future - a well-regulated millennium - in which man will be told to do what they ought to do - in which everything will be ordered & safe & regulated - and dead - ^{these} ^{our} ^{pathetic} ^{separates} for such a world we forget that man ~~was~~ ^{was} born to be free, to be loved or hated, to plough a field or write a poem, to win a battle or lose it, to face a cross, to build his soul - we forget that he is not to be counted as though he were one of a million beads on the adding machine of an idiot child - we forget that he can & should be brought under the free and compelling liberty of the children of God in Christ - of faith that lives and moves by virtue - obedience, yes - but only to God - Character of St. Francis

If you have learned that here is your own world - you own world through life will be quite ~~easy~~ - because you know + are known. But don't you

This is your task - that the deep well-springs of your life and work and thought issue from the quality of virtue inspired by faith - has not this always been the mark of those whose names we remember for good - situations in which ^{no law - no power} "above beyond the call of duty" - the Titanic ^{even} when you look always the same thing - obedience to the conscience - duty lighted up with the glow of conscience, of faith and virtue, of our Lord, at ^{His} ^{supreme} ^{moment} of His earthly life: "Nevertheless, not my will but Thine be done" - that's what it is.

10. Heroin we learned that again in those years of fasting & trial. In the closing scene of John Steinbeck's novel "The Moon is Down" the kindly old mayor of the village has been condemned to death by the conquerors of his land - being hermit, he admits that he is afraid of death - thinking of ways of escape - to get out of it, but that he has finally made his decision - Talking to his friend the doctor he says:

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Communitarian ^{IV}

May 27, 1945

TEXT

THEME

Jan 1951

OCCASION

General
Thursday
Jan 18

Baccalaureate Sermon

You know, Doctor, I am a little man and this is a little town, but there must be a spark in little men that can burst into flame. I am afraid, I am terribly afraid, and I thought of all the things I might do to save my own life; and then that went away, and sometimes now I feel a kind of exultation, as though I were bigger & braver than I am, and do you know what I have been thinking, Doctor? Do you remember, in school, in the Apology - Do you remember Socrates says, "Someone will say, 'And are you not ashamed, Socrates, of a course of life which is likely to bring you to an untimely end?' To him I may fairly answer, 'That you are mistaken; a man who is good for any thing ought not to calculate the chances of living or dying; he ought only to consider, whether he is doing right or wrong - acting the part of a good man or a bad - When men do that, they are beyond the reach of Time & circumstance & evil - they have a handle by which life can be borne - they can stand up when God passes by, laden with greatness, unshaken & unafraid - That's what

11 [Add to your faith, virtue] let me now tie the loose ends together so that they can never break - down in the gutter of a city street is a drop of water, stagnant, soiled, dirty - From far up in the heavens the sun falls upon it, warms it, fills it through & through with new strange life, lifts it up higher and higher & higher, beyond the clouds and one day lets it fall as a snowflake, white & clean & pure, on a mountaintop - that is the story - our own lives, often so soiled, so humdrum, so low & weak, can be lifted on the wings of the morning if we bring them to Him who once was lifted up - who carries pure wounds in the front-line of our battle - & in whom faith & virtue are one - May He show you again & again His power, His wisdom, His kindness, His sorrow, His tears, His love - then your life, I know, will be beautiful & fair & good - adorned with the stars of the crown & splinters of the Cross - forever - ^{your spiritual youth} ready for the life which will not be borne.

but only on a good - forever -
 Remember -
 H. Johnson