

1948

Notes: Baccalaureate: By Faith (Hebrews 11:40) (Fragments), 1948

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Baccalaureate 1948.

- Probably the class of 1948 has ^{had} a stranger ^{career} history, than any other group of graduates in the long history of the U. - some members whose campus life ^{had} made back into the previous decade - many men who interrupted their academic training for work for the U. in the islands of the Pacific, in Europe, and the far corners of the earth - never forget. we owe it to them that we are here today - a free U. - a free church - a free land - and shall we not remember - there are some - who should have been here today but who are sleeping now under white crosses waiting for a commendation & a homecoming better & greater than any U. will ever observe - yes, I really feel that this now has been or ^{will} be a class here at the U. whose history has been or will be more colorful, more strange, more beautiful, more happy, more sad & more bitter than the history of the class of 1948.
- And it is this last note - the sadness & the bitterness - which seem to be the prevailing note in most of the baccalaureate & commencement addresses delivered now in June 1948 - ^{summing} some of the sacrifice of the class of 1948 have been in vain - we are still in the years the locusts have eaten - the years of hate & the decade of fear - of moral cowardice and intellectual stupidity - the years in which the world is a gloomy barrel and now an children lightning matches in the night - And so, Russell

"Bring a passion in
 man's life - Christian
 the slow sad dawn"

Baccalaureate 1948

a single idea which you can carry, confidently & surely, through all the years that remain for you - from this Commencement day until your own day of consummation - it is a divine idea - a heavenly view of life & history - something which will separate you forever from the ghosts & the crusades who make the brown places of our world - something high, holy, sure - "God having provided" -

5. Magnificent closing words of one of the greatest chapters in the sacred record - Heb. 11. The roll call of the heroes of faith - men & women who lived life for an end beyond life - the chapter is lived a Westminster Abbey with a bell tolling over it - by faith - Noah - by faith - Abraham - by faith Jacob - by faith the walls of Jericho fell - by faith 4000 years moved toward their destiny - the wars are forgotten and the kings are unremembered - the swords are gone and the palaces lie in dust - the world, says the author, lived and moved because of the men & women who lived by faith - they ^{really} ^{count} when God begins to create.
6. And then - after he has unrolled history like a carpet - there is a brief pause - the past becomes the present and the future - infinitely greater than all the years of promise: "God" - they were great, but we can be greater; strong - stronger - and all became one day ^{God provided} there was a Cross outside the gates of Jerusalem - sound of

IV

His victory, His accomplishment
which makes our quest
possible & endurable & our
journey full of joy & hope.

TEXT

THEME

OCCASION

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hazy, hazy - a voice crying over the world -

"It is finished." changing it forever from a
world of waiting & promise to a world of
seeing and fulfillment - [God etc. - This is
the better thing] if there is one thing you must
remember now & forever - in your inevitable hours
of pain and sorrow - when the tears come
and the lights are dimmed - when nothing else
matters. There is now for you: Christ - with all
the great & holy things He alone can bring to
the waiting heart - love, joy, peace, humility,
power & glory. He came incarnate into the
created universe to give us a glimpse of

God in action in the dust when we must
live - and He did that we might live in
Him - strange & marvelous - our faith - begins so low

7. Oh, I know that this is asking a great deal
of you in the 20th Century. You - Christ dying -
has to change. We've heard all that before.
Christianity is dying - by persecution from
without and corruption from within - by the
rise of Mohammedanism, the development of
the physical sciences - the appearance of our
modern anti-Christian revolutionary movements.
always the Church seemed to be dying - &
always it never quite worked out that way -
it always came back - carried in the hearts
and hands of men & women who knew it
was the better thing - who are drawn back again
& again to the better thing by the strange
man - giving the vision, the imperative, the dynamic