

Consummation before Commencement

For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also *in the likeness* of His resurrection,... (Rom. 6:5; NASB).

Over the past several weeks, schools have graduated their seniors. To those of you who have attended the various Jr. High, Sr. High, and University graduations have probably had your fill of "Pomp and Circumstance"!

They call the ceremony Commencement, a word that means beginning. Yet, commencement takes place at the end of school--not the beginning. Commencement is not the beginning of school but rather the beginning of life after school. Graduation commencement can only come after the consummation of the educational process.

Spiritually speaking, the apostle Paul spoke of consummation before commencement. In the passage above the apostle said that we must first be united with Christ in the likeness of His death in order to attain the likeness of His resurrection. There must be a consummation of the old life before there can be a commencement of the new. Just as no one would allow a person to go through a graduation commencement without fulfilling the requirements for that graduation, neither can a person begin a new life in Christ until they have completed the removal of the old.

Romans 6:1-11 is about spiritual life and death, but not in that order. Those who die to self and the old life consummate that existence so they can commence with a new one. I seriously doubt that any band played "Pomp and Circumstance" when you were baptized, but if it was done correctly it was your commencement for eternal life.

See you Sunday! -gls