

A DIPLOMA

A diploma is a document that certifies knowledge, achievement, and gained expertise. It can be very important to the individual who has it because it is a "calling card" to prospective employers. Those who have earned the right show off their "sheep skins" can use it to inform, persuade, and mandate others as to their talents and abilities.

Whether we like it or not, we put a great deal of importance on diplomas. When we go to see the doctor and wait to see him, it is comfort to see his medical school degrees, certificates of residency in a hospital and approval from the medical and governmental authorities. Without this positive feedback we might, become skeptical, even scared, of this man's qualifications to practice medicine.

Diplomas are also of great help to lawyers. If we are in trouble or need to be able to use the law; to have a man who knows his business by virtue of spending time in school and other special training, his diploma is a sign of expertise that allows us to have greater confidence that he/she can help us.

All diplomas come through hard work, disciplined times of study and reading, and much classroom instruction. The more important the field of study the more time in preparation is needed. A diploma says that the individual holding it has "paid the price" of acquiring skills and knowledge and he or she therefore has the right to use what he has learned. Those not willing to go through all of the hard work necessary to obtain it, find themselves lacking in the proper credentials to enter certain fields of work.

But a strange thing about being a Christian, which is relative to all of this, is that God gives you the diploma first, and then begins to give in-depth teaching. We are expected to educate ourselves in God's word more so after we become a Christian, than before. Becoming a Christian is a simple thing. Our faith, repentance, confession, and baptism brings us into the church, and we can wear the name of our Lord. It takes little knowledge, only proper knowledge, to wear the name Christian. This "diploma" is given so that we might walk in newness of life.

Doctors, lawyers, certain types of sales positions, and teachers must, have their diplomas before they can perform in their respective areas. So it is with Christians. They have the right to do good works, partake of the Lord's Supper, preach and teach the gospel, and do many other things because of their new life in Christ.

Let us therefore be very appreciative of God, as He allows us to have all of these spiritual blessings with so little preparation for them. If it were up to man, we might not let one enjoy such blessings until proper long term instruction was given, but thanks be to Jehovah that we can enjoy all of the rights and privileges of being a Christian while we continue to learn more of what He would have us to be and do. And because of this wonderful blessing may we always continue to grow in grace and knowledge.