

What would I have said to my graduating, 18 year old self?

There is beauty in the mundane and monotonous.

You are high school graduates now. Which means each of you are embarking on this epic journey of life as an adult on this huge, spinning sphere, hurling at 67,000 miles per hour around an even more massive blazing sphere, while tucked away in an absolute landmine of stars, asteroids and comets, which, without God's active care, would snuff us all out in a blink of an eye.

Lost in this vast cosmos—a snowflake in a blizzard, a water molecule in a raging ocean—you and I, from a purely materialistic perspective, are not all that significant.

And yet the One who spoke all things into existence, sustains every atom & molecule, quasar & quark, while caring about ants, ladybugs, germinating pollen, whales, and you and me. You see, in His eyes, nothing is boring. Nor will it ever be to Him. G.K. Chesterton once said:

"Because children have abounding vitality, because they are in spirit fierce and free, therefore they want things repeated and unchanged. They always say, "Do it again"; and the grown-up person does it again until he is nearly dead. For grown-up people are not strong enough to exult in monotony. But perhaps God is strong enough to exult in monotony. It is possible that God says every morning, "Do it again" to the sun; and every evening, "Do it again" to the moon. It may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately, but has never got tired of making them. It may be that He has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we."

Be adult enough to take responsibility for your part in this journey by choosing stay young enough to exult in the monotonous and mundane. Don't let hurt, pain, the pettiness of people and the newest Apple product make you tired of this incredible world that God has made for His glory and our joy.

The mundane is sacred, so live in such a way that makes dying is worth it.

Everyone, without exception, worships something, so choose wisely.

This is the power of choice. You get to choose what you will give meaning to. You get to choose what you will worship.

Here's a weird truth you will soon discover: In the day to day of the mundane and monotonous, there is no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worship something that they assign meaning and value to.

But you stand with the world before you; a world that has His fingerprints all over it. And you get to decide whom you will worship. But be careful. Most things we choose to worship simply do not have the ability to bear the weight of monotony. In fact, most things we worship will eat us alive.

- **If you worship money and things** to give you meaning and value, you will never feel you have enough.
- **If you worship your beauty or sexuality**, and you will always feel ugly. When time does what it has done with all of us over 40, you will die a million deaths of self-loathing and insecurity before you are planted in the ground.
- **If you worship power and success**, you will end up feeling weak and afraid. You will see everyone as a competitor and need more and more just to stay ahead of the fear of failure that's chasing you.
- **If you worship your intelligence and respect**, you will always feel stupid yet constantly need to prove to others how smart you are so you can hide the feeling of being a fraud.

Money, beauty, success or intelligence are not, in and of themselves, evil or wrong. But if you worship them--if you give them the power to define your identity, you will become a slave to a master that never delivers its promises.—you will never be free.

Conclusion

As you graduate tomorrow and enter the workforce or college, know that there is One who is not only able, but willing to be with you every step of the way—One who has the audacity to say He can set you free from whatever self-imposed slavery you've created today, or will be tempted to create in the future—a true friend who will never leave you nor forsake you.

So get at it! Laugh hard, work well, apply your gifts to the glory of your Creator, make a dent on this sphere, and enjoy the incredible carnival ride called life.

Congratulations!