Speech which opens with “A great poet has said that 'it is not all of life to live, nor all of death to die'"

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A great poet has said that “it is not all of life to live, nor all of death to die.” I believe that.

I believe also that there is a way to make this life more worth while and make the next life sure. I believe that living the Christian life is more important, more fruitful, more satisfying, more useful, more profitable to you than anything in this world. Jesus Christ said that to follow Him means an increase of 100 fold in values in this life and in the world to come, eternal life.

 I have learned and you will learn that happiness in this world is not gained by the accumulation of material things or by self-indulgence, but rather in accumulating and giving to others; helping to raise the standards of human life and spiritual living, particularly in helping young people to get the most and best out of life. These statements may sound like platitudes, but they are established truths. We know that “what you try to keep yourself you often lose and “What you give away for good causes, you save for all eternity.” Jesus said, “He that would be greatest among you, let him be the servant of all”.

 I have learned many lessons during the last 50 yrs which I hope you will learn much earlier in life. I have learned how to suffer and take it to quietly without becoming bitter or striking back or going on be abased and how to abound, that is, to take my losses and reverses gratefully; how to prosper and take it humbly, considering myself only a good steward of God’s blessings ##. I have learned how to blame myself rather than blame God for my disappointments and failures, knowing they were usually caused by my own stupidity or lack of knowledge. But above all, I have learned how to keep my faith in God strong and unwavering in spite of reverses and negative arguments of the cynics, the unbelievers, and those who think God and science are in disagreement. I have been told that I have a “blind faith”. I say that it is not a “blind faith” rather I say it is a complete faith; a wholesome faith; an intelligent faith. To me, there is no place for doubt with reference to the Fatherhood of God, the sonship of Christ, the brotherhood of men. These are all as obvious to me as the noon day sun. The very presence is the only argument needed. Likewise the very presence of all nature, flowers, trees + vegatation, animals, people with God given intelligence, the stars and plants all testify to the creative power and controlling power.

I have learned, and you graduating students will learn before 50 yrs from now, that we should never compromise soundeternal Principles, either moral or religious. In the moral realm we should hold to the highest standards known to our civilization and to God’s teaching. In the Spiritual realm we should have an abiding faith that will not aver, falter or weaken during adversity or persecution. There is no place for compromise in either morality or religion or in our steadfast belief in God. Either God IS, or He IS NOT. I believe that He IS. If He were NOT, there would be nothing no one, or no power to create and sustain the earth and all life in the human, animal and vegetable kingdoms. Either Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God or He is not. I believe that He is; otherwise there would be no salvation and no life hereafter, [eligible] calendar indicating 1957. Either the Bible is from God as claimed there in or it is not; I believe that it is, and that it is our guide from eaath to heaven. I believe the N.T. church should be maintained in its original teaching, doctrine, practices and ordinances, according to the Word of God. I believe man’s life should measure up to the requirements of Godds Word, in order for man to be happy in this world and be in the presence of God in the next world.

 It may seem to you that I am talking to you from a long distance away; because of the 50 yrs of life between us. But remember, you too will some day be over 70 yrs old and will look back on life as I do today. In the meantime just remember that life is a JOURNEY, not a destination. Life is lived as you go along—not at the end of the trail. There are a few short Biblical truthe that should be embedded deeply into your consciousness, such as “Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man”, Again “What doth God require of man, but to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God”. And the Golden Rule by [eligible] Jesus: “Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so unto them”.