

# GRADUATION

# *Sunday*

— 2026 —

## A Celebration

Achievement

Hard Work

Discipline

Perseverance



**LONG CREEK**  
— CHURCH OF CHRIST —

SEEKING HIM. SERVING OTHERS.  
SHARING HOPE.

A graduate in a black cap and gown with a gold stole is seen from behind, looking out over a landscape at sunset. A large cross is silhouetted against the bright sun on a hill in the distance. A road with dashed lines leads towards the horizon. The sky is filled with golden light and scattered clouds.

**You Can Lose Direction  
Pursing Degrees and  
Dreams**

“What are Degrees and Dreams Without God”



**DON'T FORGET  
WHO HOLDS  
THE FUTURE**

**DEGREES ♦ DREAMS ♦ DIRECTION**

**Long Creek Church of Christ**



# Degrees Are Good But Character Is Greater



**Daniel 6:3** Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.

## Notice What The Bible Did Not Praise First

**Daniel 1:4** Young men in whom *there was* no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who *had* ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans

## What Sustain Daniel **IN** His Success

**Daniel 1:8** But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank;

**It Is Decision Time**

**Do You Have Boundaries?**

**What Have You Decided In Your Heart?**



# Dreams Means Nothing Without God



**Prov 16:9** A man's heart plans his way, **But the LORD** directs his steps.

## We All Have Dreams

Some **Build careers** while **destroying others**

Some **Become famous** while becoming **spiritually empty**

Some **Build families** while **destroying families**

**“Don't Let The World Tell That Your Faith Is A Private Matter” Act 17:28**

**Babylonian Captivity**

**Dan 6:7** All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.

## A Dream That Pulls You Away From God Is Too Expensive

Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself (**Dan 1:8**)

# What Daniel Understood

**Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ and lean not on your \_\_\_\_\_ understanding \_\_\_\_\_ Him. In \_\_\_\_\_ your ways and He will \_\_\_\_\_ your paths.**

**Direction Matters More Than Speed**

**Some people move fast in the wrong direction.**

**Some people gain money and lose peace.**

**Some people gain fame and lose purpose.**

**When God Directs Your Life**

**Peace Follows Isaiah 26:3**

**Purpose Follows Eph 2:10**

**Protection Follows Isaiah 54:17**

**Provision Follows Matt 6:33**

**DON'T FORGET WHO HOLDS YOUR FUTURE**



# Who Will You Listen To?



The world says follow your heart **God says** guard your heart **Prov 4:23**

The world says speak your truth **God says** speak the truth **Eph 4:15**

The world says do you/happy **God says** first seek the kingdom **Matt 6:33**

The world says be yourself **God says** be transformed **Rom 12:2**

The world says get even **God says** put away bitterness/anger **Eph 4:31**

The world says you are enough **God says** my grace is sufficient **2 Cor 12:9**

**Your Degree May Get You A Job & Opportunities**

**Your Talent May Open Doors For You**

**The Fruit of The Spirit Determines What Type of Person Walk  
Through It!**

**Some Folks Can Solve Algebra But Cannot Solve Their Anger**

**Some Folks Can Write Dissertation But Cannot Love Their Neighbor**

**Some Folks Have A Mind That Can Build A Business While Pride Builds In Them**



# Degrees Are Tools Not God



No accomplishment can give true satisfaction and happiness Eccl 3:11

No scholarship can wash away your sins 1 John 1:7

## Degrees Open Doors

But God Determines Eternal Destiny

Don't Get To The Mountain Top and

Realize You Climbed The Wrong Mountain

And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry." ' 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?"

After The Degrees & Dreams

WHAT THEN?

# DEGREES DREAMS & DIRECTION

and when he was entered  
into a ship his disciples followed

— MATTHEW 8:23 —

Hear (Rom 10:17)

Believe (Heb 11:6)

Repent (Lk 13:3)

Confess (Matt 10:32-33)

Be Baptized (Acts 2:38)

