

# Chapel Hill hosts 2021 SGC Baccalaureate service

By Caleb Revill

Students from the graduating South Gibson County High School Class of 2021 met for celebration and worship Tuesday evening, May 11, for Chapel Hill's Baccalaureate service.

Seniors read scripture, sang and worshipped together. Several students and guest speakers addressed the crowd in regards to the momentous milestone in their lives. The Chapel Hill Worship Team band played spiritual music in between speakers.

Eli Scott opened the ceremony with a speech directed to parents. On behalf of the Class of 2021, he thanked them for their love, support and encouragement.

"We would like to thank you for the important role you have played in our lives thus far," Scott said.

Though more importantly, before we begin the service, we would like to thank God for the things he has done for us thus far and the plans he has for our future."

The audience joined Scott in prayer.

"Dear Lord, thank you for every single person in this room right now," Scott said. "Thank you for all the years we have spent together, the memories we have made together and the experiences that have defined us to be the people we are today." Scott proceeded with his speech.

"What is time?" Scott said. "It is the very thing that so many of us ask for, but when we have it, we take it for granted. It is a thing that is gone in the blink of an eye."

Scott quoted a verse that highlighted this subject, James 4:14:

"Whereas you do not

know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."

"What do we learn from this?" Scott said. "We learn that our lives on this earth are short. While some people live to be 80, which seems like a long time, it is nothing compared to the eternity that is experienced in heaven or hell."

Scott said that many people make the excuse of not having enough time.

"I want to encourage everyone here tonight, that after graduation we do not take our time for granted and we make the best use of it," Scott said. "I believe the best use of our time on earth is living for God now."

Following Scott's opening speech, Caleb Robbins read proverbs 3, verses 1-5:

"My son, do not forget my teaching,

But let your heart keep my commandments;

For length of days and years of life

And peace they will add to you.

Do not let kindness and truth leave you;

Bind them around your neck,

Write them on the tablet of your heart.

So you will find favor and good repute

In the sight of God and man.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart

And do not lean on your own understanding."

Gideon Bible guest speaker Jerry Barker encouraged graduates to read the bible.

"The last thing that any of you all really want to hear is a short, fat old man telling you to read another book," Barker said.

"You're fixing to graduate. Some of you



2021 GRADUATES line up at the beginning of the South Gibson County High School Baccalaureate service hosted by Chapel Hill Baptist Church on Tuesday night, May 11. Photo by Caleb Revill.

think books are done. Some of you know they're not, but at the end of the day, 41 years ago or so, I was sitting where you all were sitting."

Barker said that he wanted to leave Humboldt and play football after graduating high school, but that didn't quite work out the way he expected it to.

"It just didn't happen, I didn't even come close to it," Barker said. "As far as getting out of Humboldt, yeah, I was gone for two or three years, but I can tell you right now at 59 years old I still live there and I raised my family there and still go to church there -and I'm relatively happy doing it."

Barker said that things don't typically work out the way people might think they're going to.

"You're going to go to class," Barker said. "Some of your classes are going to work out if you go to college. Some of you are going to go to work. Some of your jobs are going to work out, sometimes they will not. Other things are going to happen, friends are going to come and go and relationships are going to come and go."

Barker said that although there may be adversity, he encouraged students to follow the word of God.

"My challenge to you is simple," Barker said. "This little book that you've got, if you're already reading it, keep reading it ... If you're not reading it, and you're willing to store it, go ahead and do that ... keep it, stick it in a drawer, stick it on a nightstand, but don't forget where you put it. At some point in your life, you may want to turn to it and look in these pages and see what God has to say about your certain situation."



WHAT IS TIME? - 2021 SGC graduate Eli Scott gives an opening speech on the value of time and devotion to God after graduation, quoting James 4:14: "Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." Photo by Caleb Revill.



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