

# SSP

The Church of Jesus Christ



## Back to School

There are a million things to think about — and worry about — when it comes to a new school year

### There's something you need to remember – besides your homework

By Bro. Brad Kurowsky

It's that time of year again: the start of a new school year. I'm sure this time of year is extremely busy for you with so many thoughts and questions running through your head. What will I wear on the first day? What will my teachers be like? Which classes will be difficult? Can I really take on the workload I scheduled? Will any of my friends be in my classes? What new friends am I going to make?

#### **For-Sure Friend**

What if I could guarantee that you

will have a friend in *every one* of your classes? Would you believe me? In John 15, Christ says, "Henceforth I call you not servants ... but I have called you friends." Imagine Christ calling you His friend. This is the man who walked on water and healed the lame, blind and diseased. It's the same man who turned water into wine, calmed the raging sea and fed 5,000 people with a couple fish and a few loaves of bread. He wants to have a personal relationship with *you*.

It gets even better.

In the next verse, Christ says, "Ye

have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you." We often think that we're the ones making the choice and taking the first step to walk with Christ, when in fact, He has already chosen us. He has already chosen you, and He wants to have a personal relationship with you — even inside your classroom.

So, when you were thinking of the upcoming school year, did you wonder, "Hmm. Will Christ sit next to me in calc class? Will Christ meet me in the halls after my bio lab?" The answer is yes. He will be there.

Let's face it, we are all looking to be accepted and befriended. Christ can be the answer to both of those desires, if you only let Him. Take it from me; He's an amazing friend.

### It's Tempting

In the days leading up to the start of school, have you asked yourself "I wonder what temptations I'm going to be faced with this year?" You already know you're going to be hit with temptation after temptation. What if I told you that God has already seen every temptation you will face this school year? Would you believe me? I Corinthians 10 says, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Did you catch that last part? "but will with the temptation also make a way to escape." God has gone before you and seen each temptation and trial, and He has already provided a way for you to get out of it! Pretty awesome, right? When you find yourself feeling like you are cornered in temptation, feeling like the only "out" is to just give in, *look for the escape!* It's there. God has already provided it.

When you walk on campus for the first time this year, walk with confidence, knowing that you have the greatest friend of all walking right next to you. He has chosen you by name to have a personal relationship with Him.

# Pearls from Proverbs

A wise man will hear, and will increase in learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels. – 1:5

Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. – 9:9

The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning. –16:21

Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end –19:20

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise. –12:15

## BUT ABOVE ALL

There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the Lord. –12:30

## Pop Quiz

*Before you get to campus, ask yourself these questions:*

Would Jesus be proud of the way I conduct myself at school?

Would Jesus approve of my friends? Are my friends supportive of the fact that I'm a Christian?

Do I stress too much about what people think of me or about my academic performance?

How does school help me grow spiritually? How does it hinder my walk with Christ?

