Congratulations to the Class of 2016

I want to dedicate this week's column to the Class of 2016! Congratulations to all of you for realizing your dream of becoming a graduate. It doesn't matter if you're graduating with your GED or your PhD. You deserve respect and honor if you're graduating from high school, technical school, community college, or a university. Now that you've done graduated…don't stop. Use this major milestone in your life as a stepping stone to your next set of dreams.

Some of you are going to college or the military. Others may be taking some time off to do volunteer work or go on a mission. While some of you really don't know what your next move is. No matter where you fall on or around this list, I want all of you to do three things. First, make a 5-year plan. Second, find some mentors. Finally, make it happen!

Take some time and write down a list of goals that you have for your academic, social, physical, financial, and spiritual life over the next 5-years. Write it down, post it up and let it motivate you to always push toward that next goal. You won't know all of the answers (ever). That's why it is important to have a diverse group of mentors to help you avoid pitfalls, prepare and help position you for greatness. Now, all of this sounds good; however, the hard part is seeing it through. The toughest obstacle you face won't be money, people, or politics. The toughest obstacle between you and the goals that you put into your 5-year plan will be YOU! Let me give you some advice. Let go, and let God! You do your part and let God handle the rest.

Jeremiah 22:19 says, "For I know the plan I have for you" declares the Lord. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Make your plan. Surround yourself with the right people. Trust in the Lord! Make it happen! I can't wait to see what the future holds for you all. May God bless and keep you all in his care.