

Alan's Final Words

December 2017

Alan Albarran became a Christian as an undergraduate at Marshall University. He found his calling in academia: PhD from Ohio State; professor at Sam Houston State, SMU, and North Texas. Married to Beverly 42 years, father of two, grandfather of five.

It's been a privilege to minister with him here almost 20 years. Two weeks ago we talked about how he might end his very last lecture after nearly 40 years in the classroom. Here are very brief excerpts:

"There will be unexpected things, for instance in my own life there were several—growing up without a father, dealing with drugs, dealing with disappointment at school and work. We don't get a Google Map for our life... but we can have a compass to point us in the right direction. Here are areas that may help you find your compass:

"Parents: If you are fortunate enough to have them still in your life, they will most likely have some great advice. Funny how our parents get wiser the older we get in college. My mother died in 2008. I still wish I could get her advice on things.

"Faith. You will decide for yourself, but what has helped me over the years through some up and down times has been my own faith as a Christian. It has sustained me, helped clarify my purpose as a professor, husband, father and grandfather. I hope and pray you have faith.

"Friends. You are in a time of life that can be very difficult to navigate. Remember there are people who care about you. If you end up in a dark place in your life, don't give up. Don't ever give up. Many of us have been there, or we have loved ones who have been there -- reach out to others; you'll be amazed at how understanding they can be and how others will help if you ask.

His final words were met – with applause from all the students. Afterward he received this letter from two of them. It reads in part:

"You've been a huge influence in our lives and we want to make sure you heard it. Thank you for teaching with passion and heart, it completely transformed our semester.

"As you transition into retirement, we pray you never have doubtful thoughts on the impact you've had as a professor.

"P.S. Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life. Proverbs 16:31"

You make it possible to come alongside great professors.
Thanks for caring ...**Merry Christmas.**

