



## VALEDICTORY ADDRESS | Friday 06 December 2019

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Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, faculty and staffs, family, friends, my fellow graduands, good evening! My name is Grace Tsoi and I am beyond honoured to give this speech on behalf of all graduating students.

Tonight is a joyful occasion and memorable day of our lives. It is after much hard work that we accomplished our studies, but this is not the achievement of us students alone. We owe our presence here to our Lord, our teachers and college staffs, our families and friends and everyone who helped us and supported us along the way. It is their encouragement that sustained us throughout this journey, and without the sacrifices of our families— such as putting up with frozen meals during our exam periods— we wouldn't have been able to get here. So, thank you to each and every one of you.

Looking back at my learning journey, I am very thankful to the opportunity given to me to study at UD. It shaped my thinking, my ability to perform critical analysis and to articulate it to others, and for this I am deeply grateful to my supervisors, Professor Mark Brett and Dr Philip Chia. I also appreciate the friendly academic environment at UD, as I was able to meet scholars from various faith traditions in seminars and it expanded my horizon and enriched my learning experience. Through these three years of studies, I also developed a skill in doing research online, well, at shopping websites to be more specific. That was the only de-stressing activity that I could do when I imprisoned myself at home to write my thesis. Of course, it was to look for academic books, as I had told my husband. What I gained in my learning is indeed beyond this award.

Graduation probably seemed mission impossible in our first semester— I still remember counting the first five hundred words of my thesis and thinking it will take forever to get to one hundred thousand— but here we are tonight. I believe that a common lesson we all learnt is to take one step at a time and persevere. It will also be invaluable to us as we embark on our next stage of service to others. We pray and hope for the best in our ministries, but we also know that there will be challenges and set-backs at times. Take one step at a time and persevere, and it won't be mission impossible after all.

Thank you.

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