

My Eternal Resume

The beginning of a school year can be a stressful experience for youth, filled with new friends, new classes, and new trials. For seniors in high school, however, the beginning of their final year brings about a new challenge: college applications.

As a senior in high school, I struggled with writing my college and scholarship applications. While I had learned many incredible lessons and triumphed over many difficult trials, none of these things seemed resume-worthy. Struggles with self-worth and mental health didn't feel like the right way to explain the gaps in my extracurriculars, and my church volunteer work was hardly as impressive as my friends' varsity sports letters or leading roles in musicals.

Being in the middle of a global pandemic didn't help. COVID-19 shut down my entire school district for a very long time. The applicable experiences that I was excited about were no longer pursuable. The clubs, sports, and classes I wanted to take were no longer available. Simply wishing I could have pursued these opportunities just wasn't going to cut it for college admissions boards.

I began to feel incredibly insecure as I looked at what I thought was a pitiful resume. How could I send this to an admissions board when it wasn't as perfect as it could have been? Could my worth really be simplified to a single sheet of paper?

At that moment, a notification buzzed on my phone. The screen lit up, and I could see a picture of the Savior smiling up at me. I felt a small voice urge me to look at my worth from an eternal perspective. From *His* perspective. What would the Lord put on my resume? How would my best friend, my eldest brother, and my biggest support system describe me to my Heavenly Father?

Years ago, a beloved church leader told me that Jesus Christ would choose to go through the Atonement all over again, even if I was the only one He was atoning for. He decided, regardless of the fact that I was incapable of paying him back, that He would face the ultimate sacrifice on my behalf. Why? I wondered. I was no prophet. I hadn't translated any ancient scriptures, or spent two years preaching the gospel. I didn't even have straight A's! Yet, here I was, being comforted by the Only Begotten Son of God.

As I struggled with my feelings of inadequacy, I was reminded that Christ decided that I was worth atoning for with only one qualifying factor- because I was His.

Christ sees my divine potential better than I ever could. He knows my strengths and weaknesses. He knows things that I can't, and understands my struggles in a way I couldn't even imagine. Knowing my flaws and frustrations, knowing every way I would mess up and fail, knowing that I would be a work in progress for the rest of eternity simply could not discourage Him from deciding that I was worthy of His greatest sacrifice.

Someday I'll stand before my Heavenly Father. I'll apply for the celestial kingdom and exaltation. When He asks me what my qualifications are, when He asks me who I was, I know that my Savior will smile at me. He will hold up my application, my eternal resume, and He'll tell the Father exactly who I am.

I am His.