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Christian, though, or a more capable preacher. Rather, he asserted, *“What things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ”* (Philippians 3:7). Paul’s elite education in Jerusalem was something he eventually considered *“rubbish”* (8).

Indeed, discipleship is not about self-achievement and self-actualization, but self-denial, as the Master taught, *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me”* (Luke 9:23). It is precisely because *“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble”* (James 4:6) that Jesus spoke out against religious people who want to be recognized for their higher learning and who answer to religious titles. *“All their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi.’ But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ”* (Matthew 23:5-10). Just as preachers must not receive the titles of “Rabbi” or “Teacher” or “Father”, for the same reason, they should not accept the honorific “Doctor” or flaunt the suffixes “Th.D.”, “D.D.”, or “Ph.D.” A broadened phylactery was the ancient equivalent of displaying a diploma from a seminary. Christ has no use for the self-absorbed, educated elite in His church.

The church needs to be filled with fools for Christ. *“If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:18-19; cf. 1:25-29). Paul did not merely assert this in the abstract, but was addressing an epistle to Christians in Corinth, a city in Greece. The ancient philosophers whose teachings undergird western civilization were Greeks like Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Greece was a place where academia was deeply valued. The apostle was writing to Christians in a country where education was prized more than anywhere else in the world when he told them worldly wisdom is foolish to God.

When Jesus would become exasperated by a lack of spiritual awareness, He would ask, rhetorically, *“Have you not read?”* (Matthew 12:3, 5; 19:4; 22:31). What he did not ask was, “Have you not asked a theologian to exegete that text for you?” He fully expected

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## 5 THINGS JESUS DID NOT SAY

Author Unknown

1. **“Follow your heart.”** Instead, Jesus said, *“Follow Me”* (John 12:26).
2. **“Be true to yourself.”** Instead, Jesus said, *“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself”* (Mark 8:34).
3. **“Believe in yourself.”** Instead, Jesus said, *“Believe Me”* (John 14:11).
4. **“Live your truth.”** Instead, Jesus said, *“I am the truth”* (John 14:6).
5. **“As long as you’re happy.”** Instead, Jesus said, *“What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?”* (Mark 8:36).

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ordinary folk to have examined the Scriptures for themselves and understood their application.

The church does not need to send its prospective preachers off to bible college, divinity school, seminary, or any theological institution whatsoever because the church itself is the organization God designed for educating people in His word. Since *“the church of the living God”* is *“the pillar and ground of the truth”* (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:15), there is no point in outsourcing its role in spiritual education. This is why God has appointed teachers in the church (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11-12; Acts 13:1)! It is the eternal purpose of God that the church make known His manifold wisdom on a universal basis (Ephesians 3:10-11); what He planned for the church since eternity past, the church is fully capable of carrying out. No institution, organization, university, college, school, or seminary will ever improve on God’s eternal purpose in the church.

**"WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?"**

**ACTS 16:30**

**LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

**BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

**CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

**BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF  
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

**HEBREWS 10:24-25**

**SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

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Seekers Welcome.  
Members Expected.

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN  
ANY TRESPASS...  
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

**GALATIANS 6:1**

**CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

**PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN"**

**PROVERBS 25:11**

"Our church has a ginormous  
worship team. It's called 'the  
congregation.'"

– Jared C. Wilson

**GIVE ME THE BIBLE**

KDNF 840AM

Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.

**"WHOLE COUNSEL"**

**ACTS 20:27**

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 43

OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

**"UNEDUCATED AND UNTRAINED"**

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Jesus has never required of gospel preachers that they obtain credentials from seminaries or any kind of theological institution.

When they were interrogating the apostles, the *"rulers, elders, and scribes, as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest"* (Acts 4:5-6) observed something remarkable: *"When they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that **they were uneducated and untrained men**, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus"* (13). Although the Lord is physically gone from the earth, His presence continues inasmuch as it is possible to *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom"* (Colossians 3:17). Such contact with Jesus Christ still enables bold preaching even where formal education is lacking.

One apostle did possess an academic background. Paul described his curriculum vitae to those Jews in Jerusalem who were trying to kill him, saying, *"I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today"* (Acts 22:3). Since Gamaliel was *"a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people"* (5:34), this means Paul had the ancient equivalent of a boarding-school education. He did not think this made him a better  
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