

# *Patriot's Progress*

July  
August  
2002

*Good Reading for students and friends of Patriot University*

## *How to Contact*

# Patriot University

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## *Office Hours*

The University Offices are open **Monday-Thursday**, except for holiday breaks. *Offices are closed on Friday.*

*Please note time zone differences:*

Eastern time office hours—11 to 7

Central time office hours—10 to 6

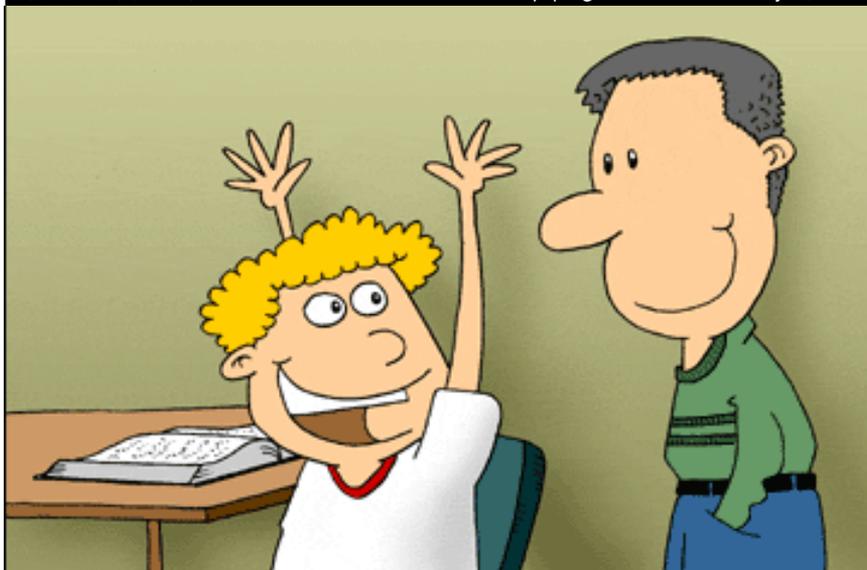
**Mountain time office hours—9 to 5**

Pacific time office hours—8 to 4

*A student may request an evening phone appointment.*

Reverend Fun

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*I looked at the end...  
and we win!*

On

Fire



*By Dr. Lonnie Skinner*

“OUR TOWN IS ON FIRE!” I almost shouted these words into the radio station microphone that early Sunday morning.

Then I continued. “If you don’t believe me, just look out your window and see the smoke and flames as they reach for the sky!”

This was the way that I—a flamboyant, and perhaps not too bright, young preacher—chose to get the attention of folks with our church radio program that morning.

It worked. I could tell by the not-too-happy stare I was getting through the glass from the only radio station employee present. He kept grabbing two ringing phones which occupied both of his ears during the entire time I was on the air. All the while I saw him shaking his head and saying he knew nothing about the fire.

I had seen the huge warehouse engulfed in flames on my way to the studio. Now I used my attention-getter to exhort folks to fireproof their future from the much-hotter flames of eternal judgment.

Several days later the local newspaper reported that a certain man had his car radio on as he and his family traveled away from town the previous Sunday morning. He had turned me off after my opening statements as he muttered something like “what will these crazy preachers come up with next?”

The man and his family returned home that night to discover that it was his warehouse that burned down. Fortunately, he was able to laugh at the irony of how my “foolish announcement” had directly involved him.

Of course destructive fires are no laughing matter. Many folks in Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico are suffering devastating losses to fires right now.

And all of us have and will suffer from fires. If we somehow escape the attacks of literal fires, we will not escape the equally devastating results of going through the fires of affliction and loss.

We all suffer in this life. At any moment we may be attacked by the “fires” of sickness, tragedy, financial loss, relationships gone bad or some other kind of trouble.

What can we do when a deadly fire threatens to destroy what is dear to us? How can we protect ourselves?

First, as the fires come into our lives we must make a choice about God in relation to those fires. If we choose to ignore Him or to blame or even curse Him, we should understand the consequences. We will be cutting ourselves off from the love, comfort, strength and other help God wants to give us during that time. We may also add fuel to the flames and make the fire hotter.

Another course of action is mentioned in Isaiah 24. Israel was going through such a tragic time that verse six said “the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.” Then verse 15 counsels: “...glorify the Lord in the fire.”

Now there is a wise direction to take. “Glorify the Lord in the fire!” How can we do that?

Have you noticed that one of the main weapons our wildland firefighters use is fire itself? They literally “fight fire with fire” by setting new fires to burn up fuel ahead of the main fire. This strategy may help us protect ourselves, too. For example, we should...

(1) Fire up our enthusiasm. Did you know that the original meaning of “enthusiasm” is “God burning within”? If we honor and praise our awesome God it will bring a burning zeal within our lives.

(2) Fire up our dreams. Focusing on God’s vision and plan for our lives will build a hope that can sustain us through the “fires” we must face.

(3) Fire up our faith. Romans 10:17 shows us how when it says that “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” As we read, study, meditate and obey the Bible our faith will be strengthened. Exercise this faith by calling upon the Lord in prayer and it will continue to grow.

Remember it is only “by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 2:8-9) that our souls can be fireproofed from eternal judgment. When we do know and trust Him as our Savior and Lord the Holy Spirit wants to set our souls aflame for Him!

During a children’s sermon the pastor asked the children if they knew what “Amen” means.

A little boy raised his hand and said:  
“It means—tha-tha-tha—that’s all, folks!”



## *Patriot University Graduates Write...*

### **Mother and Daughter Graduate Together!**

Dear Dr. Lonnie & Dr. Toni,

I am so thankful for the ministry of Patriot University! I have felt called to teach since the age of 25. I was called to teach in a Christian school without any teaching certificates or degrees. I felt very secure because of my calling, so never pursued going to college. After six years of teaching, God began to convict me to further my education. I went to a community college near my home and took several courses. I thought this was what God had directed me to do, but felt uncomfortable with issues in some required courses. Due to a move in my life I stopped attending college for several years.

2000-2001 school year I was asked to teach third grade at Peniel Baptist Academy here in Florida. I accepted and the leadership strongly encouraged me to further my education. I shared my discontent with a secular college and they gave me information on Patriot University. I was so excited because it was perfect for my goals as a Christian school teacher. When I shared the information with my mother she was a little hesitant to enroll because of her age. But after talking with you, she was encouraged and we set a goal to receive our degrees at the same time.

On June 5, 2002, my mom and I attended the commencement ceremony at Patriot University. My mom, Fran Adkins, received her B.A. degree in Christian Counseling and I received my B.A. degree in Christian Elementary Education. I was so proud of my mother and felt honored to share such a special moment with her.

I want to thank you for all your help and encouragement to both me and my mother. You were always available to answer all our questions and to help us decide on which courses were best for us. You are truly a blessing to the ministry of Patriot University.

We enjoyed our day with you visiting *Focus on the Family, Garden of the gods*, and driving through the *Olympic training center*. Every moment was so special. Meeting other graduates and having dinner with them just added to the joy and excitement of being a part of Patriot University. Also, Tony Silengo was a great "tour guide" and we so appreciated his time in showing all of us the sights in Colorado Springs.

Well, I could go on and on, but I want you to know that my mom and I are truly proud to be graduates of Patriot University. And our time with you in Colorado Springs will hold a special place in our hearts.

Blessing to all,  
*Elizabeth Clackler*  
*Fran Adkins*

P.S. My mother has already started on her Master's degree. I better get going or she will be way ahead of me.

# MUST READ!



An edition of **Writer's Digest**, the magazine writers depend on, emphasized how important reading is to good writing. The editors polled successful authors and assembled a list they called **75 Books Every Writer Must Read**.

What book do you suppose was No. 1?

The Bible. That's right, the Word of God ranked at the top of the list. Here is what some of the writers said about it:

*It is the foundation stone of the English language.* —Madeline L'Engle

*The heart and soul of the simplest piece should resonate deep thoughts and reflections that can be stirred by the Bible.* —Thomas Moore

*Lay your chosen faith aside and experience this beautifully written Book. Belief, war, love, sex, bottomless evil, abiding evil, abiding good, and the thunderous roll of the history of man—there are a million books to be gotten from it.*  
—Loren D. Estleman

For your information, the next books listed were **Elements of Style** by Strunk and White; anything by Shakespeare; **War and Peace** by Leo Tolstoy; **Great Gatsby** by F. Scott Fitzgerald; **The Sun Also Rises** by Ernest Hemingway; and **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** by Mark Twain.

Now, those writers said some pretty good things about the Bible. It is beautifully written, and it has long been the foundation stone of the English language. It does resonate with deep thought and reflection.

But that's not why I read it. And it's not why you read it.

We read the Bible because it is the truth of God, and we need that truth! The God who made us has given us His Book, and we make it our book by reading it, poring over it, meditating on it, and putting it into practice. That's how we seek out God's precepts through His Word, as the psalmist said (119:94).

Is the Bible must reading for you?

—DE in *Campus Journal*

# *Only God Knows Who's Who!*



Have you ever thought what your reaction might have been had you been present long ago when Jesus introduced His twelve disciples to the public? The most important movement of all time was beginning, and these men were the first gospel team in history. Surely, our Lord would select outstanding specimens of manhood—educated, gifted in body, mind, and soul above the common run of humanity!

But who were these yokels fresh from fishing, from tax collecting for Rome, from political fanaticism? Surely Simon Peter was not the best material available! Nearly everything he said in the Gospels was a mistake! “We have left all to follow Thee. What shall we *have* therefore?” “Let us build here three tabernacles.” “Thou shalt never wash my feet.” “Lord, this shall never happen to thee.” “Thou seest the crowd thronging thee and why askest thou, who touched me?” And then, horror of horrors, on that awful night of his Lord’s trial, he cursed and swore that he never knew Jesus! Was this the best prospect available to lead the team of Twelve?

Among the Twelve were three other fishermen, Andrew, James, and John; Matthew, a Jewish tax collector for Rome; Simon Zelotes, a political enthusiast. And our Lord Himself once said to this dozen, speaking of Judas Iscariot, “Have not I chosen you and one of you is a devil?”

This just doesn’t add up! Why didn’t Jesus convert twelve Rabbis, familiar with the Scriptures, men of religion, of learning, of special abilities? What hope could there be for the gospel with a start like this?

Down through the centuries God has often dumbfounded us by the D.L. Moodys and Billy Sundays He has raised up above thousands of more promising prospects to win the multitudes to Him. Surely He is a God of infinite surprises, raising up nonentities to identities and confounding all the experts.

But, to keep the record straight, our Lord made a breathtaking exception and picked a Pharisee of Pharisees from the school of Gamaliel, who knew the Scriptures. And yet, that strange Saul of Tarsus had blazed with a bitter hatred of Christ and had put to death the first believers. He had taken off on Damascus road, exhaling threats and slaughter. No ordinary conversion would ever stop such a devil-possessed man. So the Lord knocked him down, blinded him, and called him to be the greatest gospel preacher of all time.

God selects some of all strata whether fishermen or fanatics, but not many wise, mighty, noble...so that no flesh should glory in His presence.

In 1938 I met a young man who welcomed me to the school he was attending and carried my bag into the building. I didn’t know I had just met the boy who would preach to more people than any other preacher in history. But I have given up making personal judgments as to who is the likeliest candidate. I have been fooled both ways! God is sovereign, and we never know what He will do. I am glad He doesn’t consult us!

—Vance Havner

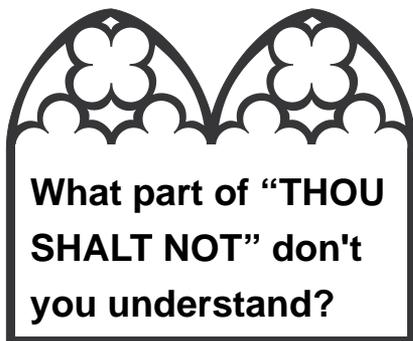
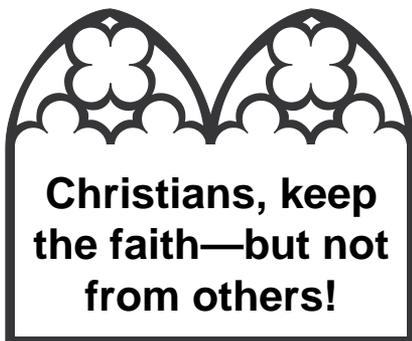


# *What is Teaching?*

1. Teaching is the transfer of *knowledge*. To many, it is considered the displaying of knowledge. They seem to think the goal of the teacher is to show how much he knows. But teaching only takes place when the student leaves with knowledge that the teacher came in with. Teaching is transferring profound truth into simplicity so that it in turn may be transferred into profound work.
2. Teaching is a transfer of *personality*. The pupil should not only learn what the teacher knows; he should also start becoming what the teacher is. Teaching is not only the transferring of knowledge, it is the transferring of zeal, honesty, enthusiasm, optimism, generosity, and other traits that a good teacher possesses. Most of us, as we think back over our childhood and youth, can remember far more of what our teachers were like than we can of what our teachers taught.
3. Teaching is the transfer of *procedure*. Not only should the pupil learn the facts and how to adorn them with the right personality, but he should learn propriety, procedure, neatness, and orderliness if he is to be taught properly. Such lessons can be learned from a neat room, a clean building, an orderly presentation, and proper organization and discipline.
4. Teaching is an *incarnation of ideas*. Most people cannot define such things as loyalty and patriotism. They can, however, point to someone who has these qualities. It is easier to learn loyalty from a loyal person than from a lecture on loyalty. So the right teacher incorporates these ideals and others into his personality and character so that the pupil can emulate him and reach the desired end.
5. Teaching is the ability to *inspire learning*. Good teaching makes learning easy and, to some degree, fun. So the teacher carries not only the burden of teaching but also the burden of learning. He bears part of the responsibility of failure if a student does not learn.

—Adapted from *Dr. Jack Hyles*

# *Church Signs*



# I Pledge Allegiance...



Did you know that the Pledge of Allegiance was in the news nearly 50 years ago, when the words “under God” were first included? In 1954, Congress voted to add those important words, and the Pledge was re-written as we now know it. President Eisenhower addressed Congress after the resolution was passed, stating, “In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America’s heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country’s most powerful resource in peace and war.”

Our reliance on God is acknowledged in the words of the Pledge. When that reliance was threatened recently by a circuit court ruling, the protests were loud and strong from every corner of the nation—from small towns to the highest members of Congress. The words “under God” signify the unity we have as a nation, and acknowledge God as the source of our rights and freedoms, just as was the case with our Founding Fathers.

## Red Skelton’s Pledge of Allegiance

The following words were spoken by the late Red Skelton on his popular television show. It seems that Skelton’s beloved teacher, Mr. Laswell, was concerned that his charges had begun to recite the Pledge by rote, without truly understanding the meaning of each phrase. Today, more than ever, these words are of great importance to all Americans.

“I’ve been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester and it seems as though it is becoming monotonous to you. I’d like to recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word?”

**I**

Me, an individual, a committee of one.

**Pledge**

Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self pity.

**Allegiance**

My love and my devotion.

### **To the flag**

Our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there's respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job!

### **United**

That means that we have all come together.

### **States**

Individual communities that have united into 48 great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose; all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that's love for country.

### **And to the republic**

A state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

### **For which it stands, one nation**

One nation, meaning "so blessed by God."

### **Indivisible**

Incapable of being divided.

### **With liberty**

Which is freedom—the right of power to live one's own life without threats, fear or some sort of retaliation.

### **And Justice**

The principle or quality of dealing fairly with others.

### **For all**

Which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

*Red added:* Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance... **UNDER GOD. Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer and that would be eliminated from schools, too?**

*Adapted from [www.presidentialprayerteam.org](http://www.presidentialprayerteam.org)*



## *God's Keys to Prosperity!*

At some point or another, we've probably all had the same reaction to a need. We hear about a missionary who needs support to return to the field, and secretly we hope that others will be the ones to raise the finances. Or maybe we hear the need for volunteers on a Saturday afternoon, but don't want to give up our errand-running day. Someone else will have the ministry gifts better suited to that need than me, we rationalize.

If we would be honest, we have likely uttered similar responses. Unfortunately, we miserably neglect that we too are a needy people. And it's only the mercy of a compassionate God that rescued us and gives us His grace day after day.

As Christians, we are redeemed into sainthood at no expense of our own. However, the flesh that's ours—the sinful nature that no longer has power over us—still tries to assault us at every turn, thereby making us hardened, insincere, and unaffected by the needs around us.

But if we want to follow Christ with our whole lives, we cannot neglect the pulling of our hearts. In fact, we must do more than face it; we must embrace its sway and act upon its leading.

We can give our time to worthy causes, our money to needy people, and our talent to an upstart ministry, but if our attitude is not right, God's principle of prosperous living is inactive.

What is God's principle of prosperity? "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38).

Our standard of giving isn't based on who or what we're giving our time and money toward. Rather, it's based on the Giver of all good gifts, God the Father.

The more we get to know God by spending time with Him and asking our eyes to be opened to His work, we will be amazed and astounded at His continual graciousness toward us. It's our love and passion to serve Him that drives us to serve others.

When we're in desperate need of a friend, the best way to gain a listening ear is to be one. And the fastest way to have your financial needs met is to actually give away some of your own finances.

God's logic does not make sense in a world that primes us to hoard our talents, our time and our money. However, the touch of God transforms us so that we, in turn, can be used to transform others.

Here are the keys to putting your faith into action and developing a generous spirit, one that looks for the maximum it can give to others, regardless of personal need or the response of the receiver:

1. Focus your attention on *other people*.
2. Rather than just acknowledging that a person's need exists, *feel the extent* of his or her need as if it were your own.
3. Faithfully exercise a servant's spirit. Constantly be looking around to see how you can help.
4. Begin to favor other people. For example, if there's only one chair left at the table and two of you need one, give it to the other person. Put others ahead of yourself.
5. Freely give. Just give without attaching expectations to receive anything in return.
6. Frequently give. Start looking for ways to give more than you currently give.
7. Prayerfully give. Seek God's wisdom concerning what you can give.

Even if you begin with a stingy spirit instead of a generous one, keep putting these godly principles into action. In time, what once seemed painful will become pleasurable. As you surrender your life's resources to better the lives of others, the more you'll notice God at work in your life, cultivating the generous spirit that you crave. —Charles Stanley



W.A. Criswell told of an ambitious young man who told his pastor he'd promised God a tithe of his income. They prayed for God to bless his career. At that time he was making \$40.00 a week and tithing \$4.00.

In a few years his income increased and he was tithing \$500.00 per week. He called on the pastor to see if he could be released from his tithing promise, since it was so costly now. The pastor replied, "I don't see how you can be released from your promise, but we can ask God to reduce your income to \$40.00 a week, then you'd have no problem tithing \$4.00."

## Why Wise People have always read Biographies!



### *God does Extraordinary Things Through Ordinary People!*

History is His-story, showing how God works through the lives of those who follow Him, as well as showing the negative consequences that come when people ignore or resist Him.

As we learn *about* individuals we also learn *from* them lessons that can be helpful in our own lives.

That's why Patriot University believes it is important that we study the biographies of men and women, especially those who by faith have seen their lives count for God and others.

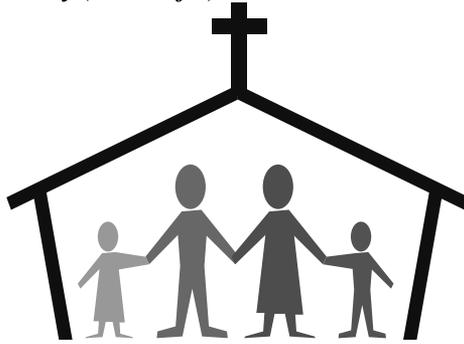
Why are there so many biographical stories in the Bible? The apostle Paul said, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4). God gave us these examples from people's lives for two reasons.

First, they're given to *teach* us. It is always wise to learn from our own experiences, but it is even wiser to learn from the experiences of others. It is usually less painful too! By applying the principles illustrated in the lives of Bible characters, we can avoid making some of the same costly mistakes they made.

Second, God gave us the stories to *encourage* us. We are encouraged by the fact that God chooses to use ordinary people to accomplish His plans, in spite of their weaknesses and failures and sometimes mixed motives. That gives us hope that God can work in our lives too!

—Rick Warren

Patriot University courses in the *Character Studies* category give insights into the lives of a number of Bible characters. And we urge every student to also take at least one *Biographies of Christians* course located in the Social Studies section. One of these studies just may change your life!



## **Healthy Church Families *Challenge* One Another**

In this series on the church as a family, we have seen that a healthy church is accepting, loving, forgiving, encouraging, comforting, and serving.

The final trait of a healthy church family is that it is challenging. Some think we do that too well in the church. One person decides they know what's best for another and then challenges them to change (it also happens in marriages all the time!).

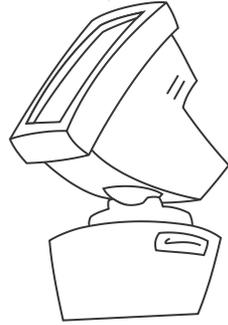
There is a challenge that we should always cultivate in our church family. We come to church because we recognize our need to be a more Christ-like person. This growth in Christian maturity only occurs in the fellowship of others struggling toward the same goal. So we come together to be challenged to be greater than we are and to accept the challenge to live up to our spiritual calling.

We are tempted to give up when we discover others do not have the spiritual maturity we expect them to have. But Jesus did not give up on his unfaithful disciples (Luke 22:39-46, John 21:15-17, Hebrews 13:5), and only one disciple gave up on the fellowship of the others (John 13:30).

I pray that each of us will accept the challenge to contribute to the overall health of our church families. “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:9-10).

—*Walt Hammonds*

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**Age of Reasoning?**

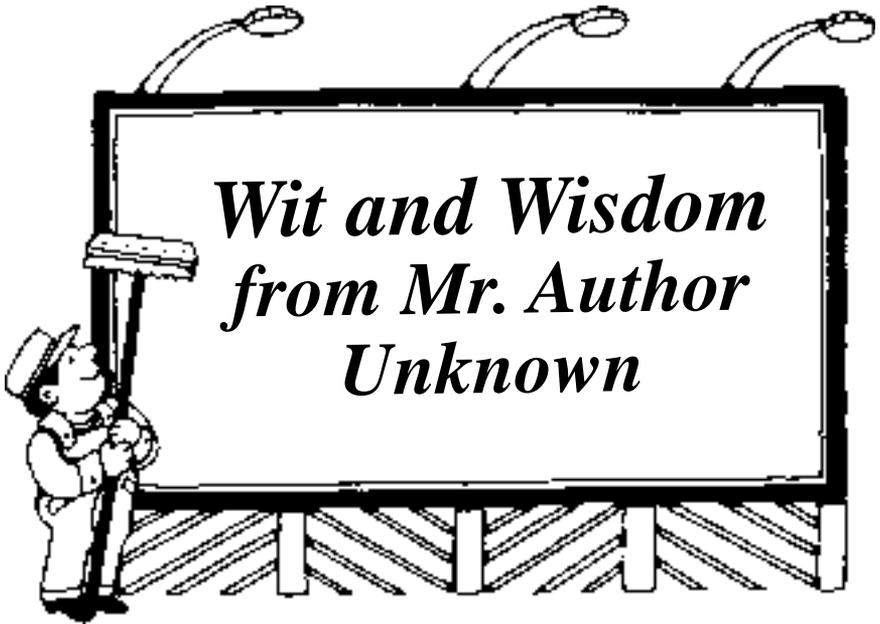
A recent study finds that college seniors are learning more about pop culture than U.S. history, science, math, and literature. A multiple-choice quiz was given to 167 seniors at state-run universities in Arizona. The 40 questions ranged from “Who was the father of the Constitution?” to “When does an object have a positive electric charge?” Students were also told to “identify Snoop Doggy Dogg.”

More than 90% correctly answered the question about the profane rapper — but very few were able to answer questions pertaining to constitutional authorship, statistical probability, and the Gettysburg Address. Although a majority of the students had a grade point average above 3.0, the group as a whole failed seven of the eleven subject areas included in the quiz.

Edward Hudgins, Washington Director of the Objectivist Center, says the low scores can be attributed to what he calls “the dumbing down of grades and standards in universities” and a failure at both the pre-college and college levels to teach people to use their reasoning mind.

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A Bible school student was asked to list the Ten Commandments in any order. He wrote, “3, 6, 1, 8, 4, 5, 9, 2, 10, 7.”



You don't have to be listed in Who's Who to know what's what.

*A wise man learns by the experience of others. An ordinary man learns by his own experience. A fool learns by nobody's experience.*

The story is told of Franklin Roosevelt, who often endured long receiving lines at the White House. He complained that no one really paid any attention to what was said. One day, during a reception, he decided to try an experiment. To each person who passed down the line and shook his hand, he murmured, "I murdered my grandmother this morning."

The guests responded with phrases like, "Marvelous! Keep up the good work. We are proud of you. God bless you, sir." It was not till the end of the line, while greeting the ambassador from Bolivia, that his words were actually heard. Nonplussed, the ambassador leaned over and whispered, "I'm sure she had it coming."

*Old Boy's Law: you don't learn anything the second time you're kicked by a mule.*

Tell me; I'll forget. Show me; I may remember.  
But involve me and I'll understand.



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NT 404—Book of James

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BI 205—Present Labors & Future Rewards

CC 202—Developing Priorities

***For Graduates (M.A. & Doctor of Ministry)***

TH 701—Advanced Bible Study Methods

# ***Equal Justice for all...***

That's part of the American dream! Of course that won't actually happen until we get to Heaven, but for **less than the cost of a cup of coffee each day** we can now have some quality legal protection right here on earth.

*"At this time in America I think it's important for me to have life insurance, health insurance, car insurance and fire insurance. But I am convinced that Pre-Paid Legal may prove more important than all of them! I thank God that this protection is available for my family!" —Lonnie Skinner*

## ***Did You Know...***

That you are three times more likely to be taken to court than you are to be in the hospital during the next year?

That 100 million lawsuits are filed in the U.S. each year?

That Satan has stirred certain factions of our society to declare "open-season" on Christian ministries and their workers, and that outrageous legal attacks against Christians are increasing dramatically?

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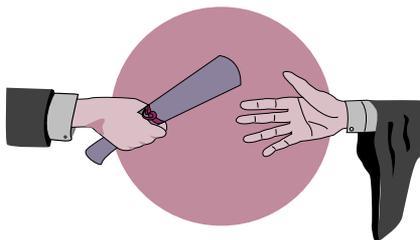
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For more information, contact Dr. Lonnie Skinner at Patriot, or you may view a movie at this web-site:

**[www.prepaidlegal.com/go/lonnieskinner](http://www.prepaidlegal.com/go/lonnieskinner)**

***Patriot University  
Students  
who Graduated in  
May & June***



***Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies***

Donna Gates	Alamosa CO
John Montgomery	Mountaintop PA
Sue Edge	Bastrop TX

***Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies***

Perry Sanders	McAlester OK
Mark Stevens	Hawley PA

***Bachelor of Arts in Christian Counseling***

Tracy Monteith	Colorado Springs CO
Mary Ray	Clayton NC
Frances Adkins	Jacksonville FL

***Bachelor of Arts in Christian Education***

John Haniff Mohammed	Hawley PA
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***Bachelor of Arts in Christian Elementary Education***

Elizabeth Clackler	Interlachen FL
Martha Marshall	Eliot ME
Susan Knox	Washington NC

***Bachelor of Arts in Christian Early Childhood Education***

Jennifer Bartels	Center Barnstead NH
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***Master of Arts in Evangelism & Missions***

Violet Magee	South Fork CO
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***Master of Arts in Christian Counseling***

Colleen Montgomery	Mountaintop PA
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***Master of Arts in Biblical Studies***

Lynn Anderson	Pasadena CA
John Gennell	Methuen MA