

Patriot's Progress

September
October
2002

Good Reading for students and friends of 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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“Let my people go to recess or a great plague shall fall on this school!”

Lunch with J.C. Penney



By Jess Moody

I am now an older minister, and I have given 50-plus years to the preaching of the Word and watching human beings do their thing during their brief time on stage. My life was turned around by several people I was privileged to meet.

Once, I was offered the presidency of a major company, which would have required that I leave the ministry.

The Spirit forbade it. I stayed in the ministry.

On another occasion, I was asked to run for Congress.

The Spirit forbade it. I stayed in the ministry.

Shortly after the second event, I had lunch with J.C. Penney.

I recounted those two experiences and asked him if I had done the right thing.

He looked at me for a long time in silence. In fact, the silence became almost embarrassing. I became concerned about him and asked if he were all right.

“Yes, I am quite fine. I must tell you that I was faced with that decision a long time ago. I was just sitting here, in all this affluence of the Everglades Club (where we were dining), and thinking back a long time before—and wondering if I had made the right decision when I was quite young. That same decision confronted me. I chose business, but business as a ministry. Since then, I have given 70 to 90 percent of my income to the cause of Christ and man...”

He then shifted in his seat, and faced me full on.

“Young man, do you tithe?”

I was happy to tell him that since we turned down the presidency of the company, Doris and I had doubled-tithed to the cause of Christ and man.

Then he said something I have never revealed before this writing—and I write it as humbly as I know how.

J.C. Penney looked squarely at me and said, “Young man, before God, I wish I were you!”

I was too embarrassed to respond. I did not know what to say. I excused myself, stepped outside, leaned against a building and wept out my gratitude to God.

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Jess Moody On Preaching

Preach as if the house is on fire, and you are the only one who knows the way out.

Preach as if you were the first witness of the open tomb.

Preach as if you were Paul, just before he was beheaded.

Preach as if you were a teenage girl who just heard from the one she loves, “I love you too.”

Preach as if you were Lazarus, thirty seconds out of the tomb.

Preach as if you were Simon Peter, that fiery-eyed prophet from Pentecost’s pulpit.

Preach as if the open tomb were yesterday, Pentecost this morning, and the Second Coming tomorrow.

Preach as if a deadly epidemic were in a children’s ward and you just ran in with the serum.

Preach as if Jesus is sitting on the third row of your congregation.

Preach as if you were the town gossip in Bethany and you just heard about Lazarus coming back from the dead.

Preach as if you have just heard that Uncle Gotrocks has died and left it all to you.

Preach as if Jesus had just washed your feet.

Preach as if your son has come home from the war—safe!

Preach as if you were Martha fixing dinner for Jesus.

Preach as if you were Mary in the garden and just discovered that it was Jesus—not the gardener.

Preach to people who are at the end of their rope; don’t give them the history of hemp.

Preach as if you were baptized five minutes ago.

Preach as if Jesus were on the telephone and said, “Get out there and tell them what I told you—and do it *now!*”



Look in the Book First



Several years ago, these words appeared on the cover of our telephone directory: “Look in the book first.” It was a reminder to check its pages for numbers before calling the operator.

That reminded me of a spiritual parallel: Before we meet any challenge or seek the Lord's blessing on our lives, we should look first in His Book for His direction and guidance. When we neglect to look in the Bible, we risk getting involved in relationships that He cannot bless and in activities that God does not approve.

In his book *Hints to Young Christians*, O. T. Gifford said: “If you're getting lazy, read James. If your faith is below par, read Paul. If you're impatient, consider the book of Job. If you're a little strongheaded, go and see Moses. If you're weak-kneed, have a look at Elijah. If there is no song in your heart, listen to David. If you feel spiritually chilly, get the beloved disciple John to put his arms around you. And if you're losing sight of the future, climb to Revelation and get a glimpse of heaven!”

As you face life today with its many demands, let the Bible be your counselor. Look in the Book first!

—Henry G. Bosch

“It's Always Too Soon to Quit” Department

From the Diary of John Wesley

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Sunday, A.M., May 5 | Preached in St. Anne's. Was asked not to come back anymore. |
| Sunday, P.M., May 5 | Preached in St. John's. Deacons said “Get out and stay out.” |
| Sunday, A.M., May 12 | Preached in St. Jude's. Can't go back there either. |
| Sunday, A.M., May 19 | Preached in St. Somebody Else's. Deacons called special meeting and said I couldn't return. |
| Sunday, P.M., May 19 | Preached on street. Kicked off street. |
| Sunday, A.M., May 26 | Preached in meadow. Chased out of meadow as bull was turned loose during service. |
| Sunday, A.M., June 2 | Preached at the edge of town. Kicked off highway. |
| Sunday, P.M., June 2 | Afternoon, preached in a pasture. Ten thousand people came out to hear me. |

Our Answer to a Prospective Student who asked...

Why Doesn't Patriot's Catalog Feature Faculty Biographies?

As a non-traditional Christian school, our distance-learning programs are *curriculum*-based, rather than *teacher*-based. Therefore, the teaching material is presented by outstanding Christian leaders who are not on our payroll. So, if a course is based on a book by Adrian Rogers or J.Vernon McGee or Billy Graham, technically they are the teachers. But we do not believe it is ethical to list their names and qualifications as being on our faculty. And since some of our "teachers" have gone on to Heaven, you would no doubt be confused about how they are coming to work at Patriot University each morning.

Our philosophy of education is learner-centered, not teacher-centered. We believe the proof of quality Christian education is not in how well the teachers have learned before they came to us, but how well the students learn while with us. (Many of us have sat under brilliant professors who were not able to communicate their great knowledge in a way that most students could understand). Therefore, we believe that it is more important to present the testimonials from students who have learned from our courses, rather than to list information about what our faculty learned from someone else's courses.

Our staff is committed to try to glorify God and what He is doing, rather than to draw attention to ourselves. We encourage you to truly seek God's will about studying with us. If He gives the go-ahead, you will no doubt be satisfied. Ask Him if He has accredited (approved) our school for your life and ministry training!

Having said that, for those of you who feel it is important to know more about our backgrounds in ministry and education, I will tell you that I have been in the ministry for 34 years, was a founder of Patriot nearly 23 years ago, and hold two doctoral degrees. Dr. Wayne Knight has also been in the ministry for more than 30 years, and has two doctoral degrees. Dr. Bill Knight has been in the ministry more than 50 years, and holds doctoral degrees from three other schools.

Our degrees are all from Christian colleges and universities, primarily other distance learning programs, so God has prepared us with our own studies to lead in non-traditional training. Dr. Walt Hammonds does have a master's degree from a secular university as well as his doctorate from Patriot University. Other faculty members have similar backgrounds as ours.

—*Dr. Lonnie Skinner*

Do You Take Enough Risks?



Every era has its great explorers, people willing to face danger to break new ground and discover new worlds. Americans love those kinds of people. The names of pioneers and daring adventurers ring throughout our history: Columbus, Crockett, Lewis and Clark, Lindbergh, Armstrong. The fuel that makes it possible for people like them to conquer new territory is risk. Pioneer aviator Charles Lindbergh emphasized that point: “What kind of man would live where there is no daring? I don’t believe in taking foolish chances, but nothing can be accomplished if we don’t take any chances at all.”

Risk is a funny thing; it’s very subjective. Here’s what I mean: Someone may have no trouble plunging off a high tower with a bungee cord attached to his leg, but the same person may regard speaking in front of a group of twenty people as a death-defying risk. To another person, speaking isn’t intimidating at all. For example, I love to speak to groups, and I’ve spoken to groups as large as eighty-two thousand people. On the other hand, I would never willingly bungee jump.

How do you judge whether some activity is worth the risk? Do you base it on your fear? No, you should do some things that scare you. Should you base it on the probability of success? No, I don’t think that’s the answer either. Risk must be evaluated not by the fear it generates in you or the probability of your success, but by the value of the goal.

The reality is that everything in life is risky. If you want to avoid all risk, then don’t do any of the following:

- Don’t ride in an automobile—they cause 20% of all fatal accidents.
- Don’t travel by air, rail, or water—16% of all accidents happen there.
- Don’t walk in the street—15% of all accidents occur there.
- Don’t stay at home—17% of all accidents happen there.

In life, there are no safe places or risk-free activities. Helen Keller, author, speaker, and advocate for disabled persons, asserted, “Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.”

Everything in life brings risk. It’s true that you risk failure if you try something bold because you might miss it. But you also risk failure if you stand still and don’t try anything new. G. K. Chesterton wrote, “I do not believe in a fate that falls on men however they act; but I do believe in a fate that falls on them unless they act.” The less you venture out, the greater your risk of failure. Ironically the more you risk failure—and actually fail—the greater your chances of success.

As you examine the way you live, consider whether you are taking enough risks—not senseless ones, but intelligent ones. You may be playing it too safe. How can you tell? By looking at your mistakes.

Fletcher L. Byrom says:

Make sure you generate a reasonable number of mistakes. I know that comes naturally to some people, but too many leaders are so afraid of error that they rigidify their organization with checks and counterchecks, discourage innovation, and, in the end, so structure themselves that they will miss the kind of offbeat opportunity that can bring success. So take a look at your record, and if you can come to the end of a year and see that you haven’t made any mistakes, then I say you just haven’t tried everything you should have tried.

If you are succeeding in everything you do, then you’re probably not pushing yourself hard enough. And that means you’re not taking enough risks.

Excerpted from *Failing Forward*, by John C. Maxwell, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 2001, c2000.

***The Wise Old Owl says:
Patriot University
courses will***

Refresh your spirit!

Refuel your mind!

Recharge your ministry!



If God had Voice Mail!



We have all learned to live with voice mail as a necessary part of modern life. But have you ever wondered, “what if God decided to install voice mail?” Imagine praying and hearing this:

Thank you for calling *My Father’s House*. Please select one of the following options:

Press 1 for requests

Press 3 for complaints

Press 2 for thanksgiving

Press 4 for all other inquiries

What if God used the familiar excuse...

“I’m sorry, all of our angels are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us and will be answered in the order it was received. Please stay on the line.”

Can you imagine getting these kinds of responses as you call God in prayer? If you would like to speak to:

Gabriel, Press 1 Michael, Press 2

For a directory of other Angels, Press 3

To hear King David sing a psalm while you hold, please Press 4

To find out if a loved one has been assigned to Heaven, Press 5, enter his or her Social Security number, then press the pound key. (If you get a negative response, try area code 666.)

For reservations at “My Father’s House” please enter J-O-H-N followed by 3-1-6.

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, and where Noah’s Ark is, please wait until you arrive here.

Our computers show that you have already prayed once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow.

How about: This office is closed for the weekend. Please call during normal business hours, or...We are closed to observe a religious holiday. Please pray again tomorrow after 9:30 AM. If you need emergency assistance when this office is closed, please contact your local pastor.

—*Selected*



The Demands of Ministry

Everyone's eyes were on the pastor when he backed the borrowed pickup across the church lawn to his study door. Refusing comment or assistance, he began to empty his office into the truck bed. He was impassive and systematic: first the desk drawers, the files, and last his library books, which he tossed carelessly into a heap, many of them flopping askew like slain birds. His task done, the pastor left the church and drove some miles to the city dump where he threw everything into the waiting garbage.

This was his way of putting behind him the overwhelming sense of failure and loss that he had experienced in the ministry. This young, gifted pastor was determined never to return to the ministry. Indeed, he never did. (From "Liberating Ministry From The Success Syndrome" by Kent Hughes).

Pastors can reach a point of ministerial burnout and breakdown where they feel their only escape is to leave the ministry. All around we see men wearing out, burning out, dropping out, and giving up.

Freddie Gage holds conferences for wounded ministers. He says that over 6,000 Baptist pastors leave their ministries each year. 200 pastors are fired each month.

Stephen F. Olford reported in a lecture that there are 70,000 vacant pulpits in America. He said, "In more than 50 years of ministry, I have never seen so much hurt among ministers." He gives five key causes of frustration in ministry:

- * Vocational bewilderment;
- * Moral breakdown;
- * Biblical barrenness;
- * Spiritual bankruptcy and
- * Emotional burnout.

The Demands of Ministry

In "Pastors At Risk," H. B. London, Jr. and Neil Wiseman said, "Society cannot flourish without godly pastors. It's alarming for the Christian cause when God's ministers feel forced to brood about the future of ministry as they watch their work get harder and their world grow more corrupt.

"Ministry hazards are choking the hope out of pastors' souls. They feel disenchanting, discouraged and often even outraged. They question why they should be expected to squander energy on trivial matters when evil threatens to wreck the human race. Fatigue shows in their eyes. Worry slows their stride. And vagueness dulls their preaching."

Perhaps the major cause of stress for the pastor is unrealistic expectations of his people. The pastor is caught between what God has *called* him to do and what his people *expect* him to do.

The pastor has an incredibly difficult job. The implications and ramifications of his responsibilities are more extensive than most church members realize. The average pastor wears more "hats" than people know. He's expected to be an administrator, a public relations expert, a counselor, chaplain, proficient fund raiser, a great preacher, a skilled teacher and a personal friend.

Unrealistic expectations paralyze him and smother vitality out of the pastor's spirit. He is tortured by the concern of what "they" think or what "they" want.

A pastor must rise above the expectations of people and be aligned with God's expectations. Jesus gave the model. He said, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish his work (John 4:34)."

Pastors are servants of the Lord. Our Master had to deal with the pressure of ministry. In Luke 8:22-56, Jesus faces some of the demands that we face. In these events in the life of Jesus we see:

The People Who Require the Minister

Jesus is seeking a place of rest. In a real sense the events of Luke 8 occurred on His day off. Someone said that one of the major causes of stress in the life of the minister is his continual exposure to people.

Four events in this chapter reveal how Jesus responded to the people who required His attention:

1. Jesus dealt with *disbelief* (Luke 8:22-25). The first encounter was with His disciples. Jesus was asleep when the disciples navigated their boat into a storm and found themselves in trouble. When they woke Jesus, He calmed the storm and then asked them, "Where is your faith?"

Dealing with disbelief in Christians is stressful. Moses is an example of this. His congregation spent 40 years reaping the consequences of disbelief.

2. Jesus dealt with the *depressed and disillusioned* (Luke 8:26-39). When He arrived in the country of the Gadarenes, He immediately met a man plagued with emotional and mental problems. The man was demon possessed, controlled by evil forces.

It is an everyday part of the minister's life to respond to the needs of the depressed and disillusioned whose lives are out of control. An emotional drain follows ministry to people whose lives are filled with depression and despair.

3. Jesus faced *death* every day (Luke 8:40-42;49-56). These Scriptures describe a religious leader named Jarius coming to Jesus about his 12-year-old daughter who is dying.

All pastors know the pain of ministering to people when death pays a call. Pastors often feel helpless and speechless in those times. It is intensely stressful.

4. Jesus dealt with *desperation* (Luke 8:43-48). A woman had been hemorrhaging for 12 years. Her health was gone, her money was gone, and her hope was gone. She was desperate.

Our world is filled with desperate people. Ministering to the desperate depletes our emotional and spiritual energy.

But our Lord shows us principles to deal with the demands of ministry:

The Principles that Sustain the Minister

Jesus did four things to deal with the demands of ministry:

1. *He rested* (Luke 8:22-23). Jesus suggested rest to discouraged preachers (Moses, Elijah and Jonah). Vance Havner once said, "If you don't come apart and rest, you will just come apart." Rest and exercise makes a difference in our perception and response to the demands of ministry.

2. *He was never in a hurry*. Our Lord ministered with calmness and deliberation. He didn't rush from one thing to another. Try pacing yourself.

3. *He did one thing at a time*. He did not calm that storm, cast out demons, raise the dead, and heal the sick at the same time. He did one thing at a time. Ministers become a jack-of-all trades and a master of none by attempting to do too many things.

4. *He surrounded Himself with positive, praying people*. When Jesus went into Jarius' house to restore life to the little girl, he first instructed all the doubters and critics to go outside. Only Peter, James, John and the girl's parents were allowed in the house. Distance yourself from the doubters. Surround yourself with positive, praying people.

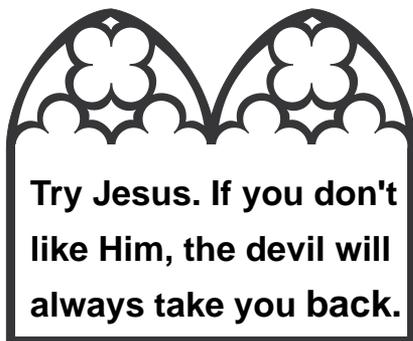
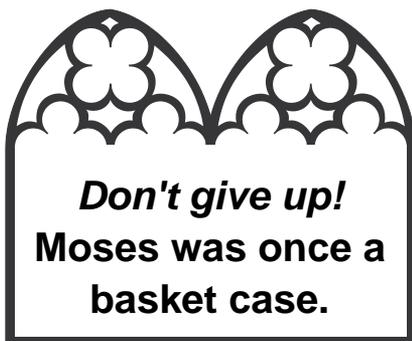
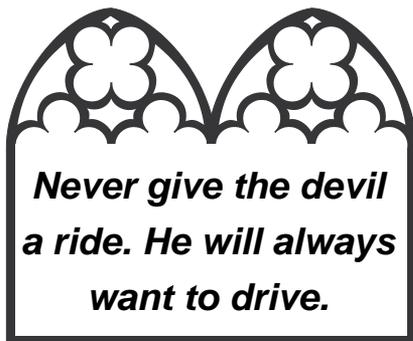
Pastor, don't give up! There is strength, help, hope and encouragement for you in the Lord. Practice principles to help sustain you.

Adapted from an article by Roger Willmore, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Weaver, Alabama, first published in *Proclaim!*

A man should only enter the Christian ministry if he cannot stay out of it. —D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1899-1981)



Church Signs



*Don't let the Past
Keep You from God's best now!*



Letting Go!

We all tend to look to the past. Usually we see past successes as greater than they actually were and past failures as less painful than they actually were. We view life with rose colored glasses. We relive the wonderful events where we were loved, or we were the hero, or we accomplished something we never thought we could achieve. Perhaps it was graduating from high school, riding a bull, getting married (no similarity with bull riding intended), or having your first child. Pictures on the wall help us remember. Visiting with faithful friends helps us remember. Family reunions help us remember.

But there are some of us who do not want to remember. The past was seared into our memory. We choose to get high on drugs or alcohol to help us forget. Others use adventure, control, sex or money to medicate the longing for peace. The pain of failure becomes the driving force in lives. We deal with others as it was dished out to us long ago. We are miserable but don't know why. The apostle Paul provides insight into what must be done to free ourselves from the tyranny of past injustices. He tells us we must forget what is behind us and reach toward the things which are before us, for this is the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13-14).

Reaching for the stars will only help if we let go and let God have His way within us. If we choose our own future we will accomplish only what we can do on our own. Each one of us has a destiny that God has prepared for us if we will accept it. To let go of our selfish needs and desires to let God have control of our lives brings the greatest sense of satisfaction that anyone can experience. Success comes not through what we accomplish but through whom we trust with our soul. —*Dr. Walt Hammonds*

A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson and wanted to make sure she had made her point. She said, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?" There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin," he said.

—*Bits and Pieces*

A Real Christian

A real Christian is an odd number. He feels supreme love for One whom he has never seen; talks familiarly every day to Someone he cannot see; expects to go to heaven on the virtue of Another; empties himself in order to be filled; admits he is wrong so he cannot be declared right; goes down in order to get up; is strongest when he is weakest; richest when he is poorest and happiest when he feels the worst. He dies so he can live; forsakes in order to have; gives away so he can keep; sees the invisible; hears the inaudible; and knows that which passes knowledge.

—A. W. Tozer



A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing.

—Martin Luther

It is better to train ten people than to do the work of ten people.

But it is harder.

—D.L. Moody

How to Grow

A person who is “born again” starts a new life similar to that of a newborn infant. Seven rules that promote good health in babies can be adapted and applied to a Christian’s spiritual growth:

1. *Daily Food.* Take in the “pure milk of the word” through study and meditation.
2. *Fresh Air.* Pray often or you will faint. Prayer is the oxygen of the soul.
3. *Regular Exercise.* Put into practice what you learn in God’s Word.
4. *Adequate Rest.* Rely on God at all times in simple faith.
5. *Clean Surroundings.* Avoid evil company and whatever will weaken you spiritually.
6. *Loving Care.* Be part of a church where you will benefit from a pastor’s teaching and from Christian fellowship.
7. *Periodic Checkups.* Regularly examine your spiritual health.

Knowing Too Much



He who increases knowledge increases sorrow. –Ecclesiastes 1:18

Gerrit and I were teenage friends when we attended Christian High School. One day he became unhappy with the large assignments, so he reminded his teacher that Ecclesiastes says, “He who increases knowledge increases sorrow” (1:18). Apparently our teacher wasn’t impressed. The assignments stayed large and our sorrow increased.

Gerrit, of course, had misapplied Scripture to ease the discipline of learning. Yet the passage makes a significant statement about the pain of gaining too much knowledge if not accompanied by “the fear of the Lord” (Proverbs 1:7).

Yes, modern science has brought many benefits. But that same knowledge also makes us aware of the possibilities for global disasters such as a nuclear holocaust or unstoppable germ warfare. Many become so scared by television programs portraying these dangers that they won’t watch them.

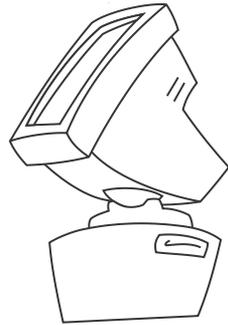
A proper fear of the Lord is the antidote to the pain associated with accumulating knowledge. This fear is not an emotion; it’s a worshipping, trusting, submitting relationship to God through Christ. When we live in fellowship with Him, the more we learn, the more we will honor Him. And that certainly isn’t something we should be afraid of.

–Herbert Vander Lugt



If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator.
If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist.
If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist.
If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer.
But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.

***Is Your Computer
Receiving the Free
Patriot University
Weekly
E-newsletter?***



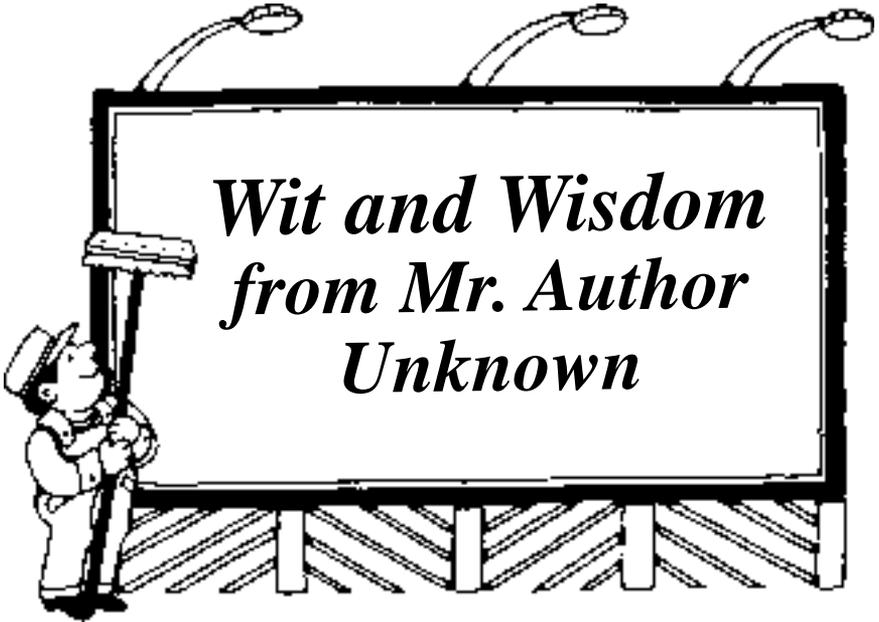
If not, email your request today to
mail@patriotuniversity.com

A Biblical Fun Puzzle

The names of 16 books of the Bible are mentioned in the paragraph below. See how many you can find. (A minister found 15 in 20 minutes. But it took him weeks to find the sixteenth one. Let's see how much time it takes you.)

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu; kept people looking so hard for facts...and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph.

Did You Know that Patriot University offers nearly 200 courses for Christians who want to be better servants for our Lord?



If our God is big, our giants are small.

If our God is small, our giants are big.

We look at a giant and say, "He's too big to kill."

David looked at a giant and said, "He's too big to miss!"



It's a lot safer out on God's limb than on Satan's concrete patio.



You can't break God's promises by leaning on them!



One day an elderly couple walked into Micki D's and ordered one sandwich, a large fry, one drink and an extra cup.

They found a table and sat down. The husband cut the sandwich in half, kept half for himself and gave the other half to his wife. Next he divided the fries evenly, one for her, one for him. Then he divided the drink.

A younger man watched as they divided their food. He noticed that the woman started eating and the man just sat watching. So the younger man asked if they needed money to buy more food.

The old man replied, "No thanks. We share everything 50-50; and it's her turn with the teeth."



Discerning the Truth

Discernment is just about the scarcest commodity in the church today. Yet the Scriptures give it high priority. To begin with, we read: “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (I Corinthians 2:14).

This simply means that the sons of Adam, no matter how high their intellectual and moral qualifications, cannot comprehend spiritual truth. One might as well describe a sunset to a blind man or music to a deaf man as to talk about the deep things of God to a man who has never been born again. What the man needs is sight, and spiritual sight comes only through the miracle of the new birth.

It is so difficult for us pompous Americans, so proud of our learning, to believe that the most common day laborer may apprehend divine truth while the “experts” may utterly miss it. The latter may be brilliant at discerning good poetry or chemical solutions; he may be able to solve problems in big business or locate bugs in engineering—but such ability is of absolutely no value in comprehending the things of God.

We cannot understand the Scriptures or gospel truth in any form without spiritual discernment. A keen mind and theological training are useful tools when they are sanctified; but the Holy Spirit is our teacher and He who inspired the Bible is the best interpreter of it. How many times have we heard a humble preacher with a limited library preach nuggets of truth and gospel gems while some scholar missed the truth completely? Now if the little preacher had the scholar’s library and the scholar had the little preacher’s discernment, we’d really be in business! Blessed is the preacher who has both!

Discernment is as important in *hearing* the truth as in preaching it. How we hear means as much as what we hear. Some dear souls listen for years to sound preaching and then, when a new preacher comes along preaching error, they listen with equal satisfaction. So long as the minister makes nice references to Jesus, these listeners know no difference. They have no discernment. There is a preparation *for* the sermon as well as a preparation *of* the sermon. We are told to lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness and receive with meekness the implanted word which is able to save our souls. Everybody expects the preacher to be ready to preach but who thinks of the congregation’s responsibility to be ready to listen?

—Vance Havner

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?

Pre-Paid Legal Services includes:

- ✍ Unlimited Toll-free Consultation with an Attorney
- ✍ Attorney Letters and Phone Calls on your behalf
- ✍ Contract and Document Review
- ✍ Comprehensive Will Preparation
- ✍ Moving Traffic Ticket Representation
- ✍ Help with Consumer Complaints
- ✍ Trial Defense and Pre-Trial Preparation
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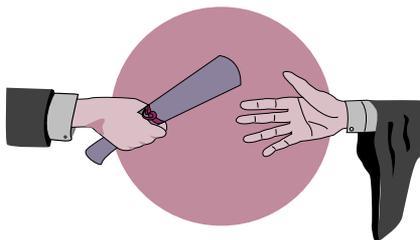
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For more information, contact Dr. Lonnie Skinner at Patriot, or you may view a movie at this web-site:

www.prepaidlegal.com/go/lonnieskinner

***Patriot University
Students
who Graduated in
July & August***



Bachelor of Arts in Christian Counseling

Barbara Jackson

Yorktown VA

Bachelor of Arts in Christian Education

Deborah Bilboe

Schwenksville PA

Deborah Thompson

Berwick ME

Bachelor of Arts in Christian Secondary Education

Tonda Siders

Spring Hill TN

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If not, please send us an email requesting it!

**Remember our new email address is
mail@patriotuniversity.com**

We Want to Know Your Story!

What is God doing in your life and ministry?

We would like to share more stories (in the magazine or our weekly e-newsletter) of how God is working in the lives and ministries of Patriot University students.

Write, call or email us with your story!