

Revivals And Church History :: Bible Schools??

Bible Schools?? - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/5/7 23:11

As many of you know on this site I have been praying about going to bible school and God willing I will probably be going possibly this summer and then attend as a full-time student this next year. I actually have been thinking just abit about the origins of bible schools and how did the idea of paying for an education in scriptures originate.

So far talking to a few people the one main scripture in acts came up:

Acts 19:9 - But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left the m. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

A commentary says that this lecture hall was essentially a school where philopshy was taught by heathens (unbelievers) . So they assume possible Paul rented out the space? and therefore even got money from people who came in? charge d to hear Paul speak? the more I am thinking about this the more I am getting abit puzzled about this situation in our modern days.

I do agree that times have changed and society is abit different. but still.. any thoughts?

Re: Bible Schools?? - posted by crsschk (), on: 2004/5/8 11:03

. . . and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

The pattern of a workday in Ephesus was as follows:

7:00-11:00 a.m.Work

11:00-4:00 p.m.Break

4:00-9:00 p.m. Work

Taking advantage of this schedule, Paul held classes during the afternoon, when the building used by Tyrannus, the philosopher was vacant. I'm so impressed with the servant's heart and mentality of Paul. Not only did he support himself in ministry by making tents, he used his time off to teach about the things of the Kingdom.

(http://www.blueletterbible.org/tmp_dir/c/1084020432-320.html) http://www.blueletterbible.org/tmp_dir/c/1084020432-320.html

From digging around a bit it seems difficult to find any thing relating to Paul's use of the facialties and equating any money changing hands.

This is an aside, but I did get a kick out of it, from my MacArthur study bible:

"Tyrannus was either the owner of the lecture hall, or a philosopher who taught there. If the latter, his name, which means "our tyrant," may have been a nickname given him by his students. Paul used the hall during the afternoon break (from about 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), when it would otherwise be unoccupied."

Hope you get a "Paul" and not a tyrant to study under... :-)

Agree that times are different and the money issue is as well, certainly the lack there of and/or the cost.:-) But as far as it relating to "should" it cost? Well, that is debatable, but it just is a matter of fact...'somebody has to put the plumbing in.' Salaries, maintenance, cushy chairs for the posteriors...

I don't know, I don't see it is niether here nor there, it just 'is'.

Knowing your heart for the Lord I would guess that you will excel in this, I mean, go to bible school and learn *more* about

the Lord?!
Praise God!

Then you could come back here and teach all of us for free! Sounds like a good deal to me... :-)

Re: Bible Schools?? - posted by Delboy (), on: 2004/5/8 11:30

Hi Greg,
I am sure God will lead you.

Quote:
-----So they assume possible Paul rented out the space? and therefore even got money from people who came in? charged to hear Paul speak?

Yes this is one big assumption!

Remember this site has many downloads of godly men who never attended a formal training. and also some who have. The will of God is not a balancing act on a tightrope. Sometimes we have choices given to us; when He says, what would you do?

Personally, I do not see the need for a formal qualification in the things of God. Having said that I am seriously considering a correspondence type of study, just for my own growth

I know some organisations require a formal qualification so that's fine.

Don't beat yourself up over this desire you have, for now just rest in him :-)

Re: Bible Schools?? - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2004/5/8 11:36

Quote:

So they assume possible Paul rented out the space? and therefore even got money from people who came in? charged to hear Paul speak? the more I am thinking about this the more I am getting a bit puzzled about this situation in our modern days.

It doesn't really matter if there was some sort of tuition that had to be paid in order to attend the school. Be it to Paul or the owner of the facilities. We are called to "bear one another's burdens and thereby fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal 6:2) And those who labor diligently in preaching and teaching are worthy of their hire, and deserve to be taken care of financially by whomever they are ministering to.

To go or not to go to Bible school? Ultimately, that is the Lord's call. Understand though, that going to Bible school is a little more than simply reading the Bible, nor is it simply reading other man's ideas about the Bible. It is a little bit of both.

Attached to going to Bible school is receiving college credits at an accredited school, as well as a piece of paper that comes with that (should you earn enough credits). Attached with all that is fees and things the school has to do to maintain their accreditation with the agency that validates them, meeting whatever requirements that agency requires of the school.

Bible school is a great opportunity to learn more about the Scriptures, the historical situation out of which they arose, as well as what other men of God (and some who are not of God) have said about it. There is some depth to some of the things you can learn, but, it seems in my experience that you are more so growing horizontally than vertically... which can be a good thing. At Bible school I've learned some deep things of God that I did not quite understand before entering, but a lot more of it seems to have been simply broadening my horizons.

If you plan on being an elder one day in the Church, I think Bible school is a good idea, as I believe such leadership owes it to their congregation to know what has occurred historically with the faith, as well as what trends are occurring now. Granted, they don't need to be a scholar... but is being a scholar a bad thing? Jesus didn't seem to think being a scholar (scribe) was necessarily a bad thing (Matthew 13:52).

Why did I go to Bible school? 1) Mostly for what I call my "circumcision of academia." My degree even though it doesn't

really mean anything to God, does mean something to some people, e.g. publishing companies 2) To learn things I did not know before 3) I want to be able to teach in a college one day should I need to do "tentmaking."

If all else fails, I'll have earned a Bachelors degree in something... which is better than not having one at all on the job market. Even if the degree means nothing towards my job skills, most employers these days look for applicants to have some sort of degree in something, even if it is not related to their job, for it shows discipline.

Now, here are some negative things to consider...

If you are not strong enough spiritually, Bible college, depending on where you go, could be the death of you. There are all sorts of competing ideas, and many scholars tend to ramble and hope to flood you with words in order to get some of their shallow ideas to take you away.

I'd say if somebody has a weak knowledge of the Scriptures, then Bible college could be a mistake as while somebody might learn a bunch of concepts really well, they'll never truly get a revelation of the material presented to them. My Bible college tends to presume somebody already is rather familiar with the Bible. Somebody who was not would probably struggle greatly.

Like all colleges, work is heavy and fast paced. Information is often presented very quickly, and then you move on. Sometimes, things just don't sink in as they should. For example, in Systematic Theology, a lot of ideas are presented, and some scriptures are tossed out there in order to support those ideas, but, actually getting a feel for the Scriptures and what they say in their context can be very hard to do.

So, if you go, choose wisely what you want to study. My student advisor advised me wisely when I came to Lee University. I told him I'd like to study theology, and go on to higher fields of study. He persuaded me through the Holy Spirit to reconsider, and instead focus on Biblical studies, where we often go verse by verse in the Bible, studying what quite a large amount of it says. I am more confident that I will be better well grounded in the future because of it.

Also, you never know who you are getting for professors. Some might be quite good, competent teachers, anointed of God, and live a holy life. Others though, might be the complete opposite, and are simply professional scholars with no relationship with God. Some fall in between these two extremes.

So far my experience has been pretty good, and I believe in the long run, going to Lee University will have been the best decision I could have made in regard to education. Is everything there perfect? No. Would I prefer to see some change made? Yes. Do I agree with everything being taught? Usually, though not always.

All these are things to consider.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/5/8 15:53

Quote:
-----"Tyrannus was either the owner of the lecture hall, or a philosopher who taught there. If the latter, his name, which means "our tyrant," may have been a nickname given him by his students. Paul used the hall during the afternoon break (from about 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), when it would otherwise be unoccupied."

yes or the hall was named after the founder of it 'Tyrannus' or Tyrannus was actually an philosopher alive during that time that Paul converted therefore he was letting him use the hall for free. Or he was simply selling the hall to Paul and the Christians, or or or.. well basically we have NO idea. except that Paul was teaching a group of Christians in a venue on a daily basis.

Quote:
-----Knowing your heart for the Lord I would guess that you will excel in this, I mean, go to bible school and learn more about the Lord?! Praise God! Then you could come back here and teach all of us for free! Sounds like a good deal to me...

I will never charge for people to hear me speak. Not sure why anyone would pay in the first place :-P

I am just abit in a knot about it because for getting into Christian "ministry" so called we have this whole system setup for going to school which of course is modeled after the world and the ways of the world. Weren't the leadership of the early Church chosen by the Holy Spirit? I believe God calls men into the ministry and no man can put that called asunder. Just because I have a BA or THmin does that equip me more for the ministry than God Holy Spirit can? I am not being ignorant of knoweldge or learning, but surely the Apostle Paul said we have a wisdom that you do not know about about a 'heavenly wisdom' which is spiritually discerned and can't be understand fully by the carnal mind.

We dont huck out knowedgle and practical wisdom and logic because surely even Gods word and the wisdom from the above works in most cases and co-insides with this way of thinking. But it does surely supersed this type of thinking because its a revelatory wisdom that others who don't recieve it from above are undiscerning of it.

How can men teach this 'wisdom from above' for wares? Theres much practical, historical, and customs that I could learn, even knoweldge of original languages of the bible but when it comes down to it, God is my teacher. I hope not to anger anyone who is already in bible school or had that type of training? am I way off tangent here in my thinking? I still desire to get this type of training but I am trying to put it in context in my mind.

Also I am not saying that I could NOT aquire 'wisdom from above' in bible school, surely through fellowship with the body of Christ that are there I will be edified and built up.

Quote:
-----The will of God is not a balancing act on a tightrope.Sometimes we have choices given to us;when He says, what would you do?

Maybe at SermonIndex we should setup some type of free program to send out to people. hmm now im way off tangent.
:-P

Quote:
-----It doesn't really matter if there was some sort of tuition that had to be paid in order to attend the school.

Just because its a 'school' of philosopy doesnt mean that because Paul was there teaching Christians means that that was as a Christian School.

Quote:
-----Attached to going to Bible school is receiving college credits at an accredited school, as well as a piece of paper that comes with that (should you earn enough credits). Attached with all that is fees and things the school has to do to maintain their accreditation with the agency that validates them, meeting whatever requirements that agency requires of the school.

Who accredits the bible school? God? Sorry im not trying to be tough here or abnoxious but just trying to plainly look at the situation with an unbiased mind as much as possible. And does a piece of paper matter anything to God, could a person have a Phd out of bible school and still be a midget spiritually whereas a young man just praying and seeking God in the Scriptures be a giant in the faith spiritually?

Quote:
-----Now, here are some negative things to consider...

Thank you for sharing both sides of situation brother, its good food for thought.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2004/5/8 16:28

Quote:

Who accredits the bible school? God? Sorry im not trying to be tough here or abnoxious but just trying to plainly look at the situation with an unbiased mind as much as possible. And does a piece of paper matter anything to God, could a person have a Phd out of bible school and still be a midget spirit ually whereas a young man just praying and seeking God in the Scriptures be a giant in the faith spiritually?

Different agencies give their mark of approval on the Bible school. You don't have to go to an accredited Bible school if you don't want to. I know several non-accredited Bible schools in the Charlotte area alone, and they are simply extensions of that local church and their ministry to many other people e.g. drug addicts, homeless, sunday school, ladies ministry, etc. But, depending on WHY you are getting the degree, the accreditation matters. If you are just going to learn about the Scriptures, then it does not matter. But, if you are actually wanting to take that degree and go on to higher levels of education at other institutions, then the agency that accredits your school matters, as many institutions do not recognize all other accrediting agencies.

In this, I am not talking about anything so far as becoming approved in the eyes of God as a minister of the gospel. The only one who can validate your ministry is God, and that is all that matters. No amount of formal education qualifies one to minister the gospel.

My recommendations on the 'to go' or 'not to go' to Bible college has nothing to do with gaining approval from God. Had I not gone to Bible college, I'd have probably invested the same dollars in getting the amount of books on your book shelf and actually reading them :) I had already committed many dollars to such a task as it was. One cool thing about Bible school though is actually getting to discuss with other people what they think of the books you are reading. I'm sure sometimes you've read a book and just had a great desire to bounce some thoughts off another person to see what they think of it.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2004/5/8 16:33

Quote:

How can men teach this 'wisdom from above' for wares? There's much practical, historical, and customs that I could learn, even knowledge of original languages of the bible but when it comes down to it, God is my teacher. I hope not to anger anyone who is already in bible school or had that type of training? am I way off tangent here in my thinking? I still desire to get this type of training but I am trying to put it in context in my mind.

There is also the wisdom of a plurality of counselors. Yes, God teaches us, and John says we have no need of anybody to teach us anything, but the anointing of God upon our lives brings us into all truth. Yet at the same time, God has given some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, who are there to help further us in the faith... and so some of these individuals can be found in Bible college, as them teaching at Bible college is often just another method of expressing the gifts God has given them that they use at the local church and in witnessing to the world. Once again, you already have a ton of books on your shelf that you've read to some extent. Going to Bible college is much like that, but just more systematic in its focus than randomly buying books off Amazon.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/5/8 17:01

Quote:

-----How can men teach this 'wisdom from above' for wares? There's much practical, historical, and customs that I could learn, even knowledge of original languages of the bible but when it comes down to it, God is my teacher. I hope not to anger anyone who is already in bible school or had that type of training? am I way off tangent here in my thinking? I still desire to get this type of training but I am trying to put it in context in my mind.

Maybe I'm just too old-fashioned at heart, maybe I would rather work with my hands doing something practical in the fresh air and then enjoy to hear Paul the Apostle speak every afternoon for free. I guess the way society has changed and the cost of living is so high in North America that we just can't exist and make food for ourselves but need to fit in somehow with this whole beast and pay our way in the system. Man I'm almost sounding like a mormon now. ok everyone can mentally edit this last bit out. :-P thanks.

Quote:
-----Once again, you already have a ton of books on your shelf that you've read to some extent. Going to Bible college is much like that, but just more systematic in its focus than randomly buying books off Amazon.

I agree with you brother Jimmy that I need more focus on my studies and that's one of the reasons why I want to go to bible school. Also the wisdom of many counsellors is a great thing that happens in fellowship in groups. Also some professors are hopefully quite mature in the Lord and spiritual experience which would be very profitable to sit under them and learn.

Re: - posted by KeithLaMothe, on: 2004/5/8 17:18

I've thought about Bible College a bit myself, for training, discipleship, and perhaps for credentials (the credentials don't matter to me personally, but in some situations they would be helpful).

The whole money issue is summed up fairly neatly to me: schools cost money to run, and the people running and teaching the school generally need food, water, shelter, etc, and if they have to work another job in addition to their position at the school it could be detrimental. Perhaps they could run off donations and charge the students little or nothing, but sometimes the burden just has to fall on those being taught. I don't think it should be more than is necessary for the aforementioned requirements, since Christians should not seek to profit off one another.

One of my friends told me that B.H. Clendenen more or less makes his front row of pews his Bible school, the men sit there, get preached into the ground, taught, called upon to preach, etc... Something like that would be preferable to me, as I'm mostly looking for discipleship, Bible teaching as only part of it.

My greatest concern about Bible schools or seminaries is they might experience "Dead Sea syndrome" with lots of stuff pouring in, but hardly anything pouring out. I think Ray Comfort put it something like this "While you're gathering fuel for your fire, don't let it go out!" Personally I think any of these institutions of any size should frequently send out evangelism/discipleship teams to the local communities to preach the Word and share the wisdom that God is blessing them with. If these institutions had been practicing this faithfully, I believe the world wouldn't be as far down the depravity spiral.

May God guide us in all our decisions, including these,
-Keith

Re: Bible Schools?? - posted by HakkaMin (), on: 2004/5/8 22:12

Greg,

There are some "Bible Schools" out there that are not in the typical "four-year, pass the tests, get your diploma" kind of mold. The "Berean School Of The Bible" is one such school ... a ten-month, fairly intensive walk through the Bible by teachers I highly respect. (Especially Steve Gregg, who started the school years ago.) From what I understand, the "class" is pretty small and there's plenty of time to hang out with the teachers. You can certainly get a good feel for the teaching by checking out www.thenarrowpath.com and more about the school by going to www.bereanschoolofthebible.org.

Then there's YWAM's "School Of Biblical Studies" (SBS) that is quite a bit different format of Bible School. It's not so teacher based as it is personal inductive Bible study based.

One of the things I like about both these schools is that they (for the most part) seem to produce students with a love for the Word and a strong sense of integrity in correctly handling it. I believe that these values serve us much better than just getting a degree and walking away with a lot of dead knowledge.

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/5/14 7:02

Keith writes My greatest concern about Bible schools or seminaries is they might experience "Dead Sea syndrome" with lots of stuff pouring in, but hardly anything pouring out. I think Ray Comfort put it something like this "While you're gathering fuel for your fire, don't let it go out!" Personally I think any of these institutions of any size should frequently send out evangelism/discipleship teams to the local communities to preach the Word and share the wisdom that God is blessing them with. If these institutions had been practicing this faithfully, I believe the world wouldn't be as far down the depravity spiral.

I did a 3 year Bible College course back in the 60s and learned how to use some very valuable study tools but my main concern with Bible Schools is the sheer amount of work they try to get through. It is very difficult for a Bible College to provide an atmosphere in which an individual can respond thoroughly. Often newly discovered truths need time to be integrated into our conscience and life-pattern. The danger with Bible Colleges (and Christian Performance in Music etc) is that the schedule demands a move on to the next item, and to leave the conscience no time to respond is a very dangerous practice. Such intensive times of study can produce the phenomena called 'lecturing' where "the lecturer's notes become the student's notes, without having passed through the mind (or heart) of either"

Wesley had a word to say about half-awakened consciences...

"I am more and more convinced that the Devil himself desires nothing more than this, that the people of any place should be half-awakened, and then left to themselves to fall asleep again; therefore I determined, by the grace of God, not to strike one stroke in any place where I cannot follow the blow." John Wesley's Journal III

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2004/5/14 14:32

I started and quite my first Bible school. The good part was that God can work through any endeavor. If I studied Genesis, God was there. If I studied Principles of Ministry Training, God was there. I also met others who loved the Lord.

The down side is the credentialing process. Not all men are led by the Spirit. So one may have to sit under the teaching of one who is living under the law.

The best teaching comes from being involved in ministry in the local church. Find a Spirit led church where the fruit of holiness is evident. The Lord will provide.

In Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by KeithLaMothe, on: 2004/5/14 16:30

Quote:
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Very helpful thoughts, thank you.

Perhaps the moral of the experience is: make 3 year Bible college courses into 6 years?

They'd probably just fill in the space with more stuff :)

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2004/5/14 16:34

Quote:

It is very difficult for a Bible College to provide an atmosphere in which an individual can respond thoroughly. Often newly discovered truths need time to be integrated into our conscience and life-pattern. The danger with Bible Colleges (and Christian Performance in Music etc) is that the schedule demands a move on to the next item, and to leave the conscience no time to respond is a very dangerous practice.

Indeed, this is my main complaint with Bible College as well. Systematic Theology is often presented in 2 classes, and the pace is often very quick. Had I already not known a bit about what I believe, and knew some of what others believed, my two semesters of Systematic Theology would have been a total waste, and probably only left me more confused than anything. Also, some of the "not-so-important" aspects of theology are glanced over, namely, ecclesiology and eschatology (at least in my experience.) Granted, some areas I've been exposed to over and over again, in various ways in different classes. In some classes such as Pastoral epistles, where we look at everything verse by verse and discuss it in depth, things were simply not glossed over. But some of the bulkier, and perhaps more important classes have not permitted it due to time constraints.

I'd say if anybody goes to Bible college, they should already have a good grasp of what the Scriptures say. Bible college has been a wonderful experience for me, and I have experienced the presence of God in many classes. It has broadened my horizons, and made me a lot more careful in jumping to conclusions about passages in the Scripture.

Also, one must be careful that while they do not get trapped into academic ways of speaking. Though phrases like "the eschatological significance" might be useful in the world of academia, if you used such words during Sunday morning, you'd lose 99% of everybody in the congregation, sometimes probably even more. I once encountered a fellow in a chat room where we were talking on a discussion, and he started teaching on a passage as follows (paraphrased, perhaps exaggerated):

"One of the first things we must do when examining a passage of Scripture is to apply the hermeneutical rule of looking at a pericope in context."

He sounded more like a science teacher (as he looks at hermeneutics as an exact science), than a teacher of God's word. Granted, he was very precise and exact in his wording, and what he said was TECHNICALLY correct. However, he'll frighten a good deal of people away, especially in a congregational setting, if he talks like that (btw, this room I was chatting in was not a formal theological chat room). He could have simply just said "when you study a passage in Scripture, you need to look at it in its proper context."

An academic trapping I have noticed is that some very insightful people learn to say some of the most wonderful things, but you have to be an intellectual elite and possess knowledge of a third language to understand them. Take for example, folks like Os Guinness and Philip Kenneson, two authors for whom I owe a debt of insight to. Some of their insight is absolutely amazing. However, I fear I cannot understand half of what they are saying, because often they are writing at a Masters/Ph.D level, and take for granted you know the in's and out's of history, philosophy, theology, economics, sociology, psychology, etc. Sometimes I frankly have to just skim some pages, and pan for a nugget here and there. While I think it might be fine if you are writing at an academic level to academics, some of their even more "practical" books fail to break free from the strangle-hold of their education. Perhaps some of these folks just need to get baptized in the Holy Spirit.

As Ravenhill aptly pointed out, the reason behind our need of Bible colleges and Seminaries is that the Church has failed to truly disciple and mentor believers. Besides the formal academic reasons for going to Bible college & seminary, believers should be able to be aptly trained at the local level in understanding God's word. But instead of teaching and pouring one's life out as a drink offering to establish others in God's word, many ministers are simply caught up in other things. Funny, when Paul told Timothy that those who preach and teach God's word ought to be compensated for their working hard at such, I don't think he had in mind the simple giving of a Sunday Morning/Evening and Wednesday night message. Sounds like it was probably something they worked hard at on a daily basis.

Re: - posted by LoveOneAnother, on: 2004/5/15 21:20

I am currently studying online with Berean School of the Bible (www.globaluniversity.edu). It's a great school, and I'd highly recommend it as an alternative way to get a good Bible education. Berean is very economical, and it is possible to become an ordained Assemblies of God minister through them in as little as three years. :)

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/5/15 21:45

Hi Elisabeth, Thanks for sharing! I would love to know more about this school. Is it part of the Assemblies of God denomination? I have been looking into taking a few distance courses and then possibly going full-time this next year or even winter semester. I am still researching, praying and weighing my options. How has your experience been so far from this? Is the 3 years required to be an ordained Assemblies of God minister undergraduate, or graduate studies? Hmm it appears that www.globaluniversity.edu is down right now but I will check back later on it.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/5/15 21:52

Here's a page I found on the university in the meanwhile, it is quite cheap and is run by the Assemblies of God. neat.

http://colleges.ag.org/college_guide/gu.cfm

Re: - posted by LoveOneAnother, on: 2004/5/15 23:26

Hi Greg,
Berean is an accredited Assemblies of God school. It is a division of Global University, which offers Undergraduate and Graduate degrees (all online). Berean is a certificate program, and it offers certificates for all three of the A/G ministerial levels: certified, licensed, and ordained. It takes one to two years to complete one level of the Berean ministerial program. One third of the A/G ministers have received their credentials through Berean. Their website is down tonight, unfortunately!

I've loved Berean. The courses are very well written, and neither too difficult nor too easy, in my opinion. I do highly recommend them. Berean is Pentecostal in doctrine, and seems very solid. When I started with them December 2003, I was a Baptist who had become charismatic in doctrine, so it did require some adjustment! I was baptized in the Holy Spirit and have become A/G since then, however. :-)

I'm always happy to answer questions! :-)

Blessings to you,

Elisabeth

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/5/15 23:33

Quote:

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Hi Sister, thank you for sharing. Does this ministerial program require an undergraduate program first? Just to let you know I go to a Presbyterian Church but I would say my doctrinal beliefs are much closer to a Pentecostal like belief. Have you finished the program yet? Are you planning to do a pastorate at a church? I would love to know more about what you are feeling led to do with your life. By the way welcome to sermonindex :-D

Re: - posted by LoveOneAnother, on: 2004/5/15 23:45

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There are no other requirements for taking the ministerial program. I think you need a high school diploma, but that's it. The A/G don't require as much education of their ministers as some denominations do. I hope to finish the program June

2005. I will probably have completed the requirements to be an ordained minister, but I do not intend to pastor a church. I plan to go into church ministry of some sort, probably as a pastor's wife, but I am not comfortable with women as ministers. ;-)

One thing I appreciate about going to Bible school online is that it's easier to stick to doctrines that might vary with the denomination, since there aren't professors to deal with in person. When I started Berean, I was a Calvinist, and as you might know, the A/G is Arminian. I'm somewhere in between Calvinism and Arminianism now.:-)

Thanks for the welcome, brother--this is a great website!

Re: QUESTION ABOUT ONLINE SCHOOL? - posted by Gideons (), on: 2004/5/16 6:40

God bless you sister,

I've enjoyed your posts.

I've been praying about attending the same Bible school as you and attend a A/G church, although it's a Korean one, which culturally is a bit different than a western church.

I'm still praying about my decision but my fear was that the classes would be somewhat "sterile" for lack of a better word, since they're online. Are they truly interactive? Welcome to SermonIndex and post as the Lord's leads.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/5/16 13:37

Quote:
-----I've been praying about attending the same Bible school as you and attend a A/G church, although it's a Korean one, which culturally is a bit different than a western church.

Praise God, yes I have been looking to see if there is an Assemblies of God Korean church, I really admire the dedication and discipline that they shown in prayer and bible reading, and really think its a refreshing contrast with the normal North American lifestyle, not to say all of us are lazy but there seems to be a lack of discipline contrasted with 50 years back in North America.

Quote:
-----I'm still praying about my decision but my fear was that the classes would be somewhat "sterile" for lack of a better word, since they're online. Are they truly interactive? Welcome to SermonIndex and post as the Lord's leads.

This is the second time I have been recommended this institution! I used the make online courses at University of Toronto before I went full-time doing SermonIndex. I feel there is somewhat a difference between in class and online. But there are so many benefits to online, I think one big help is interactive chat, discussion forums and live voice chats. I might even approach the institution with my expertise and advice in making courses more interactive. I feel I need people to be accountable to when doing distance and online courses. I need sometimes the person spurring me on and encouraging, it does take a lot of determination to stay on fire and focused but the benefits are great and its quite a bit cheaper than normal inclass school courses. I am prayerfully considering this also brother.

Re: - posted by LoveOneAnother, on: 2004/5/16 23:11

Quote:
-----I'm still praying about my decision but my fear was that the classes would be somewhat "sterile" for lack of a better word, since they're online. Are they truly interactive? Welcome to SermonIndex and post as the Lord's leads.

I don't feel the classes are too sterile. Berean does offer a chat room for students on their website, although it doesn't work on all computers, including mine! :-) I've instead joined a Yahoo group for A/G pastors and members, and some of the members there are Berean grads, which has been beneficial. That has kept me from feeling too "alone" in the college! ;-)

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/5/16 23:15

Quote:
-----I've instead joined a Yahoo group for A/G pastors and members, and some of the members there are Berean grads, which has been beneficial. That has kept me from feeling too "alone" in the college!

I am actually looking at the catalogue right now, what specific studies program are you doing right now? I like the focus of the berean school to get practical training for the ministry God has for you to do. I really don't think that 7 years of schooling to get an undergraduate degree then a graduate degree will do me as much good as just going practical with this 3 year program. :smart:

EDIT: hmm I was just thinking maybe these forums will become your berean studies fellowship if I go? hehe

Re: - posted by LoveOneAnother, on: 2004/5/16 23:22

I'm in the Bible and Doctrine program, but because I am taking so many other courses as electives on top of that, I will be only eight courses short of the ordained minister's program when I graduate. I am considering transferring to that program...hard to be eight courses short, and not complete it, even if I don't plan to be a pastor! :-)

Re: Korean A/G? - posted by Gideons (), on: 2004/5/17 22:11

Quote:
-----Praise God, yes I have been looking to see if there is an Assemblies of God Korean church, I really admire the dedication and discipline that they shown in prayer and bible reading, and really think its a refreshing contrast with the normal North American lifestyle, not to say all of us are lazy but there seems to be a lack of discipline contrasted with 50 years back in North America.

The typical Korean church has service daily. Our church has early morning service at 5:30 a.m. Monday-Friday and 7:00 a.m. on Saturday in addition to Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday services. It's quite a contrast to most American churches. What concerns me is that much of the watered down Gospel that we have seen in the States for the last 20 years is making its way into these churches as well and that's very troubling to me.

Most of Korea was evangelized by the Presbyterian church both in the States and Canada and so the predominant denomination is the Presbyterian church. I haven't done a historical analysis but from some of the things I read, it actually emanated from the Welsh revival. Interesting stuff.

Re: - posted by LoveOneAnother, on: 2004/5/17 23:08

Quote:

sermonindex wrote:
EDIT: hmm I was just thinking maybe these forums will become your berean studies fellowship if I go? hehe

Good idea, LOL! :lol: