

## Education

Joe Slater

How important is education? We certainly want our children to be educated so that they can make a living. Of surpassing importance, however, is an education that enables them to make a life — a life of faithful service to God.

Paul contrasted the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of God (First Corinthians 1-3). Primarily, he was contrasting Greek philosophy with the revealed word of God. Not everything the Greek philosophers, poets, and playwrights said was wrong. In fact, Paul quoted a couple of them in his sermon in Athens (Acts 17:28), and another in his letter to Titus (1:12). Human wisdom, however, is not the standard. God's word is.

As the son of Pharaoh's daughter, Moses received the best education Egypt had to offer. He was "*learned (i.e. educated) in all the wisdom of the Egyptians*" (Acts 7:22). No doubt much of it was good and useful. But he also would have been taught about the various gods the Egyptians worshiped. Nevertheless, Moses worshiped only the one true God. He would have learned the elaborate Egyptian myths about the origin of the world and of humankind; but in Genesis 1:1 he wrote the simple truth: "*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*" Moses did not allow his education to corrupt his relationship with God. Those who are blessed with higher education today would do well to follow his example.

Paul himself was a well-educated man, having been schooled at the feet of Gamaliel, a well-known and respected Jerusalem Rabbi (Acts 22:3). Even a religious education, however, may not be entirely reliable. When he learned the truth about Jesus, Paul stopped observing those parts of his traditional religion which were at odds with the gospel of Christ.

We cannot expect the public schools to do our job for us. We (parents, grandparents) must accept our responsibility to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

*It's pointless to know hymns if you don't know Him!*

## We Are One

There is a togetherness that is notable about Christianity when we are doing things in the way that God desires them to be done. Of late I have taken note of how the early church, in the days after its establishment on Pentecost, functioned outside of what we might refer to as corporate worship today. What was life like for these early Christians? The end of the second chapter of Acts informs us that Christians then were together. They had all things in common. They took what they had and shared it among themselves as needs arose. But perhaps most importantly they were together every day studying together, sharing common meals with one another in each other's homes. Perhaps most importantly is that they did all this gladly and praised God as was right for them to do.

I wonder if Christ held up the church today and placed it side by side with the early church after its establishment, what would He see? Would He see churches that look different from an outward, surface level perspective but inwardly they are identical in nature. Or would He find that the Lord's church in modern times, inwardly, looks nothing like the church that Christ built upon the foundation of Peter's confession of who He is (Matthew 16:17-19)? I reflect on the fact that at the time that Luke records in Acts 2, the church had not been in existence for very long. There were still epistles to come. There were still things that would be revealed to them. But as they waited for those things to come, they had one thing right. Unity.

What about us?

--Andrew Beasley (via *Bulletin Gold*)

**When you know who you are, washing feet isn't a problem.**

--Alan Hutchinson

## On Holy Ground

***"When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground'"*** (Exo. 3:4-5 ESV).

When I was a small child, I used to cite the little jingle, "If I could, I surely would, stand on the rock where Moses stood." I had no idea where I heard it but in a recent search, I found it was a song by the Carter Family.

I have lived in many different parts of our country. Often when planning a trip back to the "Bible Belt" to my home state of Tennessee, I would jokingly tell people "I'm going back to the holy land."

Walking on holy ground. Visiting the "Holy Land." The "Holy Land," where is it? The territory of Israel and Palestine is often called "The Holy Land" since this is where Jesus was born and conducted His ministry. Jerusalem is often referred to as "The Holy City." But, really, where, or what, is the "Holy Land?"

I was amused at a statement that I recently read, "So I do not think the land of Israel/Palestine is any more holy than Fargo, North Dakota."

One commentator says, "Holy ground is rendered sacred by the symbol of the divine presence." (Barnes)

Gill says, "For the place where thou standest is holy ground; not really, but relatively, on account of the divine presence in it, and only so long as that continued."

Thus, it seems that the literal ground is not holy, but rather the presence of God which, by way of analogy, puts us on holy ground.

Friends, never forget that wherever we are, we're in the presence of God, and we're on holy ground. This being true, may we always conduct ourselves as befitting to be in His presence.

--Roy Allen Crutcher (Mt. Carmel, IL)