

***Cease not to Learn until You Cease
to Live***

*Quote over the entrance to the Eastern New Mexico University
Library*

**Mat 11:29 "Take My yoke upon
you, and learn from Me**

Early in my life, a former Science Advisor to the President of the United States, came to the University where I was studying. Being a chemist, he met with the graduate students, and although I was invited, I declined to go. My advisor told me that although his expertise was outside the field of my current study, I ought to go - to learn how great men think.

Have you ever thought about how privileged you are to learn from the very Son of God?

Many young people go to school to learn from those who supposedly have a great deal of learning in a particular field.

Harvard charges \$1,206/semester hour

Maryland charges \$296/semester hour

And yet, here we are studying the
mind of God – for free!

*that by revelation there was made
known to me the mystery, as I
wrote before in brief. And by
referring to this, when you read you
can understand my insight into the
mystery of Christ, (Eph 3:3-4)*

I have had people go to sleep in my lessons.
Eutychus went to sleep on the apostle Paul.
Peter, James and John went to sleep waiting on
Jesus. We have no record of anyone going to
sleep as Jesus taught.

I once had a young man go to sleep in the middle
of a tutoring session. He was paying me 4 times
the going rate for such help. When I told him to
go home and get some sleep, he said his Dad
would kill him if he didn't get some help for his
test. – He failed the test and flunked out of
school.

And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming? "For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; we want to know therefore what these things mean." (Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.)

(Act 17:19-21)

that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His offspring.' "Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. (Act 17:27-29)

So many people want to form God
in the way they imagine Him to be!

How did you form your image of
God and His power?

Was it based on study or
guesswork?

Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another. (Pro 27:17)

Do you trust your Bible Study to yourself, or do you seek others to test your knowledge and understanding?

Many years ago in one of brother W. Curtis Porter's last debates, - in this case against a Primitive Baptist preacher - a young man in the audience, from out of town, grew so upset that he gave the preacher more points to use every night and watch them be dispatched with a Scripture by brother Porter. Every night, he stayed up late, getting more points to help his champion and brother Porter dispatched his and his preacher's points with Scripture.

Primitive Baptists believe in:

Total depravity – no man can do good of himself

Unconditional election – God calls whom He will for salvation

Limited atonement – only for the elect

Irresistible grace – God sends them the call of salvation

Perseverance of the saints – once called, a child can never be lost

About 5 years later this man came into my father's furniture store and asked my father if he remembered him. My father didn't and the man explained his story, concluding, "about three years ago, I was baptized for the remission of my sins."

Brother Porter's knowledge had provoked a man who thought he knew God to change – because he didn't know the Scriptures well enough! Iron sharpens iron.

Brother Porter was called from
Arkansas to come to New Mexico
to meet this Primitive Baptist in
debate?

Why? Because he was held to be
the finest debater among the
brethren. He knew the Bible!

Study to shew thyself approved unto
God, a workman that needeth not to
be ashamed, rightly dividing the word
of truth. (2Ti 2:15 KJV)

Do your best to present yourself to
God as one approved, a worker who
does not need to be ashamed and who
correctly handles the word of truth.
(2Ti 2:15 NIV)

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

(2Pe 1:10-11)

Calvinism teaches --- Unconditional election –
God calls whom He will for salvation
Limited atonement – only for the elect
Perseverance of the saints– once called, a child
can never be lost --- but the Bible doesn't!

Unconditional election –
foolishness *For God so loved the
world that he gave his one and only
Son, that whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have eternal
life. (Joh 3:16)*

Does “whoever” sound like only
those God chooses?

Limited atonement – only for the elect --
again foolishness

*He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and
not only for ours but also for the sins of the
whole world.*

(1Jn 2:2)

Who can believe that Jesus' atonement was
for less than what the Bible says – for the
“whole world.”

Perseverance of the saints— once called, a child
can never be lost

*You who are trying to be justified by the law
have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen
away from grace.*

(Gal 5:4)

Does that sound like you can't fall from grace or
is it the exact opposite? You can fall from grace!

A child may leave home and be completely
disinherited?

Have you learned of Christ?

How much? Just enough to get by?

How much is that?

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. (2Pe 1:3-7)

so that through them you may
participate in the divine nature

You become what you know, but if
your knowledge is limited, so are
you!

lord prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true

How does the Lord prepare us?

Through his word!

What if we haven't learned of Him?

Then we're not prepared

Does the Lord guide your footsteps?

Do you walk closer to Him each day?

Does the Lord guide your footsteps?

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

(Act 2:38)

Do you walk closer to Him each day?

Do you need to turn from your slothful and sinful way of life and follow the Lord?

Do not be arrogant, but tremble. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. (Rom 11:20-22)