



THE VISION

Breckbill Bible College

"WHERE THERE IS NO VISION THE PEOPLE PERISH"
Proverbs 29:18a

THE NEED FOR GODLY WISDOM

By
Pastor Jack Hilton

We are inundated today with reports of "needs" for the betterment of mankind. Each voice attempts to persuade us that the "need" they present is the most important. While there are many "needs" the greatest need in the entire world today is a return to knowledge and wisdom of the eternal truths set forth by God in His Divine Revelation. While there is much knowledge about an endless amount of things and topics, we could experience a good earthly life without knowing about or experiencing most of them. What we must have to truly enjoy our earthly life is a true knowledge of the one true God.

God stated in Proverbs 1:7 that "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge." and in Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." If we must "fear" [reverence and respect] the LORD to begin our seeking after knowledge and understanding, then we must first learn what "Fear" is and how to express "fear" from our heart. To "reverence and respect" anyone we must first "Know" them. In His great wisdom and grace God provided divine revelation through His Written Word so that man might "Know" about Him. God also provided the means and method of Redemption and Spiritual Life so that those who believed and received Jesus Christ may have the indwelling Holy Spirit to "unveil" the Written Word. The Holy Spirit enlightens the mind and illuminates the heart in order for man to understand God's Revealed Truth.

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ALUMNI UPDATES



Craig Manges '85 has been working as a welder for the past 13 years; this job allows him time for ministry opportunities. He

lives in New Enterprise, PA with his wife Denise. His daughter Heather and son-in-law Tim and two grandsons Andrew (11) and Jeremy (10) live nearby in Everett, PA.

Craig gives the following update: "I have appreciated my education at BBC. It has taught me to let the Word of God say what it says. To this day I am constantly challenged to come to the Word and look at the scope of the passage. My time at BBC prepared me for the past 30 years of ministry. I have been able to serve as interim pastor in different churches, as well as being called as pastor at Geistown GBC in Johnstown, PA and Hope GBC in NJ for five years. I also had the privilege of returning to BBC and teaching first year Greek as well as teaching a class on Bible Interpretation at the Bedford County Bible Institute.

Currently, my wife and I attend at Community GBC in Everett where I am an elder and teach an adult SS class of approximately 50 people. This class is designed to help prepare future teachers and leaders in our church. Recently I enjoyed explaining the difference between a simile, a metaphor and a hypocatasis. (Thanks Dr. Cooke!) I usually take time off from teaching during the summer months to allow me to do pulpit supply.

I have many good memories from our years at BBC. (1981-1985) The serious time spent studying in the library, the fun times during gym class and the precious times of fellowship with other students after class provided a good balance while there. I remember one time a professor's briefcase ended up in a tree. I don't remember all the details, you may want to ask Fred Barker about that!"

Craig ends off with some advice for current students. "I would encourage the current students at BBC to redeem the time. Make the most of the opportunity that you have while attending BBC. As you do research for papers and study for tests don't just do the work for the moment but redeem the time. It is not only important that you grasp the Word but let the Word grasp you as you prepare to serve our Lord and Savior."



Terry Holmes '84 has been in pastoral ministry since his graduation.

He has been married to his wife Connie for 37 years. His son Jeramie '03 and his wife Kristen live in Maine. His daughter Amanda resides nearby in Baltimore. He has 5 grandchildren.

Right after college he was called to Smith Corner Mennonite Church in East Freedom, PA. He pastored there until 1989. During his time there he was able to show them through the preaching of the word that the Mennonite Conference was not in line with God's teaching on separation and they consequently withdrew from the Mennonite conference. His ministry continued in April of 1989 when he accepted the pastorate at the Evangelical Independent Methodist Church in Altoona, Pennsylvania, he remained there until 1999 teaching "a very receptive group of people." He was called as Pastor of Victory Villa Community Church in Baltimore, Maryland in September of 1999 and has been pastoring there the past 14 years.

Terry credits his education at Manahath/Breckbill with providing the "tools to begin and continue to serve the Lord." He goes on to say, "I would have to say that the influence, teaching and guidance from Dr. Ronald Cooke was a great help to me. I was raised in the Pentecostal church and was not taught properly about the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. It was through his teaching and preaching, along with my Greek class with Dr. Mike Volovski, that I was able to see the correct interpretation of the word "tongues" in the book of Acts."

Pastor Holmes gives this advice to current students:

"If you are currently a student, listen and apply the teaching of your teachers and learn, grow and enjoy the time you are there."

Godly Wisdom Continued...

As Solomon began the book of Proverbs he encouraged his son, and those who would read his writings to seek after knowledge and wisdom. In Proverbs 4:7 he stated that "Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom and with all they getting get understanding." The greatest need of our nation today is to seek out truth that we might "Know" and "Understand". In Prov 1:5 Solomon states that "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:" A person may obtain basic knowledge through personal investigation and experience. But, the more complex truths of life are better and easier learned from a wise teacher. The wise student disciplines "Self" to listen in order to learn and to seek out wise counselors who enable discernment and understanding. Since every person is born with a sin depraved nature and an empty mind, all must seek after knowledge and develop an insatiable appetite for truth.

Some people count hearing a truth as learning, but one can hear and never comprehend or understand a truth. The wise student strives for the greater fruit of diligent study. One must know the truth and the meaning of that truth. True wisdom takes the student a step farther. They are able to state the meaning of a truth and its application in life so that others can also learn and understand. Being able to quote a proverb or truth is of little or no value unless you can also unveil its meaning to those who hear you or read what you write.

The purpose and plan of God in providing His divine revelation through the holy prophets and apostles was for man to have access to truths for daily living and preparation for eternal living. God designed and instituted the Family unit for the purpose of nurturing and training children in the revealed truths and preparing the child to live a godly life during his earthly journey. God instituted the Church with Pastors and Teachers to provide a constant diet of messages of revealed truth to feed the soul and guide the life. We are blessed today to have ministries such as Breckbill Bible College that provide structured Bible study and education to better prepare young people for their Christian life and work in the ministry of the Church.

Prov 2:2-9 *"So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path."*



Jack Hilton is a graduate of the Class of 1989 and Pastor of Bible Evangelical Methodist Church in New Danville, PA.

Alumni Updates (Continued)

Jeffrey Dollar '87 serves as pastor of the Community Bible Church of Portage, PA and manages a fuel and landscaping business in Cambria County, PA. He and his wife Tammy live in Ebensburg, PA. Most of their children are grown but 3 still



reside at home. Hannah will graduate this year and wants to become a veterinarian, Faith is a sophomore

interested in music and Ethan who is in 6th grade also enjoys music.



Jeff described his time at BBC in this

way, "I attended BBC when it was still Manahath in Hollidaysburg, and grew up not far from the school. Dr. Tondee was a customer on my paper route. After I became a believer and was seeking to enter the ministry, Chip Lamca '86 recommended I enroll and for the first time I found my thinking challenged. I had previously attended a well-known fundamentalist school that only required that you accept what they taught. BBC took another approach, in presenting biblical theology from a historic approach, which led me to reexamine my doctrinal positions and make them my own. I entered the school thinking I had all the answers, but left realizing I had a long way to go and had not even scratched the surface."

When asked about his favorite professors at BBC, Jeff mentioned, Max McCall who taught Biblical Archeology, who he said was "consumed by his subject and appeared as somewhat of a relic himself at the time, having been a teacher of my wife's grandfather's (George Parks '64) time at the school." He also mentions Dr. Cooke, whose "Word of the day livened up theology classes." To this day I still say "let me say kindly", before bashing a false teacher or bad doctrine."

Jeff recommends that current students "consider the great privilege you have in being enrolled in a very unique school. BBC will provide the theological anchor needed in your zeal for the truth."

Professor Sarah R. Cooke

Why do you like teaching?

"I don't just like teaching, I love teaching! Teaching gives me the opportunity to work more closely with BBC students, each one of them is important to me and I view each of them as an individual bursting with potential. It is my utmost desire that my students have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. that they grow to know and love Him as their Master, Friend, Redeemer, Wisdom and Strength. For me teaching is about stretching my students so that they not only learn but also are inspired to learn more and go on learning throughout their life. I can only teach so much in one class. The student has to do most of the learning himself. So my job is to inspire my students to learn, and I hope I inspire them to use what they learn for Christ."

Why is biblical education important?

"A biblical college education is paramount because the college a young person attends determines so much about him or her. The world's idea of a college education does not support or encourage young Christians it does the opposite. When I speak of the value of a biblical education I am talking about eternal riches that never pass away. When I talk about the worth of secular education I am talking about the wealth that quickly passes away. The Bible says that we cannot serve two masters, so why go to be trained to love and serve any master other than Christ? A biblical education gives the student the foundation he or she needs to glorify the only Master we should serve."

Can you offer some advice to current students?

"Use your time at Breckbill to draw near to Christ. If you are lonely, or weary seek Him, He was once lonely and weary too and He will be enough for you. Study hard because all your professors are rooting for you, we love you and want you to succeed. When you leave dear ole BBC remember what you learned and live it."

Sarah has been serving at Breckbill for 6 years. Along with her duties as Assistant Director of Operations, she also teaches College Writing, Philosophy of Christian Ed., Christian Literature, and History of Missions. She has her B.R.E. and M.R.E. from BBC and her M. Ed from Clearwater Christian College.



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