

The Harvester



Preparing Souls

To Serve The Lord



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Florida School of Preaching or Christian University?

Making an Informed Decision That's Right for You!

By Brian R. Kenyon

Solomon taught the importance of making beneficial decisions when he said, "Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established" (Pr. 4:25-26, NKJ). Only when our eyes are looking straight ahead, as it were, can the path of our feet be steady and making progress toward the goal. While some decisions, like becoming a Christian and choosing a spouse, carry much more weight and consequence than other decisions, like what we will eat for supper, all decisions are made better not only when we are informed in Scriptural principles, but also when we are informed wisely in the principles of life. Was not that one of Jesus' points in the parable of the unjust steward (or as some refer to it, the shrewd steward), when He said,

For the sons of this world are more shrewd [wiser, KJV] in their generation than the sons of light. ⁹And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home. (Lk. 16:8-9)

As high schools all over the country dismiss for the summer, many who are graduating have or are in the process of making plans to pursue college education. For those desiring to be preachers, the choice is usually between a four year Christian university or a school of preaching. Considering advantages of the Florida School of Preaching helps in making a better informed decision. The purpose of this article is to show advantages of attending the Florida School of Preaching, even if one later continues his Bible/preaching education at a four year college.

Biblically Grounded

A huge advantage of the Florida School of Preaching over a four year liberal arts college or university is that the person who graduates from the school of preaching will usually be more Biblically grounded. A student gets more Bible in two years at the Florida School of Preaching than he would at a four year college or university. A full-time student typically completes 120 semester hours in our two year course of study. Our concentration for the two years involves Bible and Bible related classes. There are only two seemingly non-Bible related classes, English grammar and English composition, but even these are geared toward accomplishing a better understanding and a more effective communication of the Bible and its teachings. We are not opposed to secular history, biology, mathematics, and art appreciation, but these are not part of our Biblically concentrated course of study.

The value of being Biblically grounded must not be underestimated. No matter what career path one chooses, being Biblically grounded is what allows a person to "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths" (Pr. 3:5-6). Being

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Schedule on Page 4**

Biblically grounded will also help students who continue their education in a college or university environment. Obviously, if one continues his education in a secular setting, his being Biblically grounded will be necessary in combating humanistic philosophies and godless theories of origins and morality. Even among some brotherhood schools, one needs to be Biblically grounded so as to Scripturally analyze what is being taught. Even if a college or university has a strong Bible faculty, the other departmental instructors or professors may not be so Biblically strong!

Realistic Expectations

Another major advantage of attending the Florida School of Preaching is that a man will come to a quicker, more realistic idea of what is involved in preaching and the work of a preacher. Paul told Timothy to “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching” and to “do the work of an evangelist” (2 Tim. 4:2, 5). Some who start out thinking they want to be preachers eventually come to the realization that preaching is not what they expected and/or they are not of the right temperament for this work. It is much better to come to this realization in a tuition free school than to spend \$20,000 or \$30,000 for a few years at a brotherhood college or university. There is practically nothing to lose by attending the school of preaching first. The Biblical knowledge gained in the time invested can never be taken away, and, when applied, knowledge of the Bible will always benefit a person through his entire life

no matter what career he chooses. A man does not have to be a preacher in order to please God or to make heaven his home (though we will have to give an account to God as to how we used our talents, Mt. 25:14-30). The Lord can use all faithful Christians to His glory no matter their occupation (cf. 1 Cor. 12:12-31)!

The Harvester

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Training Preachers Since 1969

Confidently Prepared

A third advantage of attending the Florida School of Preaching is that a man will have confidence in his preparedness. Obviously, we cannot teach a person everything he needs to know in our two year course, but we can and do teach students how to study and find the Biblical answers for which they will continually seek. Additional reasons why the school of preaching better prepares one even to attend a college or university is three-fold.


First, as already mentioned the Florida School of Preaching grounds one in Biblical knowledge; thus, he is better able to discern truth from error. One may hear all kinds of doctrines being taught at universities, even among our brotherhood. Our graduates are better prepared to determine which teachings correspond to truth and thus not be shaken in faith (cf. 2 Thes. 2:1-2; 2 Pet. 3:17-18).

Second, our semester hour credits are transferable to brotherhood colleges and universities. At last check, most of our brotherhood schools were able (by their accrediting agencies) to accept thirty-six credit hours from a Florida School of Preaching graduate, which would make one first enrolling a middle sophomore.

Third, our graduates are much better prepared to “clep” certain required courses in college or university programs. For example, we have had students complete our two year program, enroll in brotherhood colleges or universities, and “clep” classes such as Greek I and Greek II (8 total credits, or about \$3,500). It is not unrealistic for a student to complete our program and then complete a bachelor’s degree in about the same amount of time as he would have had he enrolled in the college or university to begin with, only he would have much more knowledge of the Bible and thus be more Biblically grounded!

Conclusion

No matter what the issue in life or the severity of the consequences, only when we are properly informed can we make the best choices for our individual situations. God’s will must provide the overriding principles (Mt. 6:33), and even within that framework, consideration must be given to our living in this world (cf. Jn. 17:15-18).

Pursuing the work of a preacher and receiving proper training are both serious matters. There are many choices and ways of accomplishing both. If you would like to know more about the Florida School of Preaching and the advantages we offer, please feel free to contact the school. We would count it a joy to visit the congregation of which you are a member and let brethren know of our work! 

Value of the Florida School of Preaching

Strengthens Churches of Christ in Florida and Beyond

In 1969, the school was initially started to strengthen the churches of Christ in Central Florida. We have stood Biblical firm through non-cooperation-ism, Crossroads-ism, and liberalism.

Equips Men to Preach the Gospel

Since 1969, we have trained men to preach the Gospel. All of our instructors are or have been full-time preachers for a number of years and offer hands on, practical experience in the work of preaching.

Prepares Men and Women to Better Serve the Lord

Since 1969, we do not just train men to preach, but any person, male or female, young or old, is welcome to take classes. Women are not authorized to preach, but all can benefit from Bible knowledge.

Spreads the Word of God

Since 1969, the school has been active in spreading the good news through our graduates (who have worked all over the world), classes, study materials, publications, and lectureships.

Ways You Can Help

Become Familiar with the Lord's Work Through Us

We do not want to be the "best kept secret" in the brotherhood. Get to know the school through the Harvester, visiting us, being at our lectureships, or taking classes. Help others also get to know us.

Pray for the Lord's Work Through Us

Having familiarized yourself with us, you will see the good work the Lord is doing through us. We solicit your prayers that we remain faithful and that the Lord will send both students and support.

Financially Support the Lord's Work Through Us

As long as the world stands, preachers will be needed! There is a need to financial help students. There is also a need to financial support daily operations. There can be no students without a school.

Remember the School in Your Estate Planning

We came into this world with nothing and we will leave with nothing...except what we sent ahead (Mt. 6:19-21). What better way to lay up treasure in heaven than to leave a gift for the school?

Special Thanks To Our

Generous Supporters In April 2011*

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Special Gifts: Atlantic Christian Fund.

*Our final deposit for the month is usually made on the last Wednesday of the month. All contributions received after that time are reported on the next month's financial statement.

Make Plans Now To Attend Our 37th Annual Lectureship

Do You Understand the Local Church?

Monday through Thursday, January 16-19, 2012

Fall 2011 Semester Begins Aug. 8

Register on-line, by calling the office, or by selecting classes from this form and mailing it to the office with your name, address, and phone number!

Great Selection of Classes! Enroll Today, Full or Part Time!

Day	Time	Lakeland Classes	Instructor	Credit
Monday	8:30-12:00	Romans (261)	Davis	3
	1:00-4:15	English I: Grammar (124) (first year students)	Kenyon	3
		Greek I (222) or III (271) (second year students)	Kenyon	3
Tuesday	8:30-12:00	Christian Evidences (224)	Stearnsman	3
	1:00-4:15	Logic (270)	Burgett	3
Wednesday	8:30-12:00	Church History (241)	Burgett	3
	1:00-4:15	First and Second Corinthians (135)	Kenyon	3
Thursday	8:30-12:00	Revelation (259)	Stearnsman	3
	1:00-4:15	Computers and Churches (287)	Wheeler	3
Friday	8:30-12:00	Preacher and His Work I (107)	Wheeler	3
	1:00-4:15	Pentateuch (164)	Elledge	3

Extension Classes				
Thursday	6:00-8:30	First and Second Corinthians (135) (Orange Street church of Christ, Auburndale)	Bauer	2.5
	7:00-9:30	Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon (136) (Wesconnett church of Christ, Jacksonville)	Scaggs	2.5

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