

How To School God's Way

(the best way)

Written by Josh Read

The measures that some people take to get out of school are extraordinary. I once heard about a person who taught themselves to pass out on command, and if they had a test that they hadn't studied for, they would pass out. There are also countless stories of people injuring themselves or making themselves sick just to miss a day or two of school. It really is incredible. Many believe that school is not worthwhile or that it is boring. But is this really the best way

In the bible, God says that one day his son Jesus will come back to bring those who follow him to the "New Creation", which will be a eternal and perfect home with God.

*with God
eternal and perfect home*

In Genesis chapter 3, Adam and Eve ate from a tree that God told them not to eat from. Adam and Eve's disobedience to God was when sin entered the world.

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to approach school and study? I am a Christian, and I believe that God knows what is best for people. So, in this article I will be exploring a Christian perspective on what the best way for students to approach school.

So, what does God say about studying and school? Well nothing specifically, as school in its current form didn't exist during the time the bible was written. However, work in general has always been a part of life. God gave work as a gift. In Genesis chapter 2, after God finished creating the world, he made the first person, Adam. He made Adam out of dust and then, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." At this point, there was no sin in the world, "...it was very good." That means God gave Adam work to do as a blessing as part of His good creation. It was when sin entered the world that work became something stressful, tiring, time consuming, and boring. Originally it was meant to be a good thing. Indeed, when Jesus comes back and God makes the new, perfect creation, there will be work. In Revelation 22 it says that in the new creation, "The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him."

But, for the moment, because of sin, work will be tough. Just after sin entered the world, God said to Adam, "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." Therefore, schoolwork in this imperfect world is going to be painful.

So, considering that schoolwork in this sinful world will be painful, how does God want us to approach it? Well, God says that you should work diligently, you should do good work. Proverbs 22 says "Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank." God also says not to do bad work. "One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys." (Proverbs 18) And not to be lazy. "Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth." (Proverbs 10) God also says that work should not be done dishonestly. "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out." (Proverbs 10). But most

importantly, God says that you should work to bring glory to him. "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31). Work can be a good thing; it can you bring you success and wealth. Work is how you can provide for yourself and your family. But that's not why God wants you to do good work. In Matthew 6, Jesus says "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear...But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." God wants you to seek his kingdom and glory first. Seeking God's kingdom and his glory is the best thing you can do. God wants you to take every opportunity to glorify him in whatever you do.

Seeking God's kingdom means trying to do things God's way which he tells us in the bible.

So, if you are at school, how should you approach it? How can you best glorify God in your studies? Well, you should do what God says: Work diligently. Work diligently for him. And you should do so with godliness, integrity, kindness, humility and thankfulness. Obviously working diligently can vary depending on the person. The Christian student who struggles to sit still cannot be expected to be getting straight A's, but if his attitude is that of working diligently for God's glory, then he is indeed seeking first God's kingdom.

At the same time, however, we need to realise that work is not God. If you are seeking God's glory in everything you do, you should not work so hard that you don't go to church or regularly read your bible and pray. God should be number 1. And this is important for the academic, straight A's student. While their success and diligence in their schooling is pleasing to God, it should not take priority over him. School should not be a priority over God. Sydney evangelical minister Jeff Read says: "I think for many of us work is central to our lives. And our Christian stuff fits in as a bit of a hobby at the edges. But that misunderstands God's sovereignty. We need to commit our whole lives to God as the one who gives us everything. And work needs to fit in as part of a life lived in service to God."

So how should you approach school and study? Approach school and study in a way that glorifies God. In every situation, glorify God. I wonder how you can glorify God in your schooling.