



FROM THE *Pastor's* DESK

A large part of my day goes to reading and researching. Sometimes I read things that I have intentionally looked for, while others I *just* happen to come across with them. However, something important I have learned is how open I am to the new, how open I am to learn.

Learning is a highly overrated quality, because, in fact, a lot of people (I will not say “most”) are unable to learn. BUT what does *learning* really involves? The skill of learning is not merely about acquiring knowledge or information. True learning involves the ability of acknowledging when one is incorrect, wrong, or lack something **AND** making the necessary corrections to better ourselves or make something better.

By the time you are reading this brief article, thousands of students have already started a new school year. Every year presents them with the challenge of new teachers/instructors, new classmates, new courses, new administration, etc. BUT, every year, teachers and administration, are, also, presented with the challenge of making adjustments of many types.

I have news for you, **the NEW will never go away**. While challenges are part of our daily living, *learning* should also be. The apostle Paul challenged the Christians in Rome to transform their lives by/through the *renewal* of their minds (Romans 12:2). He tells them that in order to experience the *good, pleasing, and perfect* will of God, is necessary to renew their minds. This is accomplished through a learning process that involves: (1) not thinking *of yourself more highly than you ought*, (2) *be sober in your judgment* (v.3), (3) acknowledge everyone's gifts/goodness (v.6), (4) be sincere in your love (v.9), (5) *hate evil*, (6) *cling to what is good*, and *the list goes on*. (You might want to read the whole chapter.)

The author of the book of Hebrews (4:12) tells us that something the Bible does **in us** is opening our hearts and minds to learn to recognize what is from our minds versus the real intentions of our hearts. It keeps us straight. It teaches us how to live **healthy** lives emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Dive into it and learn.

Pastor Liz

Peace'n Grace

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