

MBA's & Wisdom

There was a time when the preachers of the Gospel were held in some measure of respect, but at other times, they were fed to the lions, and still at other times, they were ignored. Such vile treatment was no doubt the product of the devil seeking to hamper the cause of Christ.

Today the devil continues to work, but is doing nothing really new as the Scriptures will note. We live in a day when preachers are reading the best leadership books, the best lessons from corporate CEOs and even getting secular degrees in business administration. I heard one mega-church pastor (an independent Baptist) say, "I would have been better off with an MBA from Harvard than my Bible college degree." We run multimillion dollar corporations in which we have so many employees -- why not learn from the BEST? The best? Really? Harvard? Really? Isn't that the college from which our President and many other "important people" who are running our nation and the Gospel into the ground, graduated? We need secular training? Really?

Philippians 3:8 "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,"

What was it that Paul counted as dung? It was his secular training, his earthly zeal, his background in things respected by the world.

Philippians 3:4 "Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:"

One ancient, yet recently used tool of Satan is to get us to glory in our worldly training. Paul said it was dung!

We are fooling ourselves if we think the training of this world is more important than the things we get from the men of God and from the Word of God.



The pastor's wife, Jennifer, (top left) was a bus kid. The pastor (Justin Soto), one of our teens, was trained without anything secular to confuse his thinking. The preacher and his wife (top right), Pat and Kari Cook, were Kids brought up under the ministry here at FBC with old-fashioned preaching and standards of holiness and separation. The young man (bottom right) was born and trained at FBC as well. This tour group from Hyles-Anderson is out singing, preaching, and leading souls to Christ. Where are the young people of the worldly wise? Oh, that's right -- they don't train preachers -- instead, they sit in some internet cafe showing off new web design tools.

Paul writes in I Corinthians 3:18, "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise."

vs. 19 "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."

vs. 20 "And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain."

The thoughts of the wise are VAIN.

According to Paul, the world should think us fools. Hopefully, we do not prove them correct. Our motives, our logic, our faith -- all these are contrary to the world's philosophy. I do not want the world's advertising promoters on my team. I want them to get saved, to grow in grace, to become good workers in the ministry, but no -- I don't want any part in their logic, their guidance, or their worldly wisdom!

Isn't it amazing that John Bunyan wrote about Mr. Worldly Wise in 1678? Yet it was this worldly wise man who led Christian out of the way, and only upon meeting Evangelist does Christian get back on the right path. Evangelist, Hmmm? Wonder from where he got his MBA? With a name like that, he probably graduated from some unaccredited Bible college.

I Corinthians 1:20 'Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?'

"Where is the wise," God asks? That's easy: he is writing books on management, business and success to sell to our preachers, and to put into the hands of our young men in Bible college. And that is what God made foolish! (Young men who were placed in Bible college by old-fashioned, fiery, simple preachers, were then told the way to get it done was through the wisdom of the world. They had to tell our young preachers this stuff because they don't have any of their own training for the ministry.)

Many a preacher turned away from Bible teachings after exposure to some worldly wisdom, hoping to gain the skills to reach the world more effectively for the Saviour. Wait! We turned to unsaved, worldly wise men, to gain the tools necessary to reach the lost for our Lord?

When did we forget Psalm 1 which teaches us not to walk in the counsel of the ungodly?

As a Christian, if you are involved in the world of technology, you better spend more time on your knees seeking the instruction of God than you do seeking the styles and methods of the secular tech world.

Think about Solomon. He wrote incredible things about engineering, agriculture, child-rearing, money, and women, all the while building the most amazing structures. He oversaw thousands of employees, managers, the transportation of countless tons of precious gems,

minerals, stone and timber building materials. Where did he go to college? From where did he get his MBA? Whose leadership books did he read?

Solomon received wisdom and understanding from God! He found it on his knees in prayer and worship. Try it, young preacher! Dr. Russell Anderson told me he learned all he knows about money from listening to his pastor and spending two to four hours a day in his Bible. Dr. Russell Anderson has given away more money than most will ever gain.

But a pastor with a \$500,000 a year budget and no staff needs to go to the world for wisdom? No, I think not. This highly esteemed worldly wisdom is only another tool, an old tool, Satan uses to get us away from our prayer, fasting, and seeking of God's face.

Here is a camp picture from over 20 years ago. From this group, almost one-third are preachers or pastor's wives, Sunday school teachers, or missionaries; or they serve in their church in some significant manner. Decades later, they are still serving the Lord. Worldly wisdom does not produce this kind of long lasting fruit.

