

## SOME WORTHY THOUGHTS FOR ADMINISTRATORS OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Writing about his experience as a teacher in a Christian College, an author recently observed, “A teacher must make teaching his life, his calling. On the other hand, there are colleges in our brotherhood today who demand a doctorate and place the degree over various other factors just as or even more important than academic attainment. Because often more is caught by students than is taught, a faculty member must be one who exudes a certain enthusiasm if he is to recruit, train and retain workers for the Kingdom....

“The college was interested in training men and women to serve in the local church. Faculty members who did not love the local church could not exude the contagious enthusiasm necessary for recruiting workers for the Kingdom. If the Bible college desired to train preachers for the local church, the feeling of the...board and (administration, jhw) was that faculty members should, first of all be preachers themselves. Perhaps that is why many of our Bible colleges are training few and fewer preachers today: they are recruiting fewer and fewer men with a love for the local church as faculty members. I am convinced that academic excellence must be one of the criteria used in the hiring process, but I am just as convinced that faculty members who love the local church, who love the Restoration Movement, and who love to preach are those who will most be able to influence others to follow in their train. To Timothy Paul wrote, “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others (II Tim. 2:2) And that remains the best plan for training preachers to this day!” (**Restoration Herald**, Sept. 2004, p. 9).

In many cases, those troubling our churches with their change agenda are recent products of our Christian Schools. Often these young men are weak on general Bible knowledge, weaker still on fundamental doctrines of the faith, and virtually ignorant of our brotherhood history. They are however full of zeal and ambition and full of denominational ideas and methods. They reflect what they have been taught and observed in school.

The church needs schools that will provide faculties of faithful, knowledgeable gospel preachers who can share their knowledge with the young men that go to them for their ministerial education. Those that turn out graduates whose knowledge is weak, whose faith is fuzzy, whose goals are of the world are of no service to the church. In fact they work against her best interest and cause her sorrow.

Oh by the way, the author of the above quote is Bob Stacy, minister of the Christian Church and former teacher at Ozark Bible College. JHW