

# THEOLOGY



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The Biblical Studies Department and Theology program at IBC is focused on the process of training Apostolic ministry with the necessary tools for effective ministry. Now is the time for us to answer the call, to be motivated, equipped and deployed into our world to show the power of Apostolic doctrine and truth to redeem this broken world we live in!

The two most precious commodities in life are time and energy. Time and energy are given in exchange for things like income, assets, and also education. Whether on a job or in an education institution, we commit to give our time and energy to receive something, worth literally our life, in return. So the ultimate question is why, with other secular opportunities, should you give

your two greatest assets in life to an Apostolic Bible college?

Whether it is for supplying the necessary financial needs of life or having the ability to choose a particular vocation, an education must yield something worth one's life. So for someone called to ministry, the incredible investment must "pay off" or it is not worth your life. Bluntly, if it doesn't earn you a better income, increase technical learning, or allow you to work in a job you prefer, secular college is often a waste of time or even at times detrimental.

Why would I as an educator say this? Statistics are conclusive that 75-90 percent of high school seniors attending secular college abandon faith by graduation. The modern institutions have changed dramatically in the last half-century, and from the moment students set foot on the contemporary campus, their Christian convictions and disciplines are assaulted. Woodrow Wilson, while president of Princeton University, shockingly said in a speech in 1914, "I have often said that the use of a university is to make young gentlemen as unlike their fathers as possible." In 1996 at a commencement address to graduating seniors, James O. Freedman cited the Wilson quote favorably saying, "... the purpose of a college education is to question your father's values." (Prager. Whistleblower: the College Illusion: Vol. 21, April, 2012: 14-15.) The "re-education" system in American college institutions including some "Christian" or Bible colleges is real.

If we are to have effective spirit-empowered leaders and ministers in this hour we must be equipped with the specific truths which cannot be obtained at other institutions. One seminary professor lamenting the decline of truth and growing influence of secular thought on his campus said, "Aristotle is walking through the halls of this institution. Beware, for I hear his footsteps more clearly than those of the apostle Paul, and the team of inspired men who were with him, and even the Lord Jesus Christ Himself." What is the value of a Bible college education? It protects your generation from falling prey to false ideas that are exalted against the knowledge of Christ. It gives primacy to the voices of the Apostles and Christ. That is worth paying any price for, even with your very life.

Elitists in the culture know you can be taught and trained by your leaders, but eventually most students will go into secular institutions. Is it wise to enter unprepared into secularized and worldly institutions when you have a call to ministry on your life? What do these institutions know of Apostolic ministry? How will sitting there four, six, eight, or 12 years better equip you to be effective when it means dealing with people who are clearly of a different belief? Is it best to sit at the "gurus" or social elitists' feet? Paul, who had trained at the feet of Gamaliel himself, and had the best of Rome at his feet with his citizenship, had similar opportunities. But Paul ultimately said, "I consider them all lost to gain Christ" (Phil. 3:18). So then, is it possible to produce Apostolic ministry in a place that does not even revere the Apostles' doctrine? Do we expect these institutions to give those called to ministry the strength a generation must have, which ultimately depends proportionally on their connection to Spirit and

# THE LASTING VALUE OF APOSTOLIC BIBLE EDUCATION

Apostolic truth? Which of these has lasting value?

The challenge of finding ways to equip young people who are passionate about their call to ministry, and to prepare them for the work of God is both urgent and very real. However, you must not allow any cultural challenges to make you surrender your needed training in Apostolic truth and doctrine.

Should we not acknowledge these other institutions will not teach the oneness of God, the essentiality of new birth and holiness? Will their teaching cause you as a minister to preach and teach with clarity and compassion these powerful revolutionary truths? Or will a Presbyterian, Baptist, or Wesleyan Bible college cause you as a worship leader to write songs that become a rallying cry for a generation, such as Thoro Harris who penned that great work "Baptized in Jesus' Name"? No. You need exposure to powerful Apostolic preaching, and also clear and persuasive Apostolic teaching, so these essential truths will survive in your generation.

So, in the Theology program at IBC, you will be studying the distinctives of Apostolic doctrine including the Doctrine of Salvation, the Oneness of God, Christian Worldview, Holiness, the Doctrine of the Spirit and other basic essentials equipping you to handle objections to our biblical beliefs. Further, you will be exposed to other classes like Science and the Bible dealing with modern objections to the Bible and Christianity. Classes such as Systematic Theology 1 and 2 show the interconnectedness of all we say about God and His Word, while classes such as Contemporary Theology highlight where we are today in terms of the current wider theology of the world and how we got there. Classes such as Apologetics, Archeology and the Bible, Religion Analysis and more show the best ways to reach the world we live in today with the truth of God's Word.

At IBC, our Theology Department equips students to be effective in the following roles: pastor, assistant pastor, youth pastor, evangelist, Bible teacher or instructor, outreach and evangelism coordinator, Sunday school director, author and more. This is shown to be true by the myriad of alumni filling these positions across our movement. Also, after receiving a degree from IBC, students are eligible to apply for a general license from the UPCI, bypassing the initial phase of local licensing required for ministers.

If you will give yourself to our guidance, we can help you become a rich asset for a church to reach their goals in the Kingdom. We have IBC alumni in every avenue of leadership in the UPCI, ALJC, and other Apostolic organizations serving at local, national and international levels. The strength of any theology program is shown in its ability to produce leaders and launch them into ministry. Our track record at IBC is strong. Simply look around and see.

So, the value of a Bible college education is manifold. It equips. Apostolic distinctives equip you with biblical truth that provides the understanding you need in order to have a powerful impact in the lives of your generation. In a very real sense these truths bring to your time the possibility

of Apostolic revival. The value? Priceless.

In order to meet the real needs of today we must have hundreds of ministers graduating from every one of our Bible colleges for the next decade. There are extreme needs in urban cities, yet they are often without an Apostolic witness. Young people must see the needs, train, and become filled with a burning passion to go. I know of no better way to train ministers for those needs than by taking three to four years of their lives and spending it developing powerful Apostolic ministry. One may argue Bible college is not for everyone. Of course that is true, but when looking at these desperate needs, which can only be met through Apostolic ministry, it is clear that it is for a lot more young people than are training now.

What is the value of an Apostolic Bible college? Jesus said, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." Your time spent training for success in real Apostolic ministry is worth spending your life.

