

# THE NEED TO LEARN

***Moses called all the people of Israel together and said, “listen carefully, Israel, hear the decrees and regulations I am giving you today so you may learn from them and obey them!***

***(Deuteronomy 5:1)***

My daughter Coral starts high school this week. She is attending BCI just like both of her parents did. Even though it was 42 years ago (yes, that number is correct) I still remember my first day of high school. My first class was typing, and I asked my home room teacher where to find it. Nerves and butterflies must have been interfering with my listening abilities because instead of going up one flight of stairs to the typing room I went all the way across the school and ended up in Doug Hughes' art class (I didn't see any typewriters there). Thankfully, Doug took pity on this Grade 9 student, who would one day be his minister, and gave me the right directions to eventually find my first class.

So much has changed in the 42 years since I started Grade 9 at BCI:

- We had 8 classes each day as opposed to 4 classes each semester, and now with COVID-19 it is just 2 classes,
- There was no high school hockey when I went and now there is,
- Teachers dressed in suits and ties, dresses and blouses and skirts back then while today they dress more casually,
- The cafeteria used to be on the first floor when I went to BCI and now it has been relocated in the atrium,
- We didn't carry or even think about carrying laptops or cell phones to school back then,
- Cole's notes were needed back then to try and understand Shakespeare. Now a Google search can do the same thing.

A lot has changed in 42 years since I attended Grade 9, but two things have not changed:

1) Nervousness: just like her dad 42 years ago, Coral is nervous about finding her classes on that first day.

2) Need for learning: Some classes have changed since I went to BCI like typing. Many classes offered are still the same like math,

English, science, geography, French, art, shops and gym. These fundamental classes are subjects that have stood the test of time because these core subjects are essential to give students the skills they need to succeed in whatever career path they choose.

This need for learning is a message that comes up often in Scripture. One place we see it is in Deuteronomy 5:1. The Israelites have just entered into a covenant with God and now Moses has called them together and commanded them to do these things when it comes to God's teachings:

- 1) To hear them and listen,
- 2) To learn them,
- 3) To obey them.

LISTEN, LEARN AND OBEY were the three things Moses wanted them to do with God's regulations. So, what exactly is involved in each of these three things when it comes to God's teachings?

**LISTENING** is absorbing and accepting information about God.

**LEARNING** is understanding the meaning and the implications of what we have just listened to.

**OBEYING** is putting into action all we have heard, learned and understood.

All these points are essential to grow in a relationship with God. Even though it has been 42 years since I started Grade 9, what hasn't changed is my need for continued listening and learning. The only time I may need to relearn Grade 9 math is if I need to help Coral with her homework. If it is anything like Grade 8 math, I will probably come up with the wrong answer! The subject I am still spending my time listening to, learning from and trying to obey is God. Jesus is the best teacher I could ever have for this. The fact that He lived in this same broken world as we do but did not sin shows us the importance of listening, learning from and obeying our Father In Heaven. This learning is an ongoing process in our life whether we are 14 and going into Grade 9, 56 and trying to keep up with a teenage daughter, or in our 70's, 80's, or 90's. LISTENING, LEARNING AND OBEYING is an on-going commitment we have as followers of Christ until He returns or calls us home.

This is the time of year when students head back to school to listen to and learn from their teachers. May this time of year be our reminder that we are still in school when it comes to our Maker and God. Let's keep picking up our textbook, the *BIBLE*, so that we can listen to, learn from, and obey its truths.

Pray for our students and teachers at this time. Pray as well for God's help to keep you committed in your learning about Him.

**Blessings,  
Pastor Dean**