

# Inside CBI



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## Why I Need A Bible Education...

Mankind has always suffered when the people of God fail to hold the Word of God in its proper place of reverence. Rejection of the Word of God and ignorance of the Word of God are neighbors on the same street.

Let me state clearly that I fully acknowledge the Holy Spirit's position as the Divine Teacher. *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."* – John 16:13. No true student of the Word of God will ever seek to argue this truth. But another fact is, while personal Bible study is essential, organized Bible education provides additional benefits that you cannot get elsewhere. Strength, fellowship, direction, insight, and sometimes even redirection are just a few of those benefits.

I have heard a lot of reasoning for not taking advantage of formal Bible education; *"I can study just as well on my own," "I don't have time," "I know I should, but..."* are just a few of those reasons I've heard. But have you ever considered from scripture *"Why I Need A Bible Education?"*

Let's use the mission statement of our school as our text: *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the*

*word of truth."* – II Timothy 2:15

**It is MY COMMAND** – Study of the Word of God is not an option given by God, through Paul to Timothy, it is his **COMMAND**. Study is much more than merely reading a passage. It is a diligent endeavor of labor. It is the careful and reverent dissection, microscopic analysis, and accurate reporting of God's Holy Word. The People of God are the channel through which God has chosen the accurate declaration of His message. No one can declare the things they do not know and He only gives knowledge through the labor of study.

**It is MY CHALLENGE** – A purpose is presented in this command. *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God..."* The word approved here means *"properly acceptable, tried and proven true."* My approval from God is based upon my knowledge of the Word of God. We are shown the reverse side of the coin in this challenge as well. If we fail in God's approval, the only alternative is "shame." Anyone who wants God's approval must study the Word of God by right division, which is defined to *"cut a straight line"*.

For most who advocate their opposition to organized Bible Education, may I ask a question? What materials do you use to study? Do you have commentaries and various other resources at your disposal?

What do you know about those authors? Do you agree doctrinally with them or are you overlooking their error?

In the day of an increasing acceptance of ecumenicalism and the push of Calvinistic heresy, you must know who is teaching you, and you must be able to discern the heresies, for the sake of your people.

Reading and producing an opinion is not acceptable study. Careful dissection and accurate reporting of the findings of the text is the responsibility of every Christian.

**It is MY CROWN** – Honesty to and diligent effort in study are the avenues that will determine my fitness for the reward. God is not interested in how loud or how long a person can speak. He is not interested in the eloquence of our delivery. He is not interested in your charisma or passion. He's most interested in how much we truly know about Him and how accurately we share it.

The responsibility of accurate declaration rests upon each of us. The world is relying on us for the truth.

*Bro. Darry Hatfield*

