



Let's Get Better! Let's Do Better! Let's Be Better!
Helping Developing Christians Grow!
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David's Devotional Back To School!

Webster's Dictionary defines "School" as "an organization that provides instruction". Webster points out that the word "School" comes from the Middle English word "scole" and the Old English word "scol".

These words come from the Latin word "schola".

Yet all of these words come from the Greek word "schole" which means "leisure"!!!

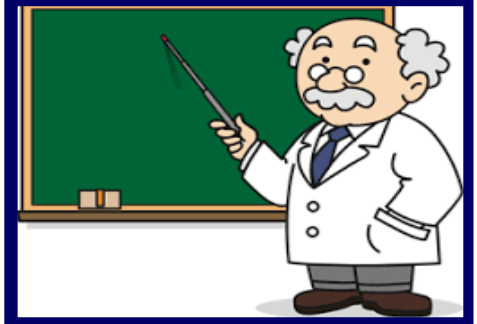
Can you imagine a child getting up in the morning and saying, "I'm on my way to leisure!"?

The idea behind "School" is this: "A place or setting where you have the leisure or freedom from other obligations so you can devote yourself to study and learning"!

School should **NEVER** end for any of us! We should always seek a place or setting where we have freedom from other obligations to devote ourselves to study and learning!

When do we have SCHOOL? We have Sunday School and Wednesday night Bible School where our elders have set aside a time and place when we can get away from other obligations for a while and devote ourselves to study and learning. Set aside the time! It is good for your soul!

I'll see you at school ... or should I say **Leisure!** David Conley



An Interesting Quote:

"A holy life will produce the deepest impression. Lighthouses blow no horns; they only shine.

D. L. Moody

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." **Matthew 5:16**

Many people are quick to tell others what they should do, believe, or even think. However, before they ever said a single word, their behavior and character have already spoken! Those actions may have said something else!

What are we really saying to others? Instead of blowing our horn, perhaps we should just let our light shine!

David Conley

Did You Know?

August was named after the first Roman Emperor, **Augustus Caesar**.

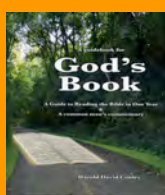
He was the adopted son of Julius Caesar and ruled from 27 BC until 14 AD. The Bible mentions him in **Luke 2:1** "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed." Augustus was actually born on September 23, 63 BC, but in 8 BC the month of **August** was named after him. September is the only month **NOT** named after a Roman deity. (Good for September!)

What Happened?

On August 17th, I had my 61st Birthday!

So I'm wondering ... should I have used the day to think about Social Security, Medicare, Part A B C or D Supplement Plans, and such things?

I suppose that's coming, but I decided to just be with my grandchildren for now!



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"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven"
Ecclesiastes 3:1



Party Line

The black rotary phone hung on the wall beside the living room door leading into the kitchen.

We were forbidden to touch it! The only exception was when Daddy called. This was long before "Caller ID", but Daddy had developed a system. He would call, hang up after one ring, and call again. When we heard this pattern, we were allowed to answer the phone.

We were on a "Party Line" with three or four other families. If you picked up the phone while they were using it, you could listen to their conversation. The temptation to pick up the forbidden phone often became too great. When I would lift the receiver, I could hear the voices chattering. Suddenly one of the voices would say, "I think someone just picked up!" I would hang up the receiver and quickly look around wondering if they knew it was me!

I remember once when Mama needed to make a call. She picked up the phone but respectfully hung it back up. Someone else was using it. A few minutes later, she put the receiver to her ear, listened a moment, and hung up. They were still on the line. She repeated this several times, she became agitated. She sternly spoke into the phone, "Someone else needs to use the phone", and she slammed it down causing the phone to ring loudly. It must have burst their eardrums! It rang in my ears from the next room! The next time she picked up the receiver she heard the dial tone! Mama made her phone call.

Among the list of "Christian Graces", Peter told us in **II Peter 1:6** "And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;" Somewhere between "Knowledge" and "Patience" Mama lost her "Temper - ance"! David Conley

Showing Off



A blue jay once flew into a yard where peacocks lived.

He gathered some feathers that had fallen from the majestic peacocks.

The blue jay tied the feathers to his tail and strutted down toward the peacocks. When they came near, they soon recognized the cheat and pecked at him. They plucked away all of his borrowed plumes and sent him back to where he came from.

The other jays had watched the whole thing from a distance. When he returned to them, they were also very upset with him. They told him, "*It is not only fine feathers that make fine birds!*"

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Trying to be something we are not, will cause us to lose influence and friendships! God gave us the gifts that HE wanted us to have! Use them for His glory! "*For the company of hypocrites will be barren, ...*" Job 15:34

David Conley

A Funny Thing Happened ...



The preacher told a story of a king who had gathered all his subjects to the castle. The king addressed them from the top of the wall as the crowd stood on the other side of the moat surrounding the castle.

He told them he was ready to give his daughter to the bravest among them to be their wife.

The man who would swim across the moat would be the one to become the king's son-in-law. The moat was filled with hungry, ferocious alligators! To everyone's surprise there was an immediate splash in the water. In only the blink of an eye a young fellow emerged on the other side of the moat. He was wet and breathing very rapidly, but otherwise unharmed. The king was very impressed as he presented his daughter to him. The young man said, "I don't want to marry her, I just want the name of the man who pushed me into the moat!" The preacher thought of **I Corinthians 9:16** "*For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!*" Paul preached because he had to!