**The Student Disciple**

Q: Which is more important?

a. Being a good student/getting good grades/pursuing a strong major toward a career. or

b. Being a good disciple of Jesus/staying close to God/obeying him/seeking and saving the lost.

This is a false dichotomy. As a student, you cannot be a “good” disciple without being a “good” student.

In fact, arguably, there is no such thing as a “bad” disciple.

**I. Reasons to be a good student.**

**A. Develop your intellect.** The purpose of college/university is to get smarter.

Being “smart” is a good thing. Understand the Bible better. Become a more effective speaker, understand people better, better at life in general.

**B. Good students set an example**. Your evangelism is more effective and you can help fellow Christians more as well.

**C. Good students get better jobs**. More time for your family, for the church, retire earlier, can be used by God more, more able to go on a mission team.

**D. You are** **building your life-long character** now. Build well. Romans 5:1-5

**E. Because God told you to be a good student**. 1 Cor 4:2-5. Col 3:22-24

**II. Advice to students**

Let’s be real here. There are potential conflicts between the Christian lifestyle/commitent and what it takes to be a top student.

My principle advice. **Put God first AND Put school first.** This is NOT a contradiction.

Before the semester starts, look at your schedule. Block out sufficient time for classes, reading studying, doing homework. MAKE NO EXCEPTIONS and make no apologies.

My personal plan: 8:00-5:30 every day was devoted to classes, studying time, research (or work for undergrads). No exceptions. Ever. (exception for daytime Bible talk?)

6:00-11:00 I gave to God every day. No exceptions. Ever.

If I did not get enough studying time or research time, I went back to work after 11:00. I pulled many all-nighters. I studied on weekends.

You have to find your own version of this.

Other suggestions:

1. Choose your major carefully and early.

2. Shoot for an A in every class. No exceptions. Do not drop classes.

32. Get a good start to the semester in every class. The first three weeks is key.

4. Get in study groups.

5. Get lots of advice on classes and programs, and get the advice from people who know what they are talking about. (a mixture of professionals and experienced spiritual advisers)

Proverbs 11:14 For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.

Proverbs 19:20 Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.

Proverbs 24:6 Surely you need guidance to wage war, and victory is won through many advisers.

Pray (Illustration from my CU experience about a dorm room)

Discussion Groups:

What changes do you want to make? What decisions do you need to make?

What areas do you need to work on?