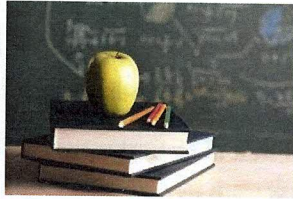




Five Back-to-School Basics

The beginning of August signals the beginning of back-to-school shopping, or at least back-to-school-shopping commercials. You may not know it, but whether you're a freshman or senior, you're going to need more than notebooks, pencils, and a strong book bag.

You need truth. Sure, you're going to school, willingly or unwillingly, to learn, but there are truths you need before the algebra, literature, and biology. While you should develop good study habits for the new semester, here are some real keys to the classroom you probably won't find in your syllabus.



1. **Thinking may be the most critical thing you ever do.**

You're going to school to learn how to think, not to pass tests. Whatever Christians do with their lives, whether we eat or drink or run a company or teach second grade or develop software or change diapers, we aim to do it to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). If you've tried it, you know it's rarely simple or obvious how that happens. It requires careful thought and discernment.

John Piper writes, "The well-educated person is the person who has the habits of mind and heart to go on learning what he needs to learn to live in a Christ-exalting way for the rest of his life — and that would apply to whatever sphere of life he pursues"

If we're going to apply God's word to the world, we need to know our world. Every chapter in a history book, every science experiment in the lab, every interaction between classmates is an opportunity to learn about the world God created — the place he especially put us to see him, enjoy him, and help others do the same. *Continued on the next page*

