

## Much to Learn

### *An open letter to myself.*

There were more complaints about a class I taught this year than about any other class offered at the Bible college. It was my fourth semester teaching.

How foolish of me to presume that someday I should be one of the school's favorite teachers. My first year I even bored myself in one of my courses.

But I offer no apology. If I had know how to present the material better I would certainly have changed my M.O. I walked into every class period expecting to draw my students closer to the Savior. I was as well prepared as I knew to be. I was doing everything I could to make my classes more valuable, interesting, and informative as I knew. I had already spent 19 years of my life in school and garnered a couple degrees. The majority of those years *[8th grade onward]* I spent preparing myself to teach on the college level. But some of my academically best students were so annoyed with my teaching style, homework assignments, classroom presence, and grasp of the material that they had approached the president of the school to intervene at midterm.

They weren't doing poorly on their grades. They felt they were simply not learning as much as they were paying for.

They were not trouble makers or malcontents or marginal students or lazy but they were terribly bothered. They gave me poor marks on their evaluations at the end of the semester, too.

The challenge is here. The challenge is great. MAKE YOURSELF THE MOST OUTSTANDING PROFESSOR YOU CAN, PHIL, AND DO NOT LET ANYTHING STOP YOU FROM DOING EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO MAKE YOUR STUDENTS THE FINEST EXAMPLES OF BIBLE STUDENTS POSSIBLE.

I accept 100% of the blame. If too many students fail, the teacher gets an "F."

*I never have been everybody's favorite  
but I've taught at the Bible college level for two decades.*