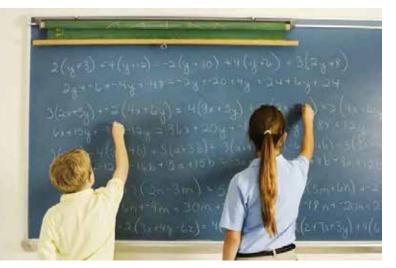
"Not that I speak in respect of want: <u>For I Have</u> <u>Learned</u>, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Philippians 4:11no2 KJV

One of the things we learn in life is we never stop learning. Every day we learn something we didn't know yesterday, but it is also true, that some things, no matter how often taught us, we never quite learn. The best way to keep knowledge is to teach it to another, but to teach requires diligent study AND practical application. This is why we have master craftsmen and apprentices. We know that reading about and doing something are two entirely different things. Most anyone can read



and understand a recipe, but actually cooking it requires skill only attained through trial and error. I used to like my Dad's scratch biscuits, but try as I might, I could never get mine to taste the same. They seemed simple enough, but I never LEARNED from him how to do it his way. Paul says he LEARNED contentment which suggests a time when he wasn't. Learning is more than acquiring knowledge. Many acquire knowledge of alphabet and language, but few ever LEARN how to communicate through writing, as we all know from social media and texting. When we bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others, we must be ever learning to refine our testimony. The eternity of others may depend on our continued LEARNING of Truth. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God." True learning requires a passion for the subject. Christianity is a relationship with God. Just as in any relationship, our knowledge of God expands with our experience with Him. He has given us a Letter containing some of His innermost thoughts of His Love for us. He has told us the when where, how, and why so we may truly love Him back. "We love Him, because He first Loved us." The more we LEARN of God, the greater our passion to communicate this "Everlasting Love" to others we meet. Paul was so passionate about Christ he gladly offered his life for Him! He wrote, "And be found in [Christ], not having mine own righteousness, which is of the Law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the Righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know Him, and the Power of His Resurrection, and the Fellowship of His Sufferings, being made conformable unto His Death. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the Faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a Crown of Righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall give me at that Day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His Appearing." Do you long to see the Face of God?

> I'm learning daily as I walk, The Christian Life is more than talk, For it demands my ev'ry love, Be for my Father up above. –CGP

John the Baptist said of Jesus, "*He must increase, but I must decrease*." This must become a fact of life if we are ever to truly know God for He will not share His Glory with any other passion you may entertain. God is not an accessory TO your life; He absolutely IS your Life!

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive Glory and Honour and Power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy Pleasure they are and were created." Revelation 4:11 KJV