

Getting Your "P.H.D."

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As most of you know, I just got back from attending my daughter Diana's graduation from Harding University. To receive her degree from Harding, Diana had to meet several requirements: first, she had to enroll as a student; second, she had to pay all the required fees; third, she had to remain a student in good standing; fourth, she had to complete the required course of study; and finally, she had to pass all the required exams.

All of us are working toward a different kind of degree: our P.H.D.--Position in Heaven Degree. To receive this degree, we also have several, similar requirements that have to be met.

First, we have to enroll in the only institution available to us wherein we can receive this "degree"-- the church. Unlike Diana, who could choose which school to enroll in, we have only one option. And God is the one who enrolls us (Eph. 4:4; Acts 2:41; Col. 2:11-12).

Second, the fees required are enormous. The entrance fee, that you are responsible for paying, is your life (Matt. 10:39; Rom. 6:11; Col. 3:3). But the cost of establishing the institution itself was even greater, and the tuition was paid for and given to us as a gift (Eph. 5:25; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8).

Just as a student must remain in good standing to receive a degree, so we must also remain in good standing (1 Cor. 16:13; Heb. 10:23; Rev. 3:11). We have to complete the required course of study (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 1:5-8; 1 Tim. 4:15,16).

Finally, we have to pass the final exam (Js. 1:12; Rev. 2:10).

Unlike a regular degree, the Position in Heaven Degree cannot actually be earned. Although we must actively pursue it. Nevertheless, it is an honorary degree, one which God will bestow on those who obey Him. Will He bestow it on you?