

Books/Study

The knowledge of knowing what is good does not necessarily bring about the good being done. To ignore this reflects on the pernicious sophistry of modern education which has, in the past generations, increasingly degenerated into mere instruction.

James Nickel

We tend to study all our disciplines in unrelated parallel lines ... We have studied exegesis as exegesis, our theology as theology, our philosophy as philosophy; we study something about art as art; we study music as music, without understanding that these are things of man, and the things of man are never unrelated parallel lines.

Francis Schaeffer (1912-1984)

Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.

Charles W. Eliot

About reading and the part it plays in the development of character and vision: I once heard said (not sure about the source) that a “man’s character and vision are not determined by the books he reads, but by the books that he re-reads.”

James Nickel

One of the problems with academics (and there are exceptions) is that they have very little experience of the world outside the “ivory halls.” Hence, there tends to be too much emphasis on theory (abstractions) or on “solutions” that will never work in the real world. Study the books but also study the nature of human interaction and the ways things unfold in real life. Then, what you teach will carry weight.

James Nickel

Economist Milton Friedman (1912-1982) once said that there is a significant difference between those who are truly educated (i.e., those who understand the why, the wherefore, the inter-relationship between the different branches of knowledge, etc.) and those who have simply been in schools (or, taken this subject or that subject).

James Nickel

King Solomon enjoyed everything, to the maximum, the accoutrements of this age can offer. Regarding matters intellectual, the testimony of the Old Testament is that he was more knowledgeable and discerning than anyone who had lived to that point. Please note: He was not better educated, but more knowledgeable. Sadly, it is true in some cases that the most educated people are the least knowledgeable.

James Nickel

The art of reasoning consists in getting hold of the subject at the right end, of seizing on the few general ideas that illuminate the whole, and of persistently organizing all subsidiary facts round them. Nobody can be a good reasoner unless by constant practice he has realised the importance of getting hold of the big ideas and hanging on to them like grim death.

Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947), Presidential Address to the London Branch of the Mathematical Association (1914).

There have always been literate ignoramuses who have read too widely and not well. The Greeks had a name for such a mixture of learning and folly, which might be applied to the bookish but poorly read of all ages. They are all sophomores (wise morons).

Mortimer J. Adler, *How to Read a Book*, p. 40

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I have always imagined Paradise will be a kind of library.

Jorge Luis Borges (1899-1986)

Any ordinary man can surround himself with two thousand books and thenceforth have at least one place in the world in which it is possible to be entirely happy.

Augustine Birrell (1850-1933)

Designing a library is one of the grandest things a man can do. But settling in to read in one is grander still. They are the epitome of civilization for they are the culmination of all that is good and right and true in a civilization.

Michael Graves (1939-)

It is an old and healthy tradition that each home where the light of godliness shone should have its own bookshelf. Blessed is the man or woman who has inherited such a cultural and spiritual bequest.

John MacLeod (1872-1948)

Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man.

Francis Bacon

The reading of all good books is like conversation with the finest men of past centuries.

René Descartes

In books lies the soul of the whole past time.

Thomas Carlyle

The man who does not read good books, has no advantage over the man who cannot read them.

Mark Twain

The things I want to know are in books; my best friend is the man who will get me a book I have not read.

Abraham Lincoln

There is more treasure in books than in all the pirates' loot on Treasure Island...and best of all you can enjoy these riches every day of your life.

Walt Disney

In a very real sense, people who have read good literature have lived more than people who cannot, or will not, read...it is not true we have only one life to live; if we can read, we can live as many more lives and as many kinds of lives as we wish.

S.I. Hayakawa

If we encounter a man of rare intellect we should ask him what books he reads.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Master those books you have. Read them thoroughly. Bathe in them until they saturate you. Read and re-read them...digest them...a student will find that his mental constitution is more affected by one book thoroughly mastered than by 20 books he has merely skimmed.

Charles Spurgeon

The man who never reads will never be read; he who never quotes will never be quoted. He who will not use the thoughts of other men's brains proves that he no brain of his own.

Charles Spurgeon

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If one must read only the new or only the old, I would advise them to read the old. It is a good rule, after reading a new book, never to allow oneself another new one until you have read an old one in between.

C. S. Lewis

Next to the Holy Scriptures, the greatest aide to the life of faith may be Christian biographies.

A. W. Tozer

Read lots of books by people who don't agree with you.

P. Andrew Sandlin

Reinterpretation is hard work, but a required work of the biblical Christian scholar.

Glenn R. Martin