

Southern Adventist University  
**Knowledge Exchange**

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The Main Thing Devotional

Office of Ministry and Missions

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## Made to Pursue Knowledge

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*“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect,” Romans 12:2, NLT.*

## **Made to Pursue Knowledge**

You are made for more. Made to reflect the image of God and this requires pursuing knowledge. Why? Because learning shapes what we love.

“Our ideas of education take too narrow and too low a range. There is need of a broader scope, a higher aim. True education means more than the pursuit of a certain course of study. It means more than preparation for the life that is now. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.”<sup>[1]</sup>

Essentially, true education teaches us to learn to love the things God loves. And since in Him, love and reason are bound together, it’s His desire for us to be fully integrated human beings in which love and reason are also bound together. When Adam and Eve turned to the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the garden, they rejected God as the source of their true identities. But generations later, Jesus rectified and redeemed their story and ours.

“When John identifies Jesus as the *Logos* of God, he identifies Him as the true knowledge that we all have rejected. He is highlighting the fact that Jesus is quite literally ‘the way, and the *truth* and the life.’<sup>[2]</sup> What the man and woman lost when they grasped for knowledge apart from God—what we each lose every time we turn to something other than Him for our sense of self—Jesus restores by becoming the perfect thought, the perfect wisdom, the perfect knowledge of God in human flesh.”<sup>[3]</sup>

This week, as you make The Main Thing, the main thing in your life, may you pursue the knowledge of God and reflect Him as a healthy and thriving *whole* person who seeks to serve the world around them with love.

## **Reflection**

1. Read Deuteronomy 29:29, Isaiah 55:8-9, Proverbs 1:7, and Colossians 2:3 – What does this teach you about God?

2. In what ways is God developing you physically, mentally, and spiritually this semester?
3. Reflecting on what Jesus has done for you, take a moment to give Him thanks in prayer.

## News and Resources

- Join us this week for Vespers in Iles PE Center with Joseph Khabbaz - doors open at 7pm.
- Find a meaningful sense of belonging by joining a student or faculty/staff LifeGroup today: [click here](#).
- Sign up for short-term mission trips during spring and summer breaks with Visions Trips and ERC using this [link](#).
- If you are feeling anxious or have recently experienced loss or grief, call 423.236.2782 to talk to a counselor on campus! (This is a free service for Southern students.)
- **Talk** with Chaplain [Anna Bennett](#) or [Joseph Khabbaz](#) if you need someone to pray with or have a desire to grow spiritually.

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<sup>[1]</sup> White, Ellen. 1903. *Education*. Mountain View: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 13.

<sup>[2]</sup> John 14:6.

<sup>[3]</sup> Anderson, Hannah. 2014. *Made for More: An Invitation to Live in God's Image*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 91.



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