



*“I Won’t Remove That Cross
From My Wall”*

Keeping Faith

August 2022

An associate dean came into Lynn’s office and told her to take down the cross on her wall because it was “illegal” to have any type or religious display.

That isn’t *really* true – when employees in their private offices are allowed to have something extolling their love for Tom Brady, or skiing in Colorado or their favorite comic strip – then they can also have something about their love for Jesus. (The legal experts say religious content can’t be censored when other personal, non-religious items are able to be displayed in a private office.)

Lynn responded to the demand by saying *“I won’t remove that cross from my wall – and I don’t expect to see you in my office anymore talking about this.”* And that was the end of the threat.

Professors – like each of you – face challenges to your faith. Sometimes overtly, sometimes not. Often they benefit from the encouragement and insight gained in small groups.

As Lynn puts it *“Being part of the faculty Bible study was the highlight of my week. I couldn’t wait to be with other professors who love Jesus!”*

This summer Steve has been writing small group studies for Christian faculty groups. Topics include:

- Whose glory do I live for? *
- Still loved by God despite my sin.
- Discipling others amid a hectic schedule.
- Loving proud and uncivil coworkers.
- Identifying opportunities to listen and witness.

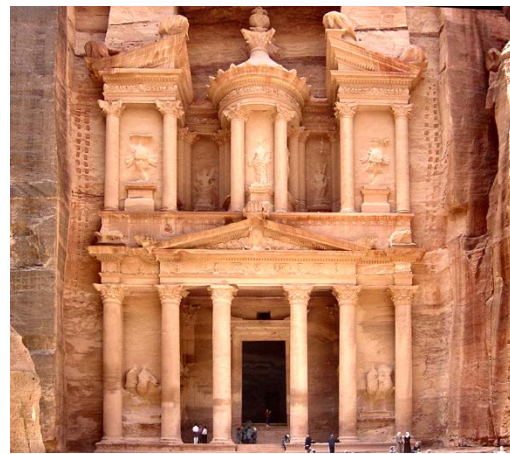


It’s a group effort -- Christian professors across the country who read these and offer helpful corrections.

*Below is the first page of one of the lessons if you’d like a peek at what they look like.

THANKS for making this possible.

Steve and Sarah



Whose Glory?

*“Ask yourself,
why do you seek the Cup of Christ?
Is it for His glory, or for yours?”*
---Kazim to Indiana Jones

Jane Tompkins taught English at several leading universities before retiring to Florida with husband and fellow academic Stanley Fish. She reflected on her teaching in *“Pedagogy of the Distressed:”*

“Whereas, for my entire teaching life, I had always thought that what I was doing was helping my students to understand the material we were studying - Melville or deconstruction or whatever - I had finally realized that what I was actually concerned with and focused on most of the time were three things:

- a) to show the students how smart I was,
- b) to show them how knowledgeable I was, and
- c) to show them how well-prepared I was for class.

I had been putting on a performance whose true goal was not to help the students learn but to perform before them in such a way that they would have a good opinion of me.”¹

Discuss:

When you reflect upon your own career to date, what do you consider your true goal or goals?

Any observations about your motives for those goals?

Can Scriptures like the following verses influence our goal(s) as academics? If so, in what ways?

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
1 Cor 10:31

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
Col 3:17

If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.
1 Peter 4:11

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

Rev 5:13



¹ “Pedagogy of the Distressed,” *College English*, Vol. 52, No. 6 (Oct., 1990), pp. 653-660