

Proverbs 26:13 The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.

There are too many people that make excuses for not reading books. Instead, people, particularly our youth, are entertaining themselves to death via the prolonged use of video games and other forms of technology.

Reading is a tremendous way to educate yourself. Many have used that medium to lift themselves out of poverty.

For example, Louis L'Amour for many years would read at least a hundred books a year—gaining the respect of the academic world. (See, L'Amour, *The Education of a Wandering Man*)

Education should be a lifelong pursuit. We should never stop reading or educating ourselves. It also needs to be from the right fount: from the well of a Judeo-Christian perspective.

Learning is an amazing gift. We have the capacity to learn. Author Walter B. Pitkin says the following about learning:

“Four levels of learning may easily be distinguished. They are:

Preventive learning.

Remedial learning.

Expansive learning.

Creative learning.”

Preventive Learning

“Preventive learning is the act of informing oneself in order to avoid some grave evil, such as poverty, personal disgrace, or boredom. Virtually all elementary school work is, at bottom, of [this] sort...”

Remedial Learning

“Remedial learning has been largely overlooked. It aims to correct an existing incompetence...”

Expansive Learning

“Expansive learning aims to enlarge a man's horizon, vision, and insight through mastery of subjects hitherto beyond him. The motive is not to avoid poverty or the mishaps of crass ignorance, but rather to digest and enjoy the fruits of modern civilization to the utmost...”

Creative Learning

“Creative learning carries us over into another realm. Now the learner is not satisfied to acquire what others have amassed before him. He strikes out for himself. He would discover facts and principles by himself, for himself...” (Walter B. Pitkin, *The Art of Learning*, New York: Whittlesey House, 1931, 78-79)

We must not allow the Trinitarians to do all the thinking for us. They write books while we simply read them. Too many of us, are too passive and somewhat dismissive about the subjects of reading and writing. It's time to study, read, and write. Our people need to have our thoughts presented to them in written form.

Yes, there are many lions in the way. When Elder Wheeler asked me to write for the Apostolic Voice, I was very reluctant to do so. For one, I barely made it out of high school. The pressure can be tough. The editing process is intimidating (it felt like getting beat up by a three hundred pound gorilla). I don't claim to be a writer, but for the benefit of ourselves and others, we should practice writing.

Pitkin says the following about those that focus on the lions instead of focusing on the task:

“Yes, there are lions in the path. Many lions! ‘I am too old to learn.’ How many people tell you this! And how many sincerely believe it!”

“‘I lack the ability to master that subject. It's miles beyond me.’ This is another lamentation.”

“‘I'd learn it, if I could find the time,’ say others. ‘But you've no idea how frightfully busy I am.’”

“‘If I could afford a good teacher, I'd take the subject up in earnest. But it's beyond my means,’ say many others.”

“These are the four biggest, fiercest lions whose roars terrify would-be learners. Age, incompetence, busy-ness, and poverty. Just how fatal are they?” (Walter B. Pitkin, *The Art of Learning*, New York: Whittlesey House, 1931, 12)

(Also See,

https://infusion.media/writing/you-can-learn-something-from-louis-lamour/?utm_source=facebook)

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