

PURSUING EXCELLENCE

Jared Neilsen

If you are going to claim Christ, you had better strive for excellence in everything you do. We live in world of mediocrity, where most people base the quality of their effort off comparisons to others. It's easy to start compartmentalizing Christ into certain areas of our life, or certain time periods of the day, week, or even year. God isn't interested in our devotion for thirty minutes every morning, or for a couple of hours on Sunday; God desires us to follow Him with every part of our being and our schedule. Mark 12:30 contains part of Jesus' response to of the question of "What is the important commandment?" He answered like this: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." Jesus covers all domains of our personal being. We are to love Him with our heart, that is our emotions; with our soul, that is our spirituality; with our mind, that is our intellect; and with our strength, that being our physical capacity. We can honor our Lord not only in our church services and quiet time, but also in our jobs, our class work, our relationships, and our athletic events.

Colossians 3:23 exhorts: "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men" (NASB). I Corinthians 10:31 says "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (NIV). These are a sampling of verses that instruct us as Christians to do our work with excellence because that will glorify our heavenly Father. How does this apply to us here at Montreat? It means that as students, we need to set our standards high, not for the sake



of getting good grades, but to be good stewards of the opportunity to learn and grow in knowledge. It means for those playing a sport, that you should not accept being average, but to be the best team you can possibly be. Strive to win, so that people may see your selfless efforts and glorify the Father. If you play a musical instrument, every minute of practice and performance should be done to the

best of your ability so your gifts may not be taken for granted, but used to worship the King. It means that for school staff and faculty, while you are at work, you give all of your effort and concentration into your job, therefore striving to make Montreat the very best higher education institution it can be.

If we claim Christ, it is not enough to be mediocre. Together, as a community, we should strive to make Montreat an institution known for having outstanding academics, beautiful facilities, excelling students, successful athletic teams, and a general excellence in all areas. This is not a perfectionist approach to life, in which you have to have all your ducks in a row or else...but rather we should live under the blessings of grace. We need to be striving to do our best in everything to the glory of God, realizing that when we fall, He is there with unfailing love to pick us up and set us back on course.

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

— Philippians 4:8

STRAIGHT FROM "THE TOILET PAPER"...

9/8 COFFEE HOUSE

9/14 DODGEBALL

9/16-17 LINVILLE GORGE CAMPING & CLIMBING

9/23 FALL FESTIVAL

9/23 BOULDERING - RUMBLING BALD

9/30 HOMECOMING COFFEEHOUSE

10/1 HOMECOMING DANCE