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Think Grad School, Think Cedarville

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THINK GRAD SCHOOL, THINK CEDARVILLE



by Thomas White

Last May, nearly 800 graduates walked across the commencement stage at Cedarville University. They graduated unashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, headed into the world on mission to stand for the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ. Many of them entered into secular graduate programs where their biblical worldview will be challenged by an opposing humanistic worldview. We welcome that exchange, believing our graduates are ready to face those and even more fierce challenges.

Even so, it's not a fear of losing the battle, but the lost opportunity that poses a bigger concern. Few options exist for academic training in graduate and doctoral programs that include a commitment to a biblical worldview. What if that weren't the case? What if at the highest level of education, experts trained students to deepen their thinking of how God's truth intersects with their discipline? The best thinkers using their God-given ability with excellence, in submission to scriptural authority, training others to articulate and defend truth. What would happen if Christian universities permeated the educational enterprise at the highest level with a commitment to the Word of God? What if every realm of learning embraced the supremacy of Jesus Christ? We believe the resulting throng of ambassadors would build platforms of excellence to fill the world with embassies of truth.

In our University vision statement, we state that we aim for intentional discipleship that transforms lives for godly service, vocational distinction, and cultural engagement. This is true for undergraduate and graduate students alike. We are committed to providing education at the highest possible levels, influencing the influencers through vocational distinction while creating God-honoring culture and unleashing truth on a world filled with Satan's deceptive, destructive myths.

Of course, Cedarville has already been engaged in this endeavor for several years. However, in our newly developed strategic plan, we have made graduate programs an area of special emphasis. Over the next five years, we will continue to expand our graduate program offerings in obedience to the Great Commandment — to love God with all of our minds, learning about Him, His creation, and His truth that shapes our existence. To love



God with all of our minds as a University means that we train students at the highest levels with crystal-clear thinking and pinpoint articulation to impact the minds and hearts of the next generation with truth.

Moreover, to love our neighbor as ourselves, we must first and foremost share the Gospel with them. We recognize that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). However, part of loving our neighbor also requires us to unleash eternal truth upon the weaknesses of modern culture. Such special worldview warfare requires special forces trained for the task at hand.

We have begun the task, but we have a long way to go. Included among our

graduates this past May were the first students who earned our fully accredited Doctor of Pharmacy. For years, we have trained students through our Master of Education and, more recently, through the Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Nursing. Additionally, this fall we have launched the Master of Divinity along with a redesigned Master of Ministry.


What unites these graduates and the degree programs through which they were educated is the reality that Cedarville University has always stood for the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ. We have demonstrated this at the undergraduate level with a Bible minor for every undergraduate major. We will continue this commitment at the graduate level with biblical integration in every discipline and by offering graduate programs in advanced Christian studies available alongside other programs. By having the proper faculty member to teach in these areas and the students preparing at this level interacting with the remainder of campus, we raise the theological and spiritual emphasis across the University, thereby bolstering our mission.

In the pages of this magazine, you will read more about many of these programs and, in days to come, you just might hear of new ones. As you do, would you pray for us? Ultimately, our desire isn't merely to grant degrees. Rather, it's to create sustainable, marketable, quality degrees that fit with our mission. Most importantly, we desire to engage culture at the highest level with the cause of truth. In the days to come, we hope that when you think graduate programs, you think Cedarville University.

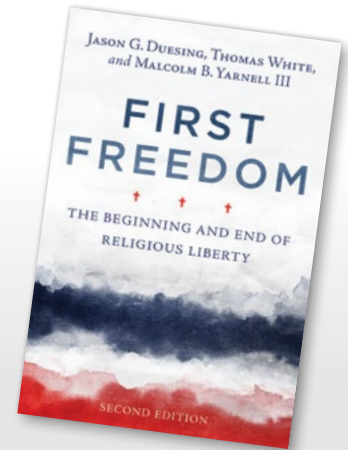
Thomas White became Cedarville's 10th President in 2013. He earned his Ph.D. in systematic theology from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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THOMAS WHITE'S LATEST BOOK: *FIRST FREEDOM*

First Freedom: The Beginning and End of Religion Freedom (B&H Academic) is the latest title from Cedarville President Thomas White. Released October 15, the new title sold out its first printing within a week. This thoroughly revised second edition explores the challenges to religious liberty resulting from the conflict of historical Christianity and a new, secular orthodoxy. In addition to editing *First Freedom*, White wrote the chapters titled "Religious Liberty and the Christian University" and "The Defense of Religious Liberty by the Anabaptists and the English Baptists." He and co-editors Jason G. Duesing and Malcolm B. Yarnell III developed *First Freedom* to equip churches, pastors, and Christian citizens to uphold this First Amendment freedom. Available at bhacademic.com.

"It is difficult to exaggerate the historical importance of the Baptist witness to religious liberty...The spiritual ancestors of the contributors to the volume would be as proud of them as I am grateful to them for placing their impressive intellectual gifts at the service of our first freedom."

Robert P. George
McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence
Princeton University