

KNOWING CHRIST TODAY

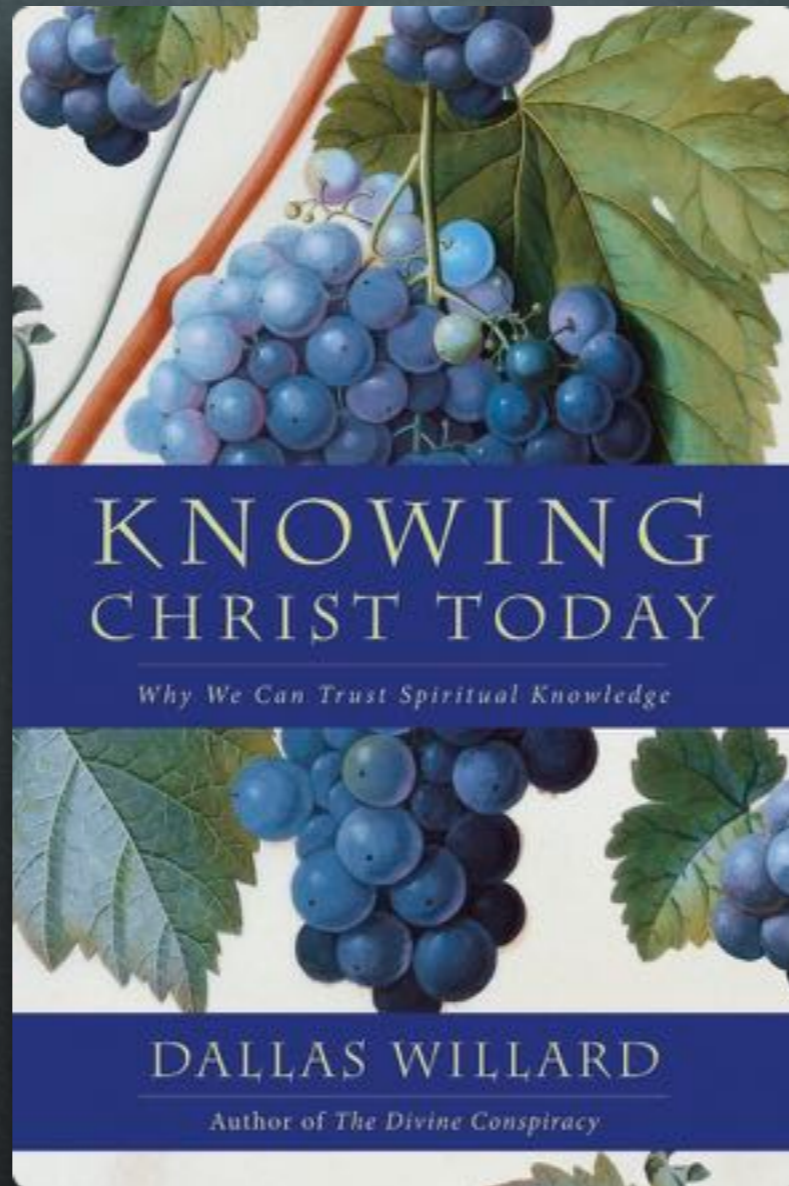
Why We Can Trust Spiritual Knowledge

The 30 minute webinar will start in a few minutes.
QUESTIONS/COMMENTS? Use the Zoom Q&A button.

COURSE INFO? info@JesusCollege.com

This free online Course is made possible by the generous partners
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WELCOME to an 8 week Course sponsored by
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College



The Course Vision

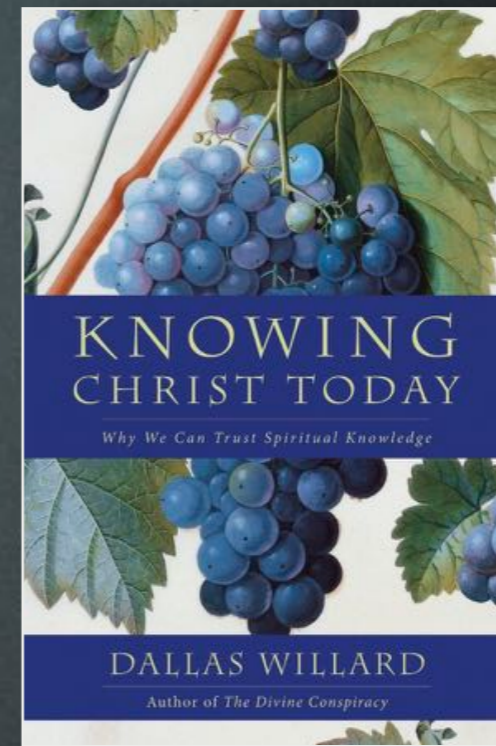
To deepen your interactive relationship with Jesus in the power of the Kingdom of God.

The Course Intention

- * Offer knowledge of eternal life
- * Proclaim biblical truth
- * Present Christlikeness training
- * Encouragement & Accountability

The Course Means

- * 8 interactive sessions with optional, extended Q&C
- * Study guide with scripture and spiritual growth practices
- * A Cadre of the Christlike from A-Z — Australia to Zambia



Format - 30 minutes

- Welcome, Focus & Review
 - Session Highlights
 - Your Q&C's
 - Summary & Blessing
 - — —
- After: Optional more Q&C

Recorded sessions, slides,
& study guide in the
[Jesus College Library](#)

Your Fellow Apprentice Doug Webster

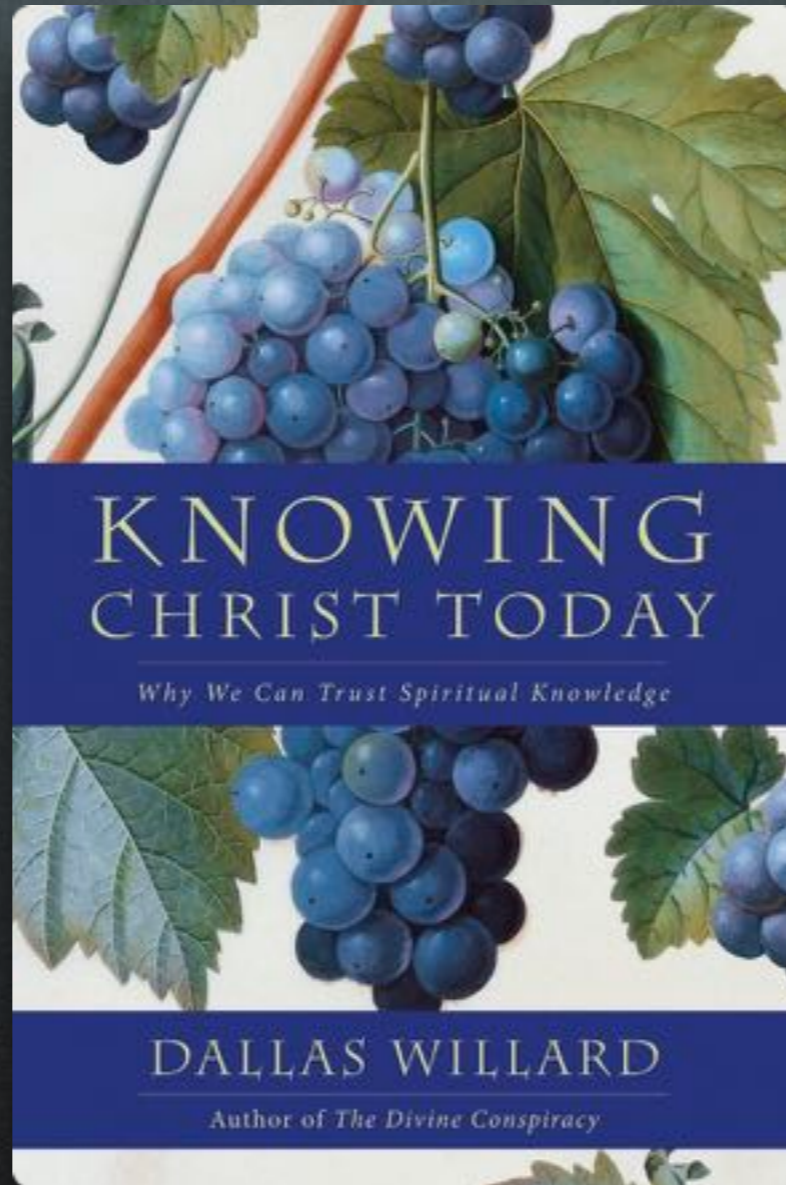
- * Following Jesus since age 14,
serving Him since age 18.
- * Vanguard University &
Fuller Seminary
- * Met the Jesus Dallas Knew 17
years ago
- * Started Jesus College in 2015
- * “Knowing Christ Today” is our
21st webinar engaging over 2200
participants from 43 U.S. States
& 52 Countries
- * Leading Jesus College’s
“Master’s in the Master”
spiritual training
- * A Blessed Family



KNOWING CHRIST TODAY

Session 1 - Can Faith Ever be Knowledge?

Chapter 1



p. 13-36

For the God who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

II Corinthians 4:6



KNOWING CHRIST TODAY

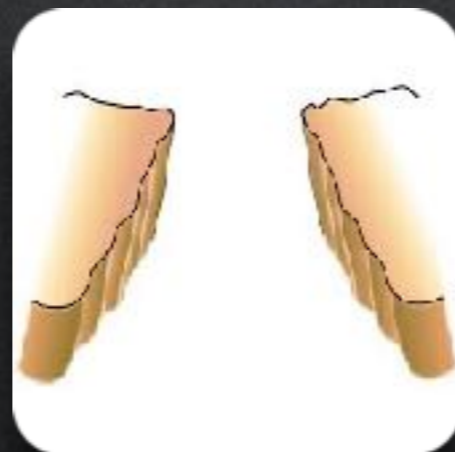
Session 1 - Can Faith Ever be Knowledge?

The “Profess—Behave Chasm”

For many, the teachings of religion are not possible subjects of knowledge. (14)

The difference between belief and knowledge is huge and affects every area of life. Not having knowledge of the central truths of Christianity is certainly one reason for the great disparity between what Christians profess and how they behave—a well known and disturbing phenomenon. (15)

Profess



Behave

Knowledge, Belief, Commitment and Profession

Knowledge (def.) — “We have knowledge of something when we are representing it (thinking about it, speaking of it, treating it) as it actually is, on an appropriate basis of thought and experience.” (15) (and 60, 71, 108)

Knowledge — Truth; Accuracy of representation. (15)

Belief — Tendencies; Readiness to act by the will. (16)

Commitment — Choosing and implementing action. (16)

Profession — Far from knowledge even professing belief. (17)





Why Knowledge Matters

Knowledge, but not belief or commitment, confers on its possessors an authority or right, even a responsibility, to:

Act,

Direct action,

Establish and supervise policy

Teach. (17)

Knowledge — truth by experience, method, evidence. (18)

The difference between “Belief” and “Knowledge”:

Knowledge makes true belief more

effectual, accessible, shareable. (19)

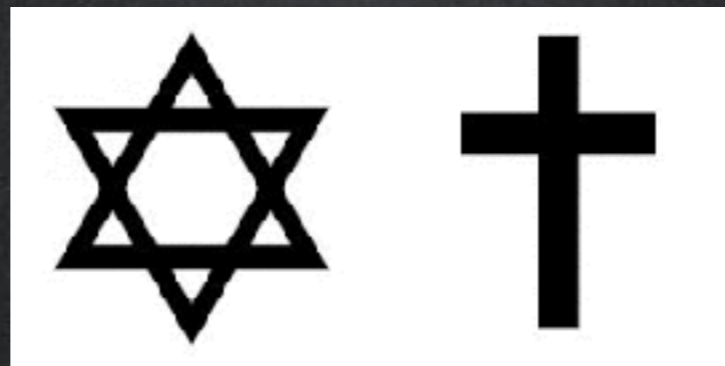
Religion Based on Knowledge

“What is real and what is right.”

Abraham, Moses, David — Faith based on knowledge of God

Jesus — “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” John 17:3

“Eternal life as a knowledge of God in Jesus.”



“Knowledge of what is real and what is right.”

Paul — “I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and share in the fellowship of His sufferings.” Philippians 3:10

Peter — “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, for His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.” 1 Peter 1:2-3

“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 3:18

We have knowledge of God and we can and should grow in it.

Your belief or “faith” is of little interest
but your knowledge puts you in a larger public context.

Influence — Right — Responsibility

*Why would one imagine religion offers only
mere belief or commitment?*

(22-23)

The Struggle for the Western Mind

The Church with traditional knowledge

versus

Science with modern knowledge

...leaves religion as mere belief or commitment.

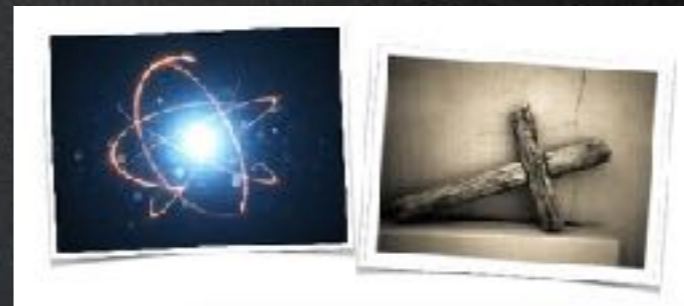
A pervasive mood of rejection arose and came to govern Western thought. The Christian tradition lost its standing as a body of knowledge about...

What is real and what is right.

No longer presumed (authority, right, responsibility) to direct action, formulate and supervise policy, and to teach.

(24, 17)

Even in Christian higher institutions.



The Struggle Encouraged by Christians

The Church conceded the field of knowledge to secularized “science” and “research”.

On the gospel of the left...

As an inner experience including morality until it became “social ethics”. (24) Religion and morality was divorced from the world of facts and knowledge. Religion became merely “political” - not requiring knowledge only advocacy and how to “win” for “your side”. (25)

On the gospel of the right...

Knowledge was “works” opposed to the miraculous work of “grace” which was supposed to produce belief (“faith”) without human knowledge or even in opposition to it. (25)

See Dallas Willard's *The Divine Conspiracy*, chapter 2 - “The Gospel of Sin Management”

The Rise of Tolerance Against Religious Knowledge

If you think you know what your religion holds to be true, as distinct from merely believing, being committed to, or professing it, you'll be certain — you will have no doubt about what your religion teaches. That in turn will, supposedly, make a bigot of you; you'll be close-minded, dogmatic, arrogant, and high-handed. You will treat “infidels” badly. People who know they are right, it is said, are intolerant, and when in power, they are dangerous.

Is the solution to the problem of intolerance to deny knowledge? Tolerance is elevated like few virtues today.

The recommended solution to the problem:

Make all knowledge tentative, open to testing and critical reflection, and religion and morality have no reality test.

(26-27)

Standing Against Arrogance and Intolerance

If faith cannot be “knowledge” or be certified by “knowledge”, it loses the rights, authority, and power over life that are always reserved for knowledge, and they're not applicable to mere belief or commitment.

Is it not true that the brightest examples of people who stand against arrogance and intolerance are, the most part, those who stand on the basis of what they take to be religious and moral knowledge? Wasn't that true of most of those who did oppose Hitler?

Do we actually find more humility and tolerance in those who reject the possibility of religious knowledge than those who accept religious knowledge? (28)



Genuine tolerance is...

...based upon assured knowledge of what is real and right.

Tolerance is not...

...a “leap of faith”.

...the lack of something.

Tolerance is...

...a positive vision of what is good and right.

...solidly grounded in knowledge of how things really are.

It has often been considered knowledge that all human beings are equally loved by God, and the call to tolerance was based on that knowledge. Such a vision, held as knowledge of how things really are, undergirds the possibility of a neighbor love that comes from the heart and reaches across all human differences. (29)



The Politics of Knowledge

Knowledge is political power to...

...lead and influence people, institutions, governments.

We are right to be wary of those who claim to know.

Joseph & Daniel were lifted from the level of slaves to higher positions in government simply because they exhibited important knowledge.

Who has knowledge of essential matters.

The relationship to truth, method, evidence, and life confers the right responsibility to ask, direct action, **set and supervise policy** and teach. It cannot *not* be political.

A battle over who knows not who has belief, commitment

(29-30)



Church & State

“Knowledge is political power” helps us understand why they were such a huge drive to rule religion and Christian institutions and teachings out of the domain of knowledge. By that move, religion is stripped of the rights and responsibilities that always accompany knowledge, and that would certainly increase its political influence.

Secularism — itself always posing as knowledge, usually by striving to associate self with “science” and “research” — justifies itself in determining political and legal processes and outcomes by stepping outside what is regarded as religion.

Popular media presents faith is foolishness, and certainly is ungrounded in knowledge and reality. (30-31)

The Significance of Separation Church and State

Christian faith grounded in knowledge and to be knowledge brings conflicts with basic assumptions of modern thought.

“Separation of church and state” in the United States really means religion does not teach knowledge of reality...only a matter of what certain human groups have excepted as part of their historical identity, and what (it is assumed) they are all to glad to force upon other groups and individuals as opportunity offers.

If Christianity offered vital and irreplaceable knowledge of reality, there would be no more talk of the separation of church and state than the separation of chemistry or economics and state. (32)

Islam offers knowledge of good, right, reality to govern.



A Most Difficult Problem in Contemporary Life

PROBLEM — Is there any way to retain a valid separation of church and state, as intended by [American] founding documents, without teaching religion as groundless or even foolish belief and practice?

SOLUTION — Christian knowledge and practice based on it.



Knowledge Alone is Never Enough

“Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.” 1 Corinthians 8:1

The best physical, chemical, and other scientific knowledge will not tell us what to do and who to be. We constantly employ genuine knowledge that is not from any of the sciences, and we could not live an hour without it.

From here we will apply the Augustinian formula,
Faith seeking understanding. Hebrews 11:3

It is possible, and a very good thing, to have knowledge of the same things we have faith in. Knowledge strengthens faith sometimes by allowing us to grasp an item of faith in such a way that also becomes an item of knowledge.

Knowledge can and often has laid a foundation for faith.

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” John 17:3

In my words in my discovery...

Eternal life is knowledge of an interactive relationship with the Kingdom of God as an apprentice of Jesus placing your confidence in Him, with grace and by grace, to be with Him to learn from Him to do what He taught to become like Him.

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

(Use the Q&A on the bottom of your Zoom screen)



Q&A



Whether you are in Southern California or South Africa, you are a steward of 10,080 minutes every week. If you spend 80 minutes weekly in personal study & group discussion on *Knowing Christ Today*, you have 10,000 minutes to flesh it out. Each session offers life application to enthrall your mind with knowledge of God and practical habits of Jesus in the moment-to-moment existence of your daily life.

80:00 + 10K

Meditation — 1 Corinthians 8:1-3

Application for Knowing Christ in Your Next 10,000
Minutes → V-I-M*

VISION — What do I see lost in my world when faith is removed from knowledge?

INTENTION — Do I have knowledge of the things I have faith in or profess?

MEANS — With whom will I talk this week about faith, knowledge, tolerance?



† Cross Fit

For more on V-I-M, see Dallas Willard's *Renovation of the Heart*, chapter 5



“Knowledge of Christ in Today’s World”

Dallas Willard Ministries YouTube Channel

8-session video series



Session 1 “Knowledge” — [Video #1, Part 1 0:00-32:00](#)

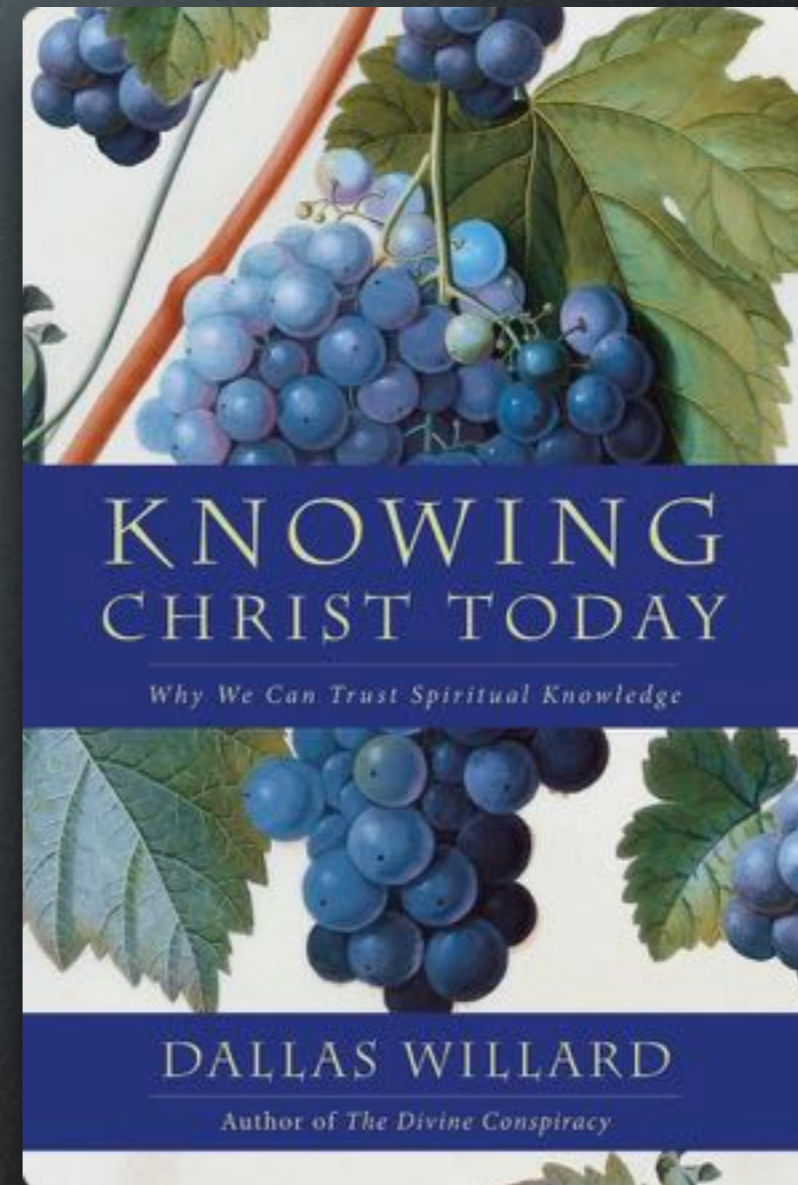
Session 1 “Church & State” — [Video #3, Part 1 27:00-31:30](#)

See the course study guide for full transcripts of these video teachings

Session 1 Summary

What is considered knowledge of what is good and right confers influence over people and systems.

Faith in God through Jesus Christ as knowledge to guide humankind to who we are and what we can be battles secular belief that true knowledge is based on “science” and “research” rendering religion mere beliefs (faith) not truth.



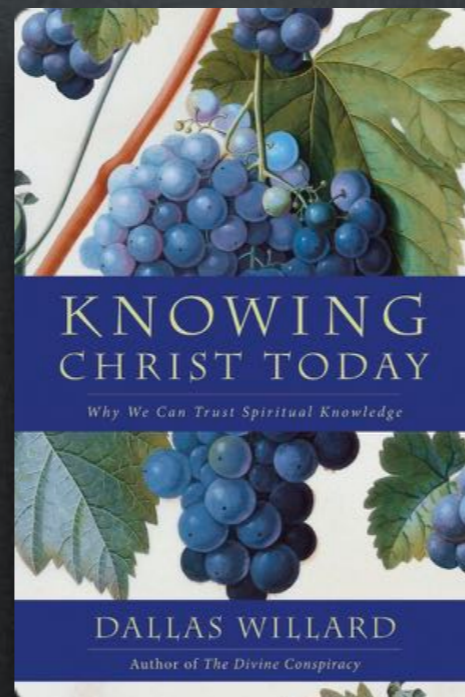
Next Week — Session 2

“Exactly How We Perish for Lack of Knowledge”

Chapter 2 p. 37-63

Invite others? Refer them to...

info@JesusCollege.com



In your next 10,000
minutes may you grow
in knowledge of
knowledge as you learn
from the One who is
truth,

Doug

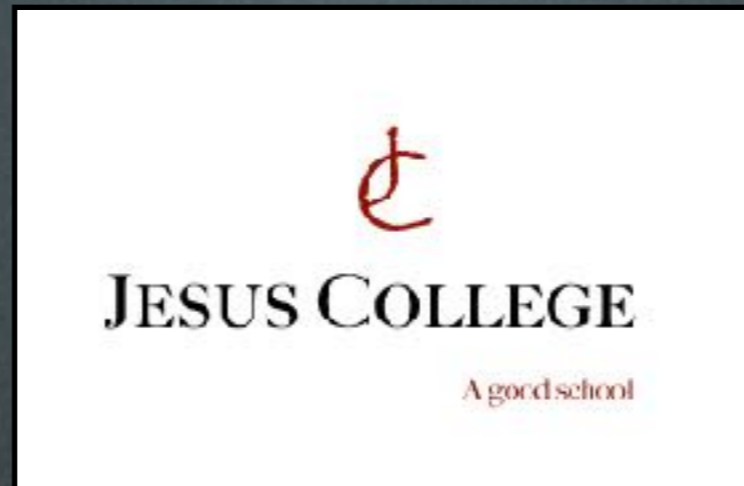
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“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”

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“Training to be proficient in willing the good”

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The Vision of Jesus College - To equip Trainers (Ministry, Business Leaders, Parents) to mentor Leaders (Senior Apprentices) to disciple Apprentices to Master love.

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