

PROCLAIMING TRUTH MINISTRIES
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INFORMATION ARTICLE
“THE MISREPRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREES IN
MINISTRY”
AUGUST 11, 2025

As pastors and clergy, it is our duty to lead our congregations in spiritual matters and to set a good example through our actions and words. One area that is often overlooked is the use of the title "Dr" before our names, claiming to have received an honorary doctorate. This practice has become more common, with many pastors and clergy calling themselves "Dr" without meeting the rigorous academic requirements for a legitimate doctorate in Biblical studies. As scholars of God's Word, it's important to examine this practice and understand the implications of misrepresenting ourselves as "doctors" of the faith.

The phrase "study to shew thyself approved" from 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV) reminds Christians, especially leaders, to study God's Word with diligence and integrity. The Greek word for "study" here is "spoudazō," meaning "to be diligent." Therefore, pastors and clergy should be diligent in studying the Bible and accurately represent their qualifications in matters of faith.

The issue of honorary doctorate degrees has recently become controversial, as many question the validity of using this title without completing the required academic work. Honorary doctorates are awarded in recognition of contributions to a field but do not carry the same weight as a legitimate doctorate earned through rigorous study. This is especially true in Biblical studies, where in-depth knowledge and understanding of God's Word are essential.

The Bible also warns against falsely claiming titles or qualifications. Proverbs 25:27 (KJV) states, "It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory." As pastors and clergy, our focus

should be on genuinely representing our qualifications and guiding our congregations toward a deeper understanding of God's Word, not on seeking recognition or glory.

Misrepresenting honorary degrees as real doctorates not only conflicts with biblical principles but also harms the credibility of those who genuinely earn their doctorates through years of dedication. It further devalues academic pursuits in Biblical studies, which are essential for the growth of the Church.

In conclusion, as pastors and clergy, we must heed the biblical call to "study to shew thyself approved" and approach the use of the title "Dr" with honesty and integrity. Let's avoid falsely claiming to be "doctors" of the faith and instead focus on growing and deepening our understanding of God's Word. By leading this way and studying diligently, we will be truly approved by our Heavenly Father. Remember 2 Timothy 2:15 and keep striving for excellence in our pursuit of knowledge and understanding of the Bible.