e-Pulpit

Furman University

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Recommended Citation
Available at: https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol58/iss1/13

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In the fall, Furman’s archives launched a digital collection containing more than 700 letters and sermons from Richard Furman (1755–1825), who was not only considered the most important Baptist leader before the Civil War, but also credited with the denomination’s endorsement of education as a formal element of its program. The collection also contains 602 letters and nine sermons from Furman’s son, James Clement Furman (1809–1891). James, a leading voice among secessionists, joined the Furman faculty in 1845 and later became its first president in 1859, serving until 1879. Though the university closed during the Civil War, it reopened largely because of James’s commitment. The letters in the collection deal with the university’s early struggles and triumphs, as well as father’s and son’s spiritual observations—some powerful and some prejudicial. We’ve excerpted a few here:

**ON RELIGION:**
“In a word, persons may be members by profession of the most pure and regular Church on earth; attend on all the Ordinances of divine worship, public and private, common and special; possess much knowledge; be eminent for intellectual endowments, and even for spiritual gifts; be very confident of their interest in..."
UPWARD MOBILITY

Mobile phones are embedded in Ghanaian daily life. This young man sells mobile phone units and mobile accessories, repairs phones, decodes phones, and transfers phone credits for customers in Makola market in Accra.

BILLBOARD WOMEN

Esoko provides mobile phone applications for agricultural markets in Africa. Studying mobile phone appropriation among Ghanaian market women allows an examination of how such communities self-organize with digital tools.

ON JUDGMENT:

“Bear in mind that those who are most ready to discover the faults of others are those who have most of their own.”
—James Furman, an address to the students of Johnson Female Seminary, August 1850, Anderson, South Carolina