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## Recollections for Bound Away

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Michael Megelsh

Like a majority of positive developments in my life, attending Liberty University was unexpected. My search for a university where I could pursue my master's degree in history was extensive. From private schools to large state institutions, I found an abundance of colleges worth applying to. Yet, it was Liberty University—a school that was barely on the periphery of my searching—that would offer a transformative experience. I was blessed to get accepted into the M.A. program just before my twentieth birthday, work as a graduate student assistant for the Graduate School, and learn from faculty I hold in the highest regard.

Did that mean my time at Liberty was not challenging? No, it truly was. Nevertheless, I view my two years at Liberty University fondly. My memories remind me of the Welsh world *Hiraeth*—a longing to go back. It was a time where I developed strong comradery with my fellow classmates and a good rapport with the faculty at Liberty's History Department. To this day, I am still in contact with fellow classmates and faculty even though much has changed in the subsequent years. The relationships and connections challenged me to grow intellectually and prepared me for my doctoral program and future studies. I think fondly of the special time that it was.

I took the lessons about history, historiography, methodology, and faithfully pursuing God's historical truth to heart. I am very grateful for the seminars I had, and I benefitted so much from what I learned. Liberty University's graduate history program demonstrated intellect, freedom of thought, and academic vigorousness that no other program had. The doctoral program I attended afterwards, even in the best of seminars, could not match what I learned, or match the free dialogue, that I experienced at Liberty. That is a testament to the people at Liberty—demonstrating knowledge and aptitude as scholars but also sincerity and humility as followers of Christ.