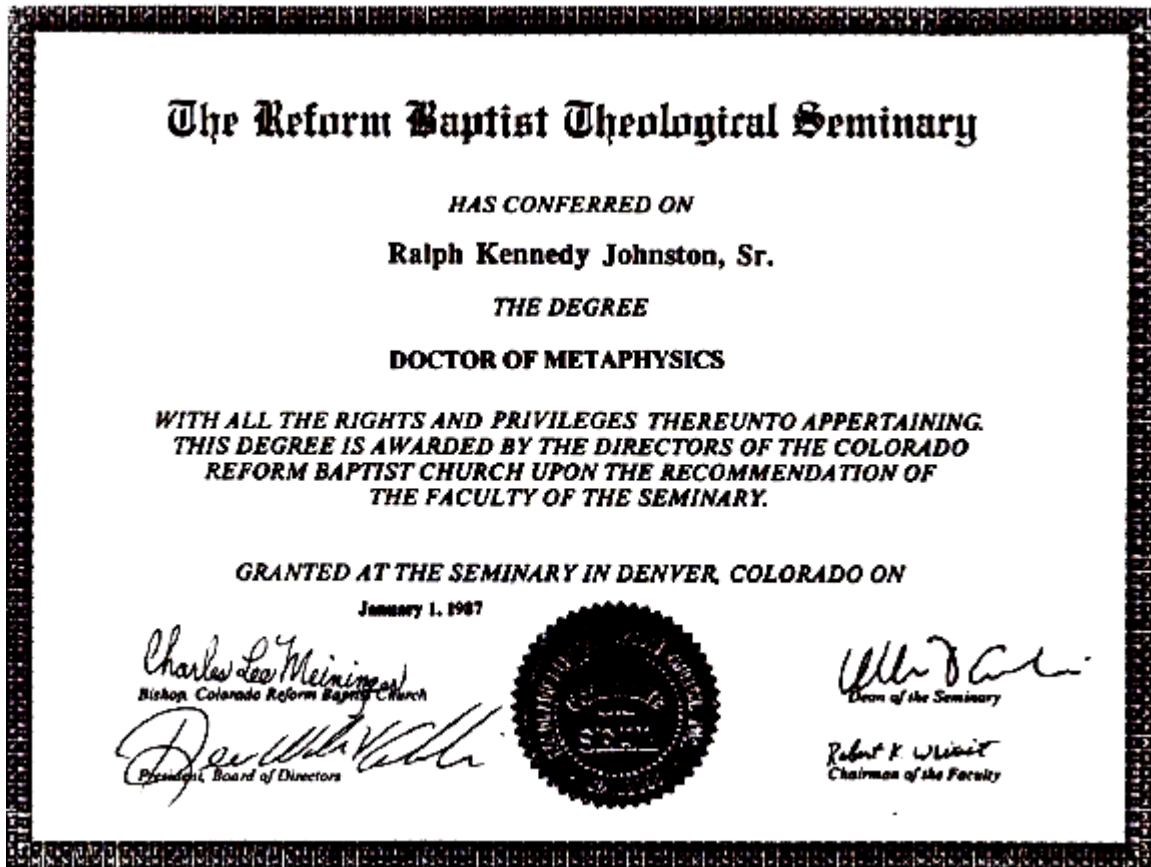


Ken Johnston's "Ph.D."

Johnston is frequently referred to as "Dr. Johnston". For the NASA "Solar System Ambassador" volunteer outreach program he listed a PhD in "Meta Physics" Elsewhere he has stated he went to the school to better qualify for space shuttle astronaut selection.

The 'Doctor of Metaphysics' certificate from the seminary faculty is found here: http://www.thelivingmoon.com/43ancients/04images/Moon8/Dark_Mission/deploma.jpg (note the misspelling of 'diploma', possibly deliberate to avoid a clear-cut false claim).



The issuing authority was identified as the 'Reform Baptist Theological Seminary', from a company named "Colorado Reform Baptist Church, Inc." This is a 'school' that when you google search it, it only returns links to Ken Johnston and a porn site and one or two generic Baptist seminaries elsewhere. There's no other trace of the school. Nobody else on the entire Internet seems to have cited it as a credential. Verify this yourself.

In November 2007 I located and talked with William Conklin, the man identified on the 'deploma' as "Dean of the Seminary". He gave me (and doubtless would give anyone else who called him at 303-455-0837) a much better understanding of what the piece of paper represents. To begin with, he insisted that a 'Doctor of Metaphysics' degree is NOT a

'PhD' and nobody has any right to term it as such. The 'school' was never accredited and never had any academic standing. He had set up as a money-making venture and operated for about a decade, in the 1980s. It had no campus, no faculty, no library, just an address.

Currently, Conklin is involved in various other money-making promotions. He runs an anti-IRS site (<http://www.anti-irs.com/>) telling people they can avoid paying the federal income tax. This claim is criticized at <http://tpgurus.wikidot.com/william-conklin>.

His description of the nature of the "Reform Baptist Theological Seminary" seems to meet the characteristics of a 'diploma mill', a mail-order certificate printing operation.

Many hundreds of such organizations have operated around the US and the world in recent decades. See Wikipedia's description http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diploma_mill and here <http://www.elearners.com/resources/diploma-mills.asp>, which states, "It is very risky to buy a fake degree, or claim to have a degree without having completed an accredited degree program. **Consumers with bogus degrees are liable to find themselves embarrassed professionally, or even out of a job.**"

Government agencies, in particular, have taken a very, very dim view of employees using such certificates in place of genuine, accredited degrees, for hiring or assignments or promotion. In practice this has been a firing offense for decades, or – if the certificate was falsely used for monetary gain (NOT done in Johnston's case) – criminal prosecution. Using such certificates to expropriate the title "Dr." is also considered fraud. Those guys mean business, as the web links detail.

If there remains any doubt that the man named 'William Conklin' of current anti-IRS fame is the signatory of Johnston's 'Doctor of Philosophy' certificate, see an interesting Colorado lawsuit involving the "Colorado Reform Baptist Church, Inc." and the "Reverend" William Conklin and his wife Mary Ann Tavery, at <http://bulk.resource.org/courts.gov/c/F3/32/32.F3d.1423.91-1376.html>

Further information was posted on a Baptist website in 2012. Poster "Jerome" wrote [<http://www.baptistboard.com/showthread.php?t=80180>]: "RLVaughn asked about the Colorado Reform Baptist denomination, listed in Melton's *Encyclopedia of American Religions* with the address P.O. Box 12514, Denver Colorado. That 'church' is really just an ordination/diploma mill—tax dodge outfit." He quotes from a 1995 article in the *Denver University Law Review*: "Conklin has been described as "'an active participant in a widespread abuse of the revenue laws through the promotion of mail-order 'churches'." Further: "Conklin had been issued a[n IRS] summons to produce certain records which the government needed for its investigation of the **Colorado Reform Baptist Church**. The investigation was initiated because the IRS did not believe the church qualified as a tax-exempt entity. ." The website had further links about Conklin's activities selling certificates, and first-person accounts of responding to ads in 'Mother Jones' magazine.