

A People Who Live In Light of Eternity

“Educating with an Eternal Perspective” -3 (May 30)

This Mornings Scripture: Colossians 3:1-3; Psalm 1:1-3; Jeremiah 10:2

REVIEW

- The great desire of God’s heart for HIS people throughout the ages has been for them to be a holy expression of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ in the midst of the pagan cultures that they have been set.
- Every community needs a holy, separated, Christ-loving and Christ-honoring church. More than anything else, America needs true Bible-believing Baptist churches in each and every one of its small towns, as well as its large metropolitan areas.
- We need to be a people who live in light of eternity, a people who are heavenly-minded; a people who are contending *“for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”* (Jude 3), a people who will *“be strong in the Lord”* and *“stand against the wiles of the devil”* (Ephesians 6:11, 12) that have so pervaded and permeated the day in which we live!

One aspect of becoming and remaining—for generations to come—an eternally-minded people who are “living in light of eternity,” is to be certain the next generation is trained up in *“the way that they should go”* (Proverbs 22:6). In other words, we need to educate our children biblically, not culturally. Our Baptist children need to receive a biblical education that emphasizes not only biblical truth, but our great heritage as a Baptist people.

- A true Christian education actually begins at the time of our salvation and continues until we meet our Lord Jesus face-to-face, either at our going home to be with Him or at His coming (2 Peter 3:18).
- The ultimate goal of education should be Christ-likeness (Romans 8:28).
- The primary purpose for the educating of children for Christ belongs to the family and the church (Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Psalm 78:1-11; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 4:11-6).
- A true education starts and ends with the Holy Scriptures (2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Peter 2:2).
- The home, the church and the school (if children are not being home schooled) must be going in the same direction and teaching the same things to prevent confusion and callousness in the hearts and minds of the child (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).
- A Christian education provides the *instruction* and the *inspiration* that enables a committed disciple of Christ to live in light of eternity (2 Timothy 3:15-17; Colossians 3:1-3).

This Week's Lesson:

There is so much in the Holy Scriptures that would caution us against allowing the humanistic and pagan educational system in our nation to educate our children.

- In **Psalm 1**, we find the warning against *“the counsel of the ungodly,”* which of course is just about the only counsel that is found in a secular humanistic institution, which we call a public school.

***It wouldn't hurt to spend time expounding Psalm 1:1-2 right here**

- In **Psalm 11**, we are reminded that if *“the foundations be destroyed”* there isn't much we can do.
- In the first few verses of both **Isaiah 30 & 31**, we are warned not to go to Egypt (the world) for aid.
- In **Jeremiah 10:2**, we are reminded to *“learn not the way of the heathen.”*

Almost 100 years ago, **J. Gresham Machen**, in his book, *Christianity and Liberalism* wrote the following:

Place the lives of children in their formative years, despite the CONVICTIONS OF THEIR PARENTS, under the intimate control of experts appointed by the State, force them then to attend schools where the higher aspirations of humanity are crushed out, and where the mind is filled with the materialism of the day, and it is difficult to see how even the remnants of liberty can subsist. Such a tyranny, supported as it is by perverse technique used as the instrument in destroying human souls, is certainly far more dangerous than the crude tyrannies of the past, which despite their weapons of fire and sword permitted thought to be free... God grant that there come a reaction... before it is too late!

In the late nineteenth century this was “prophesied” by a gospel preacher. In his **A.A. Hodges** own words:

It is self-evident that on this scheme, if it is consistently and persistently carried out in all parts of the country, the United States system of national popular education will be the most efficient and wide instrument for the propagation of atheism the world has ever seen ... I am as sure as I am of the fact of Christ's reign that a comprehensive and centralized system of national education, separated from religion, as is now commonly proposed, will prove the most appalling enginery for the propagation of anti-Christian and atheistic unbelief, and of anti-social nihilistic ethics, individual social and political institution which this sin-rent world has ever seen.

Hodges accurately predicted what would become of a government-controlled system of education that eliminated “religion” and allowed any old special interest group to have their say in how we should educate the children. According to Hodges, the eventual result would be *the greatest tool of humanism and atheism that our world has ever seen*. In the book of Isaiah we find a few different passages that would hinder us from allowing our children to be educated by the world's schools.