

The Voting Christian

By Doug Hamilton

Education

At the beginning of this series, we discussed that when voting for elected officials, it is the duty and privilege of the Christians in America to prefer and select the best possible leaders that represent biblical Christian values. God has allowed us to live in a country and a time to be in position to choose our leaders. For the Christian, it should not matter the party of the candidate or the color of their skin or their gender or their wealth, but the values to which they hold. They should reflect the values of the Bible since we are a people of the Bible.

In the last lesson, we looked at one of issues that should be a factor concerning the Christian's selection in an election...ABORTION. God values everybody's life for they are created in His likeness and image. He considers unborn children REAL people that are in the womb. They are the most innocent among us and deserve the same opportunity to live their lives that we also have been afforded. If we cannot value everybody's life, then we will end up valuing nobody's life. Society cannot exist if we fail to apply this to the culture.

If Jesus Christ were running for election, our decision as a VOTING CHRISTIAN would be easier. The reality is that imperfect people are on the ballot, not Jesus. And because we the Christians are a people of many values found in Christ, we cannot hold to any one issue to aid us in our decision, but many. Hence another issue that should influence the VOTING CHRISTIAN is the candidates' perspective on EDUCATION. This morning's lesson is titled: *The Voting Christian –the Education Factor*.

What does the Bible teach concerning our Christian education?

The Christian is taught that instruction of children begins with the parents.

- Prov 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
- 2 Tim 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- Deut 6:6-7 "And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; 7 and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.
- There is a natural responsibility of the parent to be the instructor of their own children. Without the early and continual guidance from the parents an educational system will collapse.

The Christian parent is told teach their children discipline.

- Prov 22:15 “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him.”
- Prov 23:13 “Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you beat him with the rod, he will not die.”
- Prov 29:15 “The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.”

The Voting Christian

By Doug Hamilton

The Christian is taught of the need to educate ourselves with a Godly perspective.

- 2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.
- Acts 17:11 The Bereans "...received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, {to see} whether these things were so."
- Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

It is God's design for the parent to be the primary teacher of the children and to take a great involvement in the educational process. God expects people to LOVE Him, to LOVE their fellow man, to LOVE His ways and pass those values down to the next generation. Parental-involved education filled with biblical instruction is a Christian perspective on education.

On the other hand, the majority of children in the US attend a government-run education not in the best interest of Christ and his values. When this occurs, those schools are doomed to fail. The problem is not that the teachers lack care or their budget that lacks funds, but their education lacks Christian morals. If the parents do not instill morality in their children, then where will the children learn it? Teachers, no matter how good they may be, have been charged with the daunting task of educating the youth in areas of values while being handcuffed with silence concerning the source of those values; that is the Bible and God. Politicians with an UNBIBLICAL worldview are passing UNBIBLICAL laws and forcing UNBIBLICAL policies and principles on government-run schools that are UNBIBLICAL in doctrine. They are pushing UNBIBLICAL political correctness rather than BIBLICAL principles in an effort to drive God out of our children's lives. Here are just a few of the educational doctrines being forced on us over the past thirty years.

Issues of a Politically Correct Education

- Evolutionism: the doctrine that mankind came from primordial slime
- Humanism: the doctrine that mankind can solve all the world's problems
- Relativism: the doctrine that mankind's beliefs all are equal in nature
- Socialism: the doctrine that mankind must be economically equal
- Communism: the doctrine that mankind is a ward of the state
- Agnosticism: the doctrine that mankind cannot know of God's existence
- Atheism: the doctrine that mankind has no God

What are the fruits of our "politically correct" initiatives concerning our children? Every day in America

- 2,739 teenage girls will become pregnant
- 913 of these teenage girls will seek an abortion
- 1,339 teenagers will give birth out of wedlock
- 2.7 million teenagers bring a weapon to school

The Voting Christian

By Doug Hamilton

- 288 teachers are victims of violence from students
- 6 teenagers will commit murder
- 22 teenagers will be murdered
- 11 teenagers commit suicide
- 2.5 million teenagers will use illegal drugs
- 2.1 million teenagers will use alcohol
- Last year nearly over a quarter million students received a diploma they could not read.
- We now have the lowest test scores, the highest teenage violence, highest teenage pregnancy rate, highest illiteracy rate, and highest drug use among teenagers of all industrialized nations on the planet.

When you take out of the school the source of our Christian values, you are left with nothing more than values based on MAN. *2 Tim 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.* Everybody wants the values of Bible without the Bible. That is impossible, for the goodness of God's word is intrinsic and cannot be successfully divorced from Him. If education claims that it is good to "love our neighbor" at the same time promoting "Survival of the Fittest" in evolution, default becomes that which is natural to the worldly man.

What was the intent of the Founding Fathers concerning education?

"The Old Deluder Satan Act" 1642 in Massachusetts

"It being one chief project of that old deluder, Satan, to keep men from the knowledge of the scriptures, as in former time...It is therefore ordered... [that] after the Lord hath increased [the settlement] to the number of fifty householders, [they] shall forthwith appoint one within their own town, to teach all such children, as shall resort to him, to write and read,...And it is further ordered, that where any town shall increase to the number of one hundred families or householders, they shall set up a grammar school... to instruct youths, so far as they may be fitted for the university." (Original Intent, David Barton, Wallbuilder Press, Aledo, TX 1997)

The early founders of this country knew that **<1 Pet 5:8 our adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.>**. They knew that he **<John 10:10 comes to steal, and kill, and destroy;>**. They saw how ignorance in the past caused abuse of the Church in Europe, so they aimed to wipe out illiteracy. They knew if the future generations of the country could not read, they would not be able to read the Bible. If they were unable to read the Bible, they would be unable to fully resist the persecutions of the past.

- Samuel Adams - Signer of the Declaration of Independence and was one of the writers of the Federalist Papers, cousin to John Adams: *"Let... statesmen and patriots unite their endeavors to renovate the age by... educating their little boys and girls... and leading them in the study and practice of the exalted virtues of the Christian system."* (<http://www.christianparents.com/jdewey.htm>)

The Voting Christian

By Doug Hamilton

- Gouverneur Morris of Pennsylvania - He literally wrote the words of the Constitution and was the most active member of the constitutional convention. He spoke 173 times while there. *“Education should teach the precepts of religion and the duties of man towards God.”*
- John Quincy Adams -the Sixth President of the United States and son of John Adams - *“So great is my veneration for the Bible that the earlier my children begin to read it the more confident will be my hope that they will prove useful citizens of their country and respectable members of the society. I have for many years made it a practice to read through the Bible once every year.”* (Halley’s Bible Handbook, Zondervan, Grand Rapids MI, 1962, pg 18-19)
- Noah Webster -Writer of the first dictionary for schools in America *“The education of youth should be watched with the most scrupulous attention. It is much easier to introduce and establish an effectual system...than to correct by penal statutes the ill effects of a bad system...The education of youth...lays the foundations on which both law and gospel rest for success.”*

This is not only an issue of primary school, but also colleges. There is a huge effort to secularize the higher education in our country. Listen to a few stats and tell me if you agree concerning this issue.

- 123 of the first 126 colleges in America were started by churches.
- Harvard’s first two mottoes were “For the glory of Christ” and “For Christ and the Church”
- Princeton’s motto was “Cursed be all learning void of the cross of Christ” (Dr. Fred Lowery, Tape Series “Family Values”, The Little Beige School house, 1992)
- Harvard, Yale, William and Mary, Brown, Princeton, and New York University were all started for the training of Preachers. (Dr. James Kennedy, What If Jesus Has Never Been Born?, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville TN, 1994)
- Most of the colleges required mandatory study of the Bible and prayer to be done daily. The instruction of Yale in 1743 stated “Above all have an eye to the great end of all your studies, which is to obtain the clearest conceptions of Divine things and to lead you to a saving knowledge of God in His Son Jesus Christ.” (Barton, David. Original Intent. Wallbuilder Press. Aledo, TX. 1997. pg 82)

This Just In (Jay Sekulow -American Center for Law and Justice: Sept 11, 2008)

- The University of California (UC) has decided Christian school graduates don't meet its required "educational standards." Under their flawed admissions policy, UC rejected multiple courses offered by Calvary Chapel Christian School and, therefore, would not consider their graduating high school students for admission. For example, a history course taught at Calvary Chapel Christian School was rejected for, among other things: failure to "teach critical thinking and modern historical analysis" because it "instructs that the Bible is the unerring source for analysis of historical events, attributes historical events to divine providence rather than analyzing human action, [and] evaluates historical figures and their contributions based on their religious motivations or lack thereof...."

The Voting Christian

By Doug Hamilton

- However, the federal court's decision to reject the Christian school's argument of discrimination may be the most unbelievable - and most fundamentally detrimental - aspect of this case. Imagine ... graduates from a Christian high school told that their education is not good enough - that their course credits don't count - and that they won't be admitted to college. The court's disregard for the basic rights of Christian school students is disastrous. It flies in the face of our constitutionally protected religious rights. This case literally has the potential to impact Christian high schools and students across the country - making it much more difficult for students at Christian high schools to gain admission to public universities and forcing Christian schools to consider changing their curriculum.

As Orwell wrote in his publication 1984, *“He who controls the past, controls the future. He who controls the present controls the past.”* Nothing could more true concerning how important this issue is to our society and political views. Those that are assisting in the education of your children and young adults play a big part in the generation to come. YOUR CHRISTIAN VOICE NEEDS TO BE HEARD LOUD AND CLEAR CONCERNING YOUR STAND ON EDUCATION.

Ask the following questions and find the answers concerning the candidates and their stand on education.

- What is their position on CREATIONISM and DARWINISM?
- What is their position on parental input in the public schools?
- What if parents reject a controversial curriculum, what should be their options?
- What is their position on private Christian schools and home-schooling? Are they hostile to this option?
- What is their position on vouchers for these private schools for parents who might want to opt for them?
- What is their position on sex-education? the Bible, Prayer and expressions of faith on schools grounds?

Depending on the answers you find about these questions and more should influence your Christian vote. It does not matter if you are voting for President, congress, councilman, mayor or the PTA, Christians should try to hold to a Christian perspective on education. There are many reasons why WORLDLY person will choose a candidate, but for the Christian it should be different. If you want a WORLDLY education, then choose a politician that holds to a WORLDLY perspective. If you want a politician that holds to a Christian perspective of education, then vote for a candidate that agrees more closely to your CHRISTIAN perspective. Either way, it is your choice and you will be forced to live with that choice and your Christian conscience.

ABORTION and EDUCATION, two of many issues the VOTING CHRISTIAN needs to keep in mind when they step into the voting booth. In the next lesson we will discuss the issue of MARRIAGE.