



THE BIBLE IN EDUCATION



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The Bible must be first in our thinking in regards to Education

This essay is about Bible in Education and I've quoted extensively from a book entitled 'The Place of the Bible in Education' which was written by Alonzo Trevier Jones. A description of education is given, both Christian and secular, going back to Socrates and the land of Greece. Of course I have relied heavily on my own understanding of how the Bible should be used in regards to education. We have an extensive background in knowledge and the Bible is the source of that knowledge. Jones traces the negative aspects of education down through history and how schools and universities have become gates of evil in our society today. Even the schools of theology today have been slowly affected by worldliness of education. Yet, one only has to look at history to see what this has brought society as a whole. Jones discusses the failures of popular education and some of the causes associated with it. The Bible teaches us that real truth comes from Jesus Christ and the Word of God. There are principles throughout the Bible that have given us the correct way by which to increase in knowledge, study, life and work. The prophets and Godly men of that day embraced wisdom, temperance, knowledge, morals, science, law, labour, history, science, reading, and writing like anyone of today but from Godly viewpoint. Jones says that there are things that should be taught in schools: psychology, morality, the Ten Commandments, physical sciences such as anatomy, health, culture, astronomy and medical. But secular education has become so anti-Biblical the ideals are a thing of the past. Even Christian organizations are so affected by this anti-Biblical secular theme, they have also closed themselves off to these things. Of course institutions and schools also should study literature, history, law and logic and they do.

So the purpose of Christian Education is to build up Christians. Christian Education is true to its name and profession only when it demonstrates the all-pervading power of Christianity as a vital element in the course of human life. You still get this in many evangelical churches today where it used to be in secular education also. But the west has a legacy of secular education that goes back to Socrates and Greece, of Plato and Aristotle. They developed schools of philosophy, metaphysics and other sciences that sought after knowledge. Their teachings were based on consistent scepticism and doubt. This is opposite to what the Bible teaches, where truth and faith are the basics of true knowledge. This Biblical knowledge is based on Jesus Christ for He is the Alpha and Omega that is the where with all of the knowledge of God. Christians believe that truth in Jesus and the proof of who He is, is in Him. The principle of true learning is in what Jesus declares, 'Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in nowise enter therein.' Paul said that

the Jews require a sign and the Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and unto the Greeks foolishness. Jesus' aim was to demonstrate a perfect knowledge of God's secret truths which were embodied in Him. He has shown that the wisdom of the world is nothing but folly. The world was shown the knowledge of God in the Scriptures and people turned to Christ but after a while they returned to the Greek philosophies which the author speaks of as a great apostasy. One such Christian by the name of Origen re-introduced a new kind of Platonism and mixed it with Christianity. This did tremendous harm to Christianity. This new Platonism was passed off as Christian knowledge and because of this; the author says that universities of today have become nothing but gates of hell.

Jones thinks that the Bible is no longer held in such a high place of consideration in protestant churches as it used to be and that is very true. I really push the study of the Bible in my life and to others in the church, but some just don't get it. Church has become a social club. Jones says that ancient philosophies and writing are now deemed higher. These are considered the 'classics'. Along with these, the educational processes now are largely analytical and critical; and these presuppose scepticism and doubt. The Word of God has been replaced by the science of knowledge of God. This is done by making the hypothesis the major premise of a deductive syllogism, thus we see that no induction can be established unless it is seen as highly probable. But 2nd Timothy 3:7 refers to this as 'ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.' Learning is not the end all in itself but learning should bring you to a relationship with Jesus. Believing Christians know that Christ lived, died on the cross, rose again from the dead and lives today in us through the Holy Spirit. There is no guess work in this nor is there any conjecture. The Word of God is supreme truth, knowledge and authority upon every subject that is true. It is the supreme educational book.

I have always marked life with God as either being religious or having a living relationship with Jesus. For many who only drift from God a little, it becomes religious instead of a living relationship. Pastors and Christians educators need to consider how Christianity can be promoted while education is being acquired. Faith is the major issue at stake here; faith in Jesus Christ and education must be where this faith represents its beginning, its process and its end. Jones goes on to say that this will bring about real Christian Education. In considering Greek education, it was the highest education ever obtained at the world at that time. But the Jewish teaching of the Torah and religious thought in many ways was its equal. Greece excelled in languages, architecture, philosophy,

physiology; more than ever reached by any other nation of the time, yet today both Greece and Rome have now perished before our eyes and all that it represented. Israel and Hebrew studies excelled in teaching who God really was. They revealed the very essence of who God was from the Torah. The state that is around is headed the same way. Many of the churches have already turned the same way. Yet, we see that the Holy Spirit is a live and well on earth and working in the hearts of people. There is no question about that. There are Christian believers that are making sure that the Bible is supreme in their lives. They are living and walking the knowledge of the Bible that provide us with principles to save the people of the world, especially in the last days from calamities and destruction that will come. Still, many Christians are indeed ignoring these Godly teachings by following the ways of the world. We even see these Godly principles throughout the Bible. We can see them in the Book of Daniel. Jones tells us that Daniel and his companions were very wise and cunning in all knowledge and understanding which they learned in their own schools of the day. They embraced wisdom, knowledge, science, labour, music, poetry, temperance, morals, law, history, reading, writing and numbers. But mostly, they were taught the Bible and seeking the words of God was nothing new to them. They knew that wisdom was the fear of the Lord and that in turn was the beginning of knowledge. And knowledge implies information which is acquired by thinking and application, by study, inquiry and search. Proverbs 2:3-5 says that if you cry after knowledge and lift up your voice for understanding and seek God, you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. Here we see that knowledge and understanding is a gift of God. The person who fears God will understand the truth of God in their lives. The Spirit of God is the spirit of truth. Daniel was skilful in all wisdom and in the fear of the Lord. This was the beginning of knowledge. Solomon was another person who understood things like botany, zoology, ornithology, entomology, ichthyology and meteorology. His wisdom came from God.

God has made our minds which represent the expression and thoughts of God. Humanity has the ability to understand God because of this and was able to communicate with God. It was through the mind that we have been given the ability to understand between right and wrong, evil and good. This has been from the very beginning. We know that moral science should also be taught in every Christian school. Morality and virtue are the same. We see that moral science involves character development. God made us in His own image and clothed us with his own glory, reflecting His own character. The character of God was revealed to us through the Ten Commandments of which God has also written on our hearts. The Law is a guide to us and is addressed to everyone under its authority. This law

represented an understanding of righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ which again is given to all who believe in Christ. This is why the Word of God must be foremost in any Christian educational institution. The Bible is a book of principles, a guide in the right way in everything that pertains to the life of a person. I am just amazed how many Christians openly contest certain things about the Bible. It seems to be in fashion today to insinuate that they are smarter than God.

In Christian education we need to understand our own body and how it works. It is such an amazing creation, that we can easily see the God of creation in His design in the physical body. It has long been known that a vital element in physical sickness is the mind which is often tied to the lack of forgiveness of sin. The relationship of sin and disease has been recognized by doctors and educationalist over the years. We see that God is the true physician and often cauterizes in order to cure and prefers amputation rather than necrosis. This involves a faith in God, a faith that works, not an airy, figment of imagination faith that prays and believes and sits around and does nothing. It is a faith based on the Word of God and His love that understands the forgiveness of sins. Oh yes, our studies should involve the physical sciences which includes understanding in dealing with occupations such as work. All people require honest work which is also healthy for the mind. Work is God ordained and applies to all peoples. Occupational training should be an essential part of the education process. Astronomy must be another required study in Christian schools as the Bible refers to the heavens and their glory and beauty throughout it. But these should be taught in terms of their made created origins. Even the study of plant should be taught as we are to understand how things grow even in how we grow in God. Jones also recommends that the English language and literature be studies in Christian schools as it is second to that of Greece alone in force and copiousness and the English of the Bible is the purest and best English that there is in the world. Other subjects that need to be studied are history, law and logic.

Failures in popular education is often due to societal drunkenness, gambling, bad government, crime, mobs and riots, poor reading, the popular theatre, medical delusions, and labour strikes. Schools have degenerated with the lack of moral teachers, teaching, enrichment of school programmes between the ages of nine and fourteen. But society has turned so far away from the enrichment of Biblical knowledge with the excuse of separation of church and state, but the church is no longer teaching the truth and for those who want to have been cut by the government. There must be new emphases on work arounds for churches to get past these hinderances.

Evangelicalism must have a renewed sense of the Bible being the centre of educational thought. Christian education whether accepted or not is still the centre of Godly understanding and the highest focus point in any faculty: physical, intellectual and moral. So, we have seen why we should use the Bible in education. It wanders here and there often not explaining or giving examples of what it means. Today, Christian students need this teaching but there is so much more knowledge today that is needed to work and live and there's nothing wrong with learning this. But there are schools of the Bible, very good schools and there are schools that prepare people in certain occupations. I once worked for a Christian institution that though by hiring Christians to teacher would ensure that Christian standards would be taught, but nobody told many of the teachers this and those very teachers only consider the teaching to be a job, not a change to provide an avenue to tell people about Jesus and his salvation.

Secular teachings today in botany, and zoology and ornithology, and entomology and ichthyology and meteorology is nothing new. For example, God gave Solomon the wisdom which he had and he knew about all these things. Christians should start with the Bible in all things and if other things outside the bible don't agree with the Scriptures, it is ant-Christian and should not be considered an educational resource. All knowledge should be taught in terms of God as being behind all creation.

Jones' article should be renamed 'the Bible as the Focal Point of Education' because the word 'education' can really mean anything. It is just too board a subject. I know that the Word of God contains everything that will completely educate us in an all-around, balanced life if taught properly. Even Jesus had vocational training while he was growing up. We see from this study that Socrates gave us educational scepticism. This scepticism has always been a thorn toward the truth we have in Christ and what He has done for us. We have learned to be sceptical with what people say today. We are told so many lies in life that you would be a fool to believe everything you heard. Yet, this scepticism is part of the devil's lie to doubt the Word of God.

We see that universities have already become wide gates to hell, the church no longer take the time to ensure those going to university is strong enough in their relationship with Jesus to with stand such adversities. They have not taken the time to explain the Holy Scriptures in a way that it is engrave on the hearts of individuals. This has indeed happened in high schools and universities, both. Teachers openly teach against Christ but yet explore and encourage students to consider Asian religions, cults and sex and drugs. We do live in a world where morals are associated with the Christian religion and anything that's associated

with Christianity is considered bad by many people. We know that the Bible is no longer held in any true sense as an educational book. The science of the unbelieving world, the philosophy and literature of ancient Greece and Rome, have a larger place, even in many so called Christian universities. This is also true but yet there are still many Christian Institutions proclaiming God's Word. Educational processes have become analytical and critical. Bible bashers of yesteryear must demonstrate an attitude of the love of Christ when they share the Gospel with others. Many have indeed learned this. All of the doubt and questioning where people are free and independent and follow their own lives is part of the age of modernism and post-modernism.

So Faith in God is a main stream belief in being a Christian and by far most evangelical denominations and schools still hold to that. Many of the churches has given religious teaching over into the hands of the government. Many have given Christian Education over to the secularism of the state. We live in a world that is becoming more and more evil where a lie becomes the truth and the truth becomes a lie. Fifty to sixty years back many western countries were sympathetic toward the Church but not now. Evolution is one of the biggest lies we have today where scientist no longer follow their own scientific methods. I have a friend who has accepted theistic evolution as a mainstay and there is no one to correct him. The church no long knows what to believe. The world has thrown together science and evolution which are completely opposed to each other where evolution stands in stark contrast to the Bible and what it says. This is where Satan comes against us in all of his power. The Scriptures are the source of everything for us, forgiveness, healing and life. In a sense, it does provide us everything that we need in life that is really important.

The author also said that for anybody to profess to believe the Bible for what it is, the Word of God, and at the same time not allow the Bible to be the leading book in all education, are things that don't correlate. I know this to be true but I think the author needs to provide examples of what he is talking about and distinguish it from places that do put the Bible first in education. That author does clarify this about two thirds of the way through the article saying that the Bible should be the major book in any study programme. And as far as Christian teachers, they should be tested in regards to what they believe for there are all kinds of things Christian's believe in that aren't necessarily Christian. I would recommend that you take this article out of DRE programme. The issues it deals with are issues that have been dealt with over and over again. It is not to say they are un-important but there are far more important issues that need attention. Thank you!

John Burn says that God has chosen to reveal the truths of the Scriptures to those who

trust and obey Him. God is indeed all knowing, all present, all-powerful. Yet today, many Christians are placing themselves in this point as becoming all knowing, all present and all-powerful. But God is the creator of all things in the universe. But this is even being eroded away as God's creation of the world has been weakened by placing an evolution creation in its place. But know that God is a God of judgement, righteousness and love. We are made in the image of God but we are often restless and rootless unless we have given ourselves over to God through Jesus Christ. The Bible has a saving grace and we can only make sense of life if we see our lives in relation to God and eternity. Despite our fallen nature, we are capable of reaching great heights through music, art, poetry, drama, science and acts of bravery and courage, deeds of selflessness but we are also able to do great evilness when our hearts are not in tune with God. God stresses in the Bible that the education process should be proactive and children are the responsibility of the parents for education.

But there is a crisis in secular schools of today and the fundamental issue surrounds morality and spirituality. The prime task of the school is to create conditions so that each individual child develops as fully as possible physically, mentally, morally and spiritually. Staff must be appraised on a regular basis and reports of children's progress should be provided to parents regularly. This is also being eroded away. The teacher has a huge role in all of this but these days secular thinking in schools encourage negative aspects of teaching on sex and various other points. There is a lack of discipline, order and respect and without this there can be no genuine learning and development. A Christian based school must have order at its heart. Biblical discipline helps with true creativity. God has given authority to parents and teachers which must not be exercised harshly or unreasonably. But more than anything the ethos of a school must be based on biblical principles. Truth, justice, mercy and love will characterise the ethos of the school along with practical love and care shown for every single individual. Positive moral teaching will be at the heart of every school instead of relativism and subjectivism where students are taught there are no moral absolutes and there's truth in each of us in what we think. Education should of course provide skills of stewardship where we can live within society. The true nature of human beings lie in the fact that we are made in the image of a good, holy, just and living God and we reflect something of God's nature who is wholly perfect and righteous and eternal. We must remember that human beings are far above all other creatures in creation. We have the potential to communicate with clarity and meaning by way of language. The rationale for school curriculum should include things like art, literature, poetry, drama, music, dance, technology and physical education, Christianity

and moral education along with English, foreign languages, mathematics, history, geography and the sciences.

Someone must teach right and wrong and truth and our need to be right with God. Evangelical preachers are the only ones doing this. Secular schools say that there is no right or wrong. They have reclassified what as being right and being right wing. However, there is still freedom to individually teach that people have the chance to be saved through the grace of Jesus Christ. And also we live in an age of inclusiveness where all religions lead supposedly to salvation and subjectivism where everybody has their own meanings and they are equally important and acceptable to everyone else. And we have relativism that says there are no absolutes of any kind. But as Christians we must step out to teach children adults and society about God's words on these issues. We must forcibly stand up to the evilness in the world around us. We must still teach that marriage should be understood as a life commitment. Abortion and euthanasia goes against the commands of God and children should be taught in terms of positive, wholesome and uplifting contexts. Children should be encouraged in positive and good thoughts and impulses rather than the opposite. All of this is becoming contrary to present day teaching in society.

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