

“TEACH YOUR CHILDREN”  
Jeremiah 31:27-34, Psalm 119:97-105, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5  
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When I was in school-granted that was more than a few years ago-we began our day in homeroom with a short reading from the Bible and a reciting of the Lord’s Prayer and the pledge of Allegiance led by volunteer students. It really bothered me when Prayer was taken out of the classroom and out of almost if not all, schools and school events.

While on the internet, I accidentally found an article by Thomas Horn, a long time TV Radio personality, author and publisher. What I have to say today was a result of that article entitled “Persecution of Christians Growing in the US”. This article was published in February 2001 and seemed to me to be prophetic of the future of Christianity in the US-supposedly the epitome of religious freedom in the world.

Newsweek had an article entitled, “No Allusions in the Classroom.” Here are some responses from HS students from one of the better schools in the nation to a short quiz on the Bible.

- 1.) Sodom and Gomorrah were lovers.
- 2.) The N.T. was written by Matthew, Mark, Luther and John.
- 3.) Eve was created from an apple.
- 4.) Jesus was baptized by Moses.
- 5.) Golgotha was the name of the giant who slew the apostle David.

Someone once asked, “What is the difference between ignorance and apathy?” A man replied, “I don’t know and I don’t care.” And that is about how it is when it comes to many people to the Word of God. “I don’t know anything about the Bible and I don’t care.” How sad.

Christian Solidarity International says “More Christians died for their faith in the 20th century than at any other time in history”. Reports indicate that over 150m Christians were martyred, chiefly outside of the United States. However, statistics are changing, persecution of Christians is on the increase in the United States. Why? Tolerance of anti-Christian attitudes in the United States is escalating. Recently, a woman in Houston was ordered by local police to stop handing out gospel tracts to children who knocked on her door during Halloween. Officers informed her that such activity is illegal, and that she would be arrested if she continued.

The entertainment industry and syndicated media increasingly vilify Christians as sewer rats, vultures, and simple-minded social ingrates. The FBI and the Clinton White House branded fundamentalist Christian groups as hate mongers and potential terrorists. And if you think that this does not concern you because it is elsewhere, in Madison, the Freedom from Religion Foundation distributed anti-Christian pamphlets entitled, “We Can Be Good Without God” to public school children. Is it any wonder that some Christians fear that speaking openly about their religious beliefs will soon be considered a crime? All this, while Christianity itself is often a target of hate-crime violence.

Manly P. Hall once wrote, “There are the invisible powers behind the thrones of earth, and men are but marionettes, dancing while the invisible ones pulls the strings.” Satan’s string pullers

have patiently manipulated architects of American society for over five decades, weaving both visible and invisible domains to discredit Christian causes. Indicators reveal the propaganda blame-game against believers is working.

Even a casual observance of the facts reveals growing isolation of Christians as a people group, especially school age believers. Faculty and peer efforts to convince public school children that America was not founded on Christian ideals, and that our forefathers actually wanted a secular society, permeates public school interaction. History revisionists work to eliminate any and all Christian historical evidence from public school curriculum, and mockingly stereotype Christians as unenlightened fringe. A few years ago, Dr. Paul Vitz, then professor of psychology at New York University, worked with a committee that examined sixty social studies and history textbooks used in public schools across the nation. The committee was amazed to find that almost every reference to the Christian influence of early America was removed. Their conclusion: the writers of the commonly used textbooks exhibited paranoia of the Christian religion and intentionally censored Christianity's positive role in American history. Intolerant, Christ-hating censors of religious expression target the media and public-school curriculum because this is the best place, outside of the churches and families, to indoctrinate children and thus manipulate the future political and cultural landscapes. If one succeeds in separating Godly principles from public education and the media, they deny citizens the knowledge of good and keep them from embracing the laws of God. To that extent, they are pawns of evil and subvert and destroy both the message and the messengers of righteousness.

In an article entitled "Our Violent Kids," Time Magazine reported "an upsurge in the most violent types of crimes by teens." The article stated "through television, by the age of 16, the typical child has witnessed an estimated 200,000 acts of violence, including 33,000 murders." A major study by Dr. Brandon Centerwell of the University of Washington concludes that "exposure to television" is related to approximately one-half of the homicides committed in the United States, or approximately 10,000 homicides per year. Exposure to television and other forms of propaganda is also related to a majority of rapes, assaults and acts of violence according to the study.

Censoring the Christian model and denigrating biblical values has resulted in a generation where every day in the US:

1. 437 children are arrested for drinking or drunk driving
2. 211 children are arrested for drug abuse
3. 1,629 children are in adult jails
4. 30 children are wounded by guns
5. 10 children are killed by guns

And remember, these are statistics from 2001. What do you suppose those numbers would be now almost 20 years later? Social scientists claim this generation's inability to define absolutes, and a growing pattern of anti-Christian behavior, may ultimately result in the collapse of the American superstructure, as the redefining of the family unit and abandonment of biblical standards of morality come to their dangerous and natural conclusion.

History students compare the French Revolution and the horror of persecution and torture with the Revolutionary War in America that resulted in unprecedented cultural and monetary success.

While citizens in America rejoiced in newfound religious liberty and freedom, more than twenty thousand people died in Paris's guillotines. The years to follow in France brought a reign of terror leading up to totalitarian rule and Napoleon.

Why were the American and French Revolutions followed by such contrasting social conclusions? The difference was that the American Revolution was fought on Christian principles, while the French Revolution was anti-God. The forces behind the French Revolution were out to eliminate Christianity as the enemy of France. The God of the Bible was proclaimed dead. Soon afterward, the French government collapsed.

Is the process of gradualism taking modern America down a similar path? For the past five decades Americans have allowed the liberal Left to defend the use of public funds for pornography, explicit sex education, and anti-Christian curricula. The Hollywood elite have denigrated Christian values and mocked the virtues of purity. The highest courts in the land have ruled with contemptuous decree against God, against prayer, and against the free expression of religion. Is it any wonder we have become one of the most profane and violent societies in the industrialized world?

America's Founding Fathers understood that all government is based on either a theistic or anti-theistic foundation. Experts of history have understood that countries whose systems of government embrace national anti-theistic views ultimately come to ruin. Strong religious convictions therefore played a role in the development of the US, which was established on Christian principles and open to all people of good will. In 1892 this was argued before the Supreme Court of the United States. After exhaustive deliberation, the Court said, "Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based upon and embody the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind. [It is] impossible that it should be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian."

Quite a difference from the modern Supreme Courts that have taken pray out of schools, the 10 Commandments out of public places, censored out Christmas greetings and passed laws that proclaim evil good and good evil.

A nation whose laws and institutions are based on the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind. Such a place would surely become the leader in education, invention, and the arts, and would probably become a haven of religious liberty for more types and religions of people than has ever existed anywhere or at any time on earth. Instead of religious persecution and intolerance, such a place would offer hope and opportunity.

So based on these words, what are we to do? Well, I would suggest that the Bible is God's textbook for us! A textbook in which we see God's heart more clearly than anywhere else. We see the depth of his love and his care and mercy. So, I want to encourage you to learn more about God by spending time with God's incredible textbook, the Bible.

We have some pretty good examples of why regular Bible reading is important. Martin Luther said, "For some years now, I have read through the Bible twice every year. If you picture the

Bible to be a mighty tree and every word a little branch, I have shaken every one of these branches because I wanted to know what it was and what it meant.”

Why do you suppose that Luther loved the Bible so much? When Luther had questions or issues that troubled him, he came to the Bible expecting to find an answer. He said, “For twenty-eight years, since I became a doctor, I have constantly read and preached the Bible; and yet I have not exhausted it but find something new in it every day.” Ultimately, though, Martin Luther loved the Bible because it was there that he had found Jesus Christ.

Let’s take a few minutes to look at the kind of things that God says about his Word. As we heard in the Psalm reading earlier-“I have greater insight than all my teachers because I contemplate your laws”.

In Isaiah 40:8, the prophet writes: “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God stands forever”. In this world of anti-Christianity, we need something that is a sure thing; something on which we can pin our hopes and on which we can count. God’s Word will never pass away.

In Jeremiah 31:33-34, “I will put my instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people. They will no longer need to teach each other to say, “Know the Lord!” God’s Word has such power. It will make a difference. We saw how He made the heavens and the earth with it. He will also send his Word to penetrate our hearts and build his Kingdom there!

Jesus also assures us that even though the world around us is crumbling and it seems as if the entire world is coming to an end, the Word of God will prevail. Matthew 24:35: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

God’s Word can help us to understand our hearts, our inclinations and our understandings. The writer of Hebrews (4:12) says: “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart”.

But most importantly, God’s Word points us to the love of God – to the Cross – to our salvation thru Christ Jesus. Paul writes in 2 Timothy 3:15. “You have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus”. The Bible has come to us at great cost and may cost a great deal more in the future. Not only Luther, but other reformers risked life and limb to bring to us God’s Word. Today, we can receive God’s Word in so many ways. We are blessed beyond so many of God’s people throughout the ages! It is almost amazing if we don’t make time to engage God through his Word!

I have a great deal of admiration for NO Saints quarterback Drew Brees. If you kept up with the “Bring Your Bible to School” campaign, you will remember that Mr. Brees did not find himself in any legal trouble, but he did receive a backlash just for recording a promotional video for the event. Both the Freedom from Religion Foundation and The First Liberty Institute on First Amendment issues-2 groups representing opposite sides of religious freedom- agree that it is not

illegal to bring your bibles to school, to read them in free time or use them as reference material. Yet there are cases of kids being humiliated for reading the Bible during free time and being told that only books on the “approved” list could be read in the school or being reprimanded for using John 3:16 in a class assignment. Isaiah 5:20 says, “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness”.

So, how dusty is your Bible? Do your children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren ever see you reading it? With all the negativeness we see in our world today, perhaps you are the only hope they have for a Christian education. So dust off that Bible and get into God’s Word. Teach your children about God because it seems no one else will. Church classrooms stand empty on Sunday mornings because there are not have enough children in our churches. Is this the product of the last 5 decades of the lack of Christian teachings or political correctness?

I hope that this has served as an encouragement to you to open your Bibles; to bring it to Church; to study it. It will give you the basis to be strong and courageous in the face of the current anti-Christian atmosphere of our world. Maybe seeing us taking advantage of God’s textbook will counteract some of the efforts by the Secular society to turn our children from God. Let me encourage you to open your Bible and study it diligently, because it is your time with Christ and as Hebrews 4:13 states, “This is the God to whom we must explain all that we have done”. And I would add---and what we have not done. Amen.