

The value of a Christian EDUCATION

— by Peter Hammond

A Christian education is invaluable, it will create an environment of respect for God, for His Word and for authority. It will lay foundations of discipline, moral values and a work ethic that will prepare a student for life. Christianity is a tremendous force for education; it has been the greatest catalyst for promoting literacy worldwide throughout history.

Christianity revolutionised education by making it available to all classes and to both genders. Christians were the first to advocate universal education.

The very name, universities, confirms their Christian origin. *Uni Veritas* means 'one Truth'. It was the Christian monks and missionaries who disciplined Europe, who established the first universities in Paris, Oxford and Cambridge.

The greatest invention in the field of human learning, Johannes Gutenberg's printing press, was also a fruit of the Christian faith. The first book to be printed off Gutenberg's press was the Bible. Education for the deaf and the blind was pioneered by Christians. The Braille alphabet was

developed by a dedicated Christian, Louis Braille, in order to enable blind people to read with their fingers.

It is therefore ironic that so many in education today are so hostile towards Christianity. Perhaps they are ignorant of the Christian roots of universal education for all classes and both genders, and the incomparable contribution of Christianity toward worldwide literacy, graded education and higher education.

A BATTLEGROUND

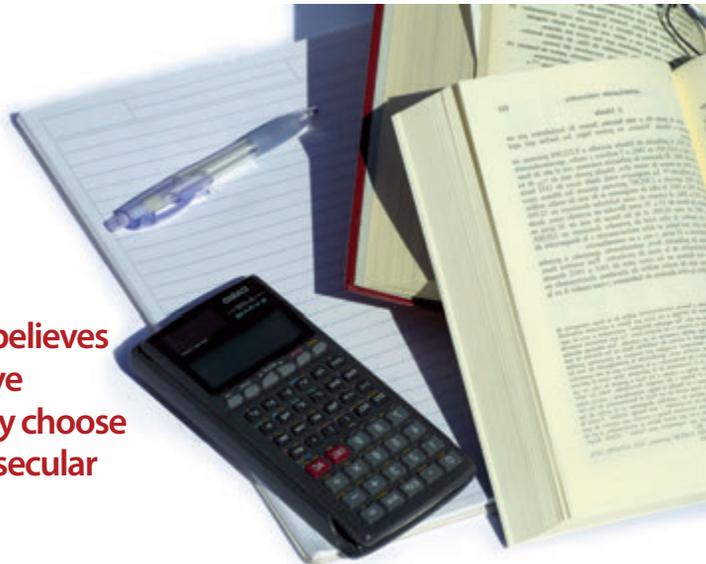
Education has become a battleground. Anyone who believes that education can be neutral is mistaken as ideas have consequences. Parents are not faced with the choice between sending their children to a religious school or to a non-religious school. All schools are religious. Parents must choose which religion will be taught to their children. Will it be Christianity? Islam? Humanism? Or something else?

The point is that education is inherently religious because it presents a certain perspective and selection of history, values and practices, and it prescribes a worldview. *"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."* Col 2:8

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Parents can delegate the task, but not the responsibility, for the education of their children. Children do not belong to the state. They belong to God and are entrusted by Him to parents to *"bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."* Eph 6:4 Parents are





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responsible under God to oversee the teachers, textbooks and syllabi that will shape and fill their children's minds for over 15 000 hours of schooling. Christian parents should be involved in the P.T.A. and school governing

God by eradicating Him from the classroom and from the minds of the next generation. By eliminating the Bible as the basis for all knowledge, humanists remove the very foundation of Truth.

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body of their local school. Parents need to take an active role in the education of their children, according to Biblical principles.

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WIDE GATES TO HELL

Nearly five hundred years ago, German Reformer Martin Luther warned: "I am much afraid that schools will prove to be wide gates to hell unless they diligently labour in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them on the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not constantly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt."

The theory of evolution is often propagated in state school textbooks. Evolution is an attempt to abort God retroactively, it destroys all meaning, purpose, direction, justice and hope in life. *"The fool says in his heart, there is no God. They are corrupt, their deeds are vile, there is no one who does good."* Ps 14:1 Secular humanist education attempts to kill

RAISING GODLY CHILDREN

The Bible tells us that God seeks *"godly offspring..."* Mal 2:15. As a parent, one of my greatest desires and priorities is to bring up my children *"in the training and instruction of the Lord"*, to *"train a child in the way he should go..."* Prov 22:6. My greatest concern is that my children grow up to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. I pray that my children will grow to love, trust, obey, worship and serve God consistently and effectively.

We are to *"tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power and the wonders He has done...so that the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn will tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds but would keep His commands. They would not be...stubborn and rebellious...whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to Him."* Ps 78:4-8

The education and discipleship of the next generation is given as the very first application of God's Law and the highest priority of God's people in this passage. We are not merely to teach a head knowledge, but a wholehearted love for God.

IN THE LIGHT OF GOD'S LAW

The Lord's commandments should be discussed, morning, noon and night. From the very first thing in the morning to the last thing at night. God's Word is to be such an integral part of our lives that everything we do with our hands and everything that we think with our minds is to be guided and governed by Scripture. Our homes should reflect the Lordship of Christ in all areas of life. People should be able to tell the difference Christ makes in our lives.

Scripture warns us: *"Do not be misled; bad company corrupts good character."* 1 Cor 15:33. Worldly friends, fashions, music, magazines, TV, newspapers, state schools and the Internet can corrupt and conquer our children.

We need to be aware of negative peer pressure and bullies. Our children need to have the Spiritual backbone and the courage to stand up for their convictions and fight for the Faith. Temptations and traps of the devil surround young people today demanding their attention.

"Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong..." Exod 23:2 Our time is so limited. Providing your child with a Godly education is vital; you have to be vigilant of what they are taught - for their sake! That is why most Christian parents are realising that relying on state schools is dangerous. Christian education is rapidly presenting itself as the only trustworthy option. ■

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