

Taught by God

Hymn: Trust and obey 282

Scripture Reading (Isaiah 54:)

Final Hymn: Who Is For Christ, 510

S E R M O N

I have been asked to inform you that a child is missing. He is not kidnapped by terrorists and hidden in a cave; he is not crying and starving, and an entire nation is frantically searching. A thousand men and women would immediately rise to the rescue if he were.

Unfortunately, the loss of the son, although tragic and very real, has been without any dramatic alarm.

The fact is that his father lost him. Too busy to sit with him, work and play with him, and answer his trivial questions, the child let go of his father's hand and was lost; no one noticed. It should be a tragedy, but it is not.

In fact, his mother also lost him. She was busy with dinners and social events, activities at church, in society, and at her job; she let the nanny listen to the child's prayers; she had no time to take care of him, and then suddenly, out of her sight, the child was lost. In fact, the church lost him. Being so preoccupied with sermons and programs for the wise and wealthy, the church was oblivious to the child in the pew. He was not given prominence or a role in the church's service. It did not organize any Christian club for the boys. No school was set up where he could learn about God, and in some cases, it has been done, but it did not care if he was attending.

And now, the church and many sad parents are looking for the lost child. Does this situation sound familiar to you, brothers?

A Divine Directive

Unexpectedly, we find ourselves before the throne of judgment. The Lord asks us several times, "Where is the flock that was given to you, your beautiful flock?" (Jeremiah 13:20).

As individuals, families, and churches, we have a divine mission in relation to young people. Scripture reminds us, "Train up a child in the right way " (Proverbs 22:6). It also tells us, "You shall teach these words, you shall repeat them to your children " (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). "Teach them the good way in which they should walk " (2 Chronicles 6:27).

You see, it is not enough to be informed; we must be transformed. It is not enough to study the sciences; we must experience salvation. It is not enough to be equipped only for this life, we must be prepared for a life that begins now, but extends throughout eternity.

As a people, we have been called out of Babylon (Revelation 14:6-11). We must separate ourselves from the sins of secular society (Revelation 18:04, Isaiah 52:11). We must keep ourselves unspotted from the world (James 1:27). We must not let the world put us into its mold (Romans 12:2).

How, then, can we send our children to the schools of Babylon and still expect them to be taught by God? How can we sacrifice our children on the altar of a pagan education? The current of the world carries us far away from God. We cannot afford to let our children be swept away and lost at sea.

Sometimes, we have a dim idea or do not understand the extent of the corruption in secular educational institutions or schools. Many of the young people in secular schools are experts in sin.

Let me share something with you. Public school offers have changed dramatically with secular humanism, and situational ethics have become the standards for human behavior. A few decades ago, the top disciplinary offenses were running in the hallways, chewing gum, wearing inappropriate clothing (which included leaving a part of the shirt off), making noise, and not putting paper in the trash cans. Currently, the top crimes include bullying, assault, vandalism, extortion, alcohol and drug abuse, drug sales in institutions, arson, robbery, and rape (Ziglar, Z. 2002 Rise of Positive Children in a Negative World Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers). Our children need safe havens of refuge!

If we put our children in the hands of agnostic teachers, if we immerse them in evolution, atheism and secular humanism, why should we be surprised if they become unfaithful? If you send your children to schools of the world, you will receive in return children of the world.

The hearts of the young are easily impressed, by good or by evil. As Paul pointed out, it is by contemplation that we are transformed.

(2 Corinthians 3:18) Whom do we behold our children from 7am to 12,1,2 pm? We take our children to Sabbath School and church to learn the truth. Then we send them to school where they are taught something very different. No wonder they get confused!

They spend more time in the world than in church. Slowly but surely, they begin to lean toward the world. And leaning toward the world, they suddenly fall into the world? We place the hands of our children in the hands of the world. We look at them in the yard, it looks quite innocent. See them in entertainment, in marriage, in business, their hands have taken the hand of the world. Let us see them finally die in the arms of the world, because they are educated by people who believe differently than us, they were educated by the world.

"Do you not know that the friendship of the world is enmity against God (James 4:4)?"

You thought you were on the way to heaven, but you may have been blindfolded and kidnapped by the world.

Now

Of course, secular schools are not completely bad. This, however, is the greatest danger. Remember the tree in the Garden of Eden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? The devil deceives most effectively by cunningly mixing good and evil.

Students can learn something valuable in a secular school, but why would we mistakenly walk around digging up a few truths when the truth is at our fingertips? We don't have time to rummage through the trash. We can't waste our energy looking for something good in what is apparently good.

The deception started a long time ago. Notice the difference between two basic educational plans in the world of God's systems for education and their counterfeits.

Secular education is man-centered, and Christian education is God-centered. Secular education is focused on how to succeed in the world, Christian education is focused on the Word. Secular education is informational, it emphasizes knowing. Christian education is formative, it holds that knowledge is important, but there is something more important, and that is character. Secular education holds that Jesus is a historical figure, perhaps even but a great man. Christian education asserts that Jesus is Lord.

Secular education presents subtle but deadly assumptions. It holds that man is supreme. If this were true, then there would be no Higher Power. It holds that man evolved from lower forms of life. If this were true, then there was no act of divine creation. Secular education asserts that a bad environment is to blame for bad behavior. If this were true, man would not be responsible for his actions. In their view, common practice is the norm. This, of course, assumes that whatever the majority is doing must be right, and if this is true, then there are no moral absolutes. Secular education uses the term "maladjustment" to explain negative human behavior. Therefore, there is no such thing as guilt. Finally, secular education holds that man is inherently good. And if this were true, then he has no need of a Savior.

We need bread from heaven! We are fed up with adulterated food, litter of human inventions, magnifying small details and God's truth belittled.

Let us take time to think about the Wisdom of the world and the wisdom of God, For the world wisdom is knowledge but for God it is to know Him and serve Him, to be faithful to Him is not to reject the Truth. We cannot be wise without being enlightened apart from the Light. to feed without food. to exist without life.

WE CANNOT BE EDUCATED WITHOUT GOD.

Authentic Christian education

We need authentic Christian education. Ellen White writes: "Establish church schools. Give your children the Word of God as the foundation of all their education " (Counsels on Education, p. 181). " Where there is a church, a school should be established, if there are not more than six children to attend " (Gospel Medical Messenger December 3, 1913).

Our children do not learn to recognize the voice of the Master sent from God, if they are not in their school. Only by knowing God will we become like him.

What then is authentic Adventist education? Seventh-day Adventist education is a life-transforming experience, a spiritual revolution. It is not simply something to be pursued, framed and hung. Its height is service, its depth is commitment, its scope is eternity. The Word of God must be the foundation of everything we do in school , not just in Bible class , but of all subjects , all subjects . We cannot give our children a sugary, pagan pill. Our schools must be fountains of waters of life.

In all education, what is most important is to know God, to understand His plan for our lives, and to reveal His character to those around us. "This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent" (John 17:3).

Luke 2:52 describes the education that God provided for His Son: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. "Notice that Jesus developed in four key areas: mental, physical, spiritual and social. This balanced, whole person development is the education our children and youth should experience.

Wisdom. Many schools impart knowledge, but we need wisdom. "Wisdom above all else: get wisdom" (Proverbs 04:7). What is wisdom? Wisdom is the ability to use knowledge to make a difference in the lives of those around us and to show God's attributes to the world. It requires students to be connected to the source of wisdom (Proverbs 02:6). It requires high-level thinking - analysis, decision making and creativity. It is not enough to simply memorize information, to eat the food and then take it out through the mouth. "It is the work of true education to... help young people to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of the thoughts of other men "(Education, P. 17). Wisdom, on the other hand, demands excellence. " Whatever you have to do, do it according to your strength " (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Those who work in Christian schools and colleges cannot be satisfied with a second-rate job simply this is not what God wants. At the end of the day, our young people and children will not be prepared to face the world, they will be able to drag a long chain of failures.

Real education must be useful. We cannot afford to give a second-rate education, full of great ideas that are never carried out. Consequently, Adventist education emphasizes practical skills and the development of a strong work ethic. The importance of this dimension is underscored by the fact that, out of 33 years on this earth, Jesus spent the first three decades of His life in the carpentry shop, learning and perfecting a practical skill. In this physical domain, Adventist education also emphasizes fitness and a healthy lifestyle. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (1 Corinthians 03:16). As representatives of God, we need to present an attractive image of God, which is best conveyed by a healthier and vibrant life.

God's favor. In the spiritual realm, children in Adventist schools should study the Word of God. They learn how to pray, how to have faith. Fellowship with other young people who share their spiritual goals and commitments, participation in worship activities, Bible classes, and permitted activities of spiritual emphasis. They need to experience Seventh-day Adventist teachers as mentors and role models. Teachers who experience the Holy Spirit in their lives. In this way, they develop a biblical worldview. In Adventist education, faith and learning meet and merge. Fragments of knowledge are drawn into a vibrant spiritual unity, centered on God, the source of all truth. Faith permeates and infuses all learning like water permeates a sponge. After all, Christianity is a lifestyle, not just an add-on. We do not need Christianity flowing along with life. We need a Christian life. We don't need people who can also serve on occasion as Christians. We need genuine Christians, 24/7. Suppose we are preparing surgeons. On graduation day, our candidate marches down the hall and is handed the papyrus fragment telling him now you are a surgeon. The next day, he finds himself in the operating room, and there on the operating table is the victim-sorry, the patient. Our new graduate begins to cold sweat, knees begin to give way. You see, in all his training, he never found himself in an operating room. "Absurd!" What. Farce! Negligence "And you're absolutely right. But what we do not do the same? We expect our young people to graduate from school, to go out into society, and to be effective witnesses for God when they have never had any significant training or experience in witnessing or service! In Adventist schools, students learn to touch the lives of others. They learn from Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve (Matthew 20:28). They discover that living is giving. They find that they have a vocation, a mission and a message.

Ellen White sums it up this way: "True education means more than the pursuit of a given course of study. It means more than a preparation for the present life. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence accessible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, mental and spiritual faculties. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for a wider higher joy of service in the world to come" (Education, p. 13).

The Difference

As you can see, Seventh-day Adventist schools are intentionally different, distinguished by design. They are biblically based and Christ-centered. Their students are connected and socially connected. The schools are places where faith and learning come together, where students study the sciences and simultaneously have a bond of learning with the Creator. They are places where young people are taught not only about God, but by God (Isaiah 54:13).

Preparing young people and children for a job, a profession, or a career is not enough. We must be prepared for heaven. We must give our young people an education that is consistent with our faith and will form a character that will stand the test of time (Psalm 144:12).

Where are your children? If someone had kidnapped your child, no money demanded as ransom would be too high. Worldly influences, like the waves of the sea, hit the young and threaten to sweep them away. Have you set your feet on a rock that does not move?

We must not make any compromise. God calls us out of Babylon. We are to live for Christ, not for the world. We are called to convert the world, not to be converted by the world. We must not be diverted from our mission.

We cannot allow our children to be bewitched by a false education. Our children are too precious to be kidnapped and lost for eternity.

As parents, we must invest where it matters most, in our children, even if it requires personal sacrifice. As a church family, we need to come together and find creative ways to ensure that every child and youth in our congregations has the opportunity for a Seventh-day Adventist education.

Authentic Seventh-day Adventist education is distinctive. There is nothing that can take its place. Let no pretext displace reality; you must value the true education source over the false.

Today, I ask you what you want to do. Are you going to let your children? Will God teach you? Will you be educated for eternity? Today's choice is the one that decides your tomorrow.

What decision will we make today?