



The Calkins Baptist Beacon

A ministry of the Calkins Baptist Church, P.O. Box 100 Milanville, PA

www.cubc.us

Fall 2007

The Tragedy of a Lost Generation

“And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which He had done for Israel.” Judges 2:10

The February 23, 2007 edition of *The New York Times* contained the following disturbing article.

High school seniors are getting better grades, but scoring lower on standardized tests. In 2005, seniors had a 2.98 GPA, which is a high B-. In 1990, seniors averaged 2.68, a high C+. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2005 High School Transcript Study, which compared GPAs, also showed that students seem to be completing more difficult coursework. 68% of students now complete at least a standard college-preparatory curriculum, compared to 40% in 1990. ... *On the NAEP 12th-grade reading test, students' performance has declined since 1992.... In 1992, 20% of seniors lacked basic high school reading skills. That number has now risen to 27%. The percentage of seniors proficient in reading has dropped from 40% to 35%. [Emphasis added]*

When one stops to analyze the results of this study, he is faced with the following facts: 1) Parents of seniors in public schools in 2005 were being led to believe that their children were doing well in school, taking

tough courses, and being prepared for college; when in fact objective data reveals that they are actually learning less and falling farther behind than students who were tested thirteen years previously. 2) Even worse, only 35% of high school seniors who graduate from public schools in this country are proficient in reading. *To put it another way, 65% of graduating high school seniors from U.S. public schools in 2005 could not read proficiently!*

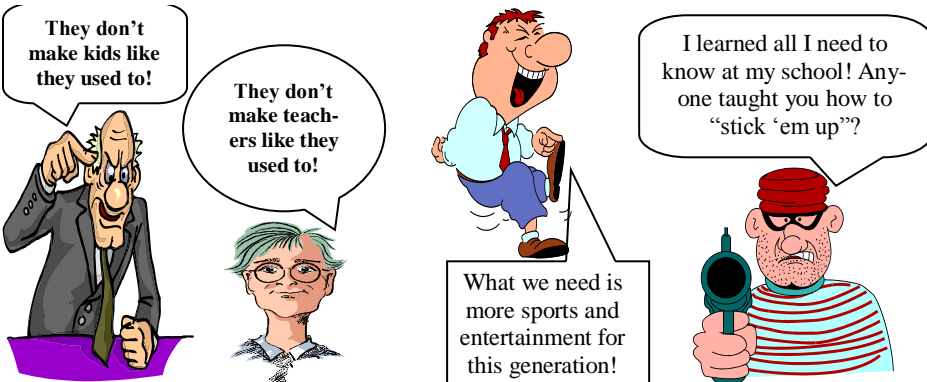
Compare the current state of affairs with the effectiveness of American education in the early 1900's.

In 1915, James McKeen Cattell wrote in the publication *School and Society* that in 1900, 42 out of 1000 (4.2%) of children from ages ten through fourteen could neither read nor write. He went on to point out that in 1910 that figure had dropped to 2.2%. He then listed Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, and Washington as states that were reporting an illiteracy rate of about one-tenth of one percent! His conclusion was that public schools would soon eliminate illiteracy!

Reading is not the only subject suffering. Jay Mathews, staff writer for *The Washington Post* wrote in the August 30, 2006 edition that SAT scores (the major objective test for evaluating college-bound students in

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Misguided Opinions Concerning U.S. Education

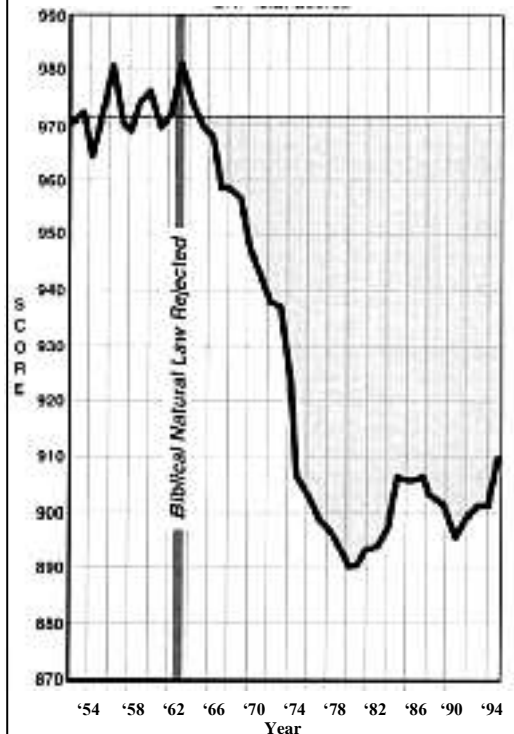


Revival Meetings with Tom Palmer

Evangelist Tom Palmer will be at Calkins **October 14—21 at 7 PM** (except for Saturday). The purpose of these special meetings is to help people who do not know Christ to find Him, and to aid those who are already saved to maintain a close walk with God. Everyone will profit from hearing what God's Word says and all are welcome. Nursery will be provided for children up to 3 years old. Teens have a special meeting at 6:30 PM nightly, and children will also have a special lesson on their age level during the service. Our speaker is aware that children have school, so he is considerate of the time. Come join us.

Did God Remove His Blessing When We Removed Him from School?

Educational Achievement
SAT Total Scores



Basic data from the College Entrance Exam Board New York

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this country) were the lowest in 31 years. What has happened? Why has education in this country slipped so badly? How is it that American taxpayers are spending more on education each year, with continually failing results? The Bible mentions a situation that sounds strikingly similar.

“You have sown much, and bring in little....You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why says the LORD of hosts. ...” Haggai 1:6,9

Just as God took His blessing off of the Israelites' economy in Haggai's day, it should be obvious that God is not blessing American public education as He once did. The natural question is why.

First, one might seek to blame those who teach such failing students. Certainly there is a problem among American teachers as was pointed out by Susan Snyder and Dale Mez-zacappa. They reported that only a few years ago in Philadelphia, over half of the teachers who took exams to show that they were proficient in the subject they were teaching failed their standardized exam. The numbers were staggering: 34% of social studies, 43% of English, over 50% of science, and almost two

-thirds of math teachers failed to demonstrate that they themselves had mastered the subject they were being paid to teach to seventh and eighth-grade middle school students.

While it may be easy to lay the problems with U.S. education at the feet of teachers, when one considers the difficulties that face the 21st century teacher in America, complaints take on another light. Many teachers today are so busy trying to get their students to think straight after the terrible issues that they have faced in their young lives (including an epidemic of broken families, physical and sexual abuse, drugs, readily available pornography, etc.), that formal education can at times be a secondary issue. Even if one has mastered his or her subject, how does the teacher effectively communicate information to a student who is on psychiatric medication, or is all but asleep due to alcohol or drug abuse the night before? Although teachers play a role in the tragedy of American education, they certainly are not the only ones to blame for what has happened.

A second dynamic affecting how children learn is the moral breakdown of the family. Statistics clearly show a link between broken homes and social problems as kids move toward adulthood. Those raised in traditional families tend to fair much better. Children from divorced families are far more likely to commit violent crime, abuse drugs, and drop out of school. Many kids find it almost impossible to concentrate for the fears they have concerning what they face at home. How does one focus on math when she is trying to sort out the horror of sexual abuse? How does one concentrate on homework when she is debating a life and death issue such as an abortion? Those who glibly minimize the “traditional family” of a man and a woman who are married and committed to each other for life should take a long, hard look at the American children of this generation and see the damage that results when a marriage disintegrates.

Children from broken homes (even more so from abusive homes) often grow up angry. They are angry at their parents for not staying together, at themselves for not keeping their parents together, at others for not understanding or caring enough, and ultimately at God for allowing them to grow up with such pain.

In **Malachi 2:15,16** God said that He places one man with one woman for life in part for the sake of the kids.

But did He not make them one
i.e. God's establishment of the

first home with Adam and Eve] ...? ***And why one? He seeks a godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce....*** [Note: all verses that are underlined are given added emphasis by the author of this article to aid understanding]

Tragically, there are many children who do not care that they sin against God because they hate Him for (in their minds) leaving them to suffer in silence. They take out their anger against Him by lashing out against the authorities God has created like parents, teachers, police officers, etc. Their question is simply: “Where was God when I was ... (being abused? praying that my parents would get back together? begging that my brother would not get beaten again? etc.)?” [Note: for help on this specific issue, read the article: “Where was God?” on page 4.]

Though some teachers' lack of proficiency and the moral choices of multitudes of adults have impacted the education of children in the United States, a third negative factor is the most dominant teacher's union in the United States: the National Education Association (NEA). This organization is dedicated to changing the moral fabric of this country, and they have sadly been very successful. One can look at the article: “*The NEA's Stand on Morality and Education*” for a brief synopsis of the views this union is promoting. Children in public schools are being taught moral principles today. What has changed is the basis for that morality. The NEA's position as of August 2007 was summarized by Phyllis Schlafly as follows:

The NEA supports ... federal legislation to confer special rights on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

...

The ... "gay rights agenda" in public schools ... all the goals of radical feminism, including abortion ... letting feminists rewrite text books to conform to feminist ideology. ... The NEA calls for repeal of right-to-work laws, which allow teachers in some states to decline joining the NEA.

[T]he NEA opposes: vouchers, tuition tax credits, parental choice programs ... the testing of teachers as a criterion for job retention,

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“... and we want to thank You for school starting again, because Mom said she was starting to get sick of us!”



Who Said It?

1. “Religion, Morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, Schools and the means of education shall be forever encouraged.”
2. “You do well to learn our arts, and our ways of life, and above all the religion of Jesus Christ. These will make you a happier people than you are. Congress will do everything they can to assist you in this wise intention.”
3. “Religion is the only solid basis of good morals, therefore, education should teach the precepts of religion and the duties of man toward God.”

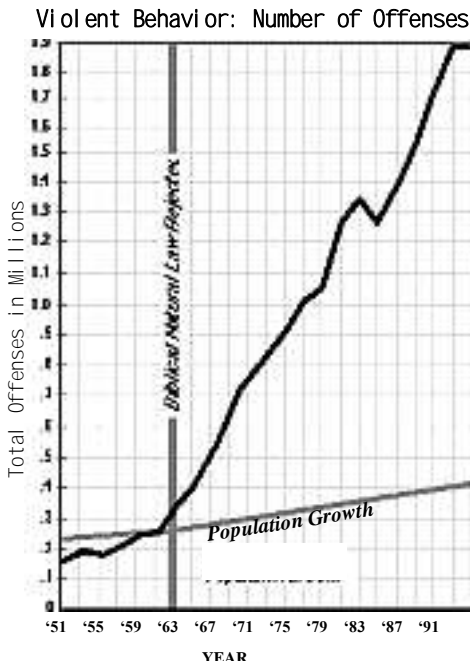
(Answers on Page Six) □



Moral Effects of Removing God from Education

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Indicates Population Growth Profile
Basic data from *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, and the Department of Commerce, Census Bureau

promotion, tenure, or salary. ... The NEA wants the right to teach schoolchildren about sex without any interference from parents, but on the other hand wants its pals in the bureaucracy to regulate all home-schooling taught by parents. The NEA opposes allowing homeschoolers to participate in public school sports or extra curricular activities.

The NEA's current course is not in step with educational leaders in the day when U.S. education was second to none. Consider the words of the Kansas Superintendent of Public Education in 1892.

[I]f the study of the Bible is to be excluded from all State schools, if the inculcation of the principles of Christianity is to have no place in the daily program, if the worship of God is to form no part of the general exercises of these public ele-

mentary schools, than the good of the State would be better served by restoring all schools to church control."

Since the NEA is protecting inept teachers, denying Christian principles, and attacking the traditional family, while obstructing proven educational alternatives such as home schooling, they are a major contributor to the decline of American education. When one considers the fact that the teachers and methods being protected by this union are producing only 35% of high school seniors who are able to read proficiently, it seems clear that changes need to be made.

In 1983 a panel made up of important leaders in a variety of fields directly effected by education was formed to study America's school system. This group came out with a report entitled: *A Nation at Risk*. The report stated:

If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war. As it stands, we have allowed this to happen to ourselves.

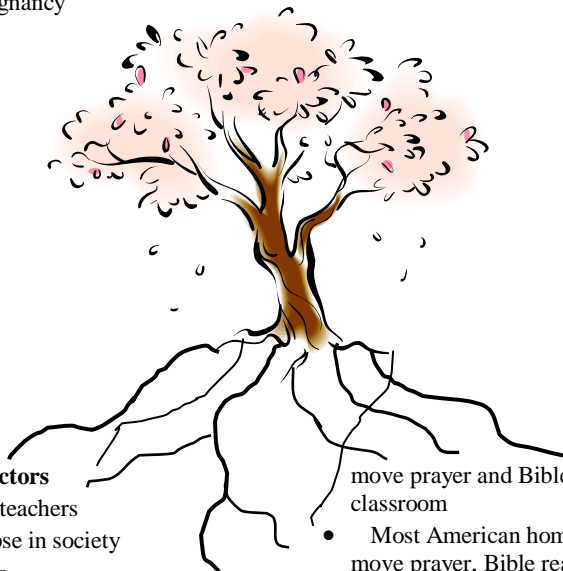
Yet, the NEA, though highly influential, is still not the primary cause of the failure of American education. There is a fourth factor. In 1962 and '63 the Supreme Court mandated a complete reversal of our normal pattern of education. Until that point in our history a usual part of opening a school day for many students in U.S. public schools included a reading from the Bible and a time of prayer. God was acknowledged as our One True Sovereign, and teachers and students unashamedly asked for His help. In two major decisions the Supreme Court said that such public prayers and readings from the Bible were unconstitutional. In 1980 another decision decreed that even the posting of the Ten Commandments in school was unconstitutional because students were silently encouraged to read them, might be motivated to obey them, and such a practice was religious.

Interestingly, many of the men who helped draft the founding documents of this nation, according to their own writings, would have disagreed with the Court's decision. Noah Webster (with dictionary fame), a leading figure in politics and education in early America, stated that the Bible is the basis of the republican system of government. By that he meant that our very institutions of government were

Problems with American Education: the Fruits and the Roots

Bad Fruit from Collapse of U.S. Public Schools

- Lower SAT Scores
- Lower Expectations
- Rising drug and alcohol abuse
- Teenage pregnancy
- Less prepared for college
- Less reading & writing skills
- Less qualified teachers



Contributing Factors

- Unqualified teachers
- Moral collapse in society
- NEA Agenda
- Supreme Court decisions to forcibly re-

- move prayer and Bible reading from the classroom
- Most American homes voluntarily remove prayer, Bible reading and regular attendance at a Bible-preaching church

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based upon the Bible, and that to be ignorant of the Word of God would lead to ignorance of those foundations or rules of law. Fisher Ames, the man who helped frame the Bill of Rights, and proposed final wording of the First Amendment, wrote an article called: "School Books" in which he argued that the Bible should have a major place as a textbook in public schools. He was not alone. Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and a man who has been called the father of public education under the Constitution, said that the Bible should not only be taught in the public school, but that it should be the primary textbook. He went on to say that if the Bible were ever removed from the classroom there would be an upturn in crime.

In the report *A Nation at Risk*, the panel studying U.S. education stated:

The College Board's Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) demonstrate a virtually unbroken decline from 1963 [the first year the new Supreme Court regulation outlawing prayer went into effect!] following to 1980.

Average verbal scores fell over 50 points and average mathematics scores dropped nearly 40 points.

Did God take His hand of blessing off American education when the nation turned its back on Him? Consider the following warnings:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7

And if by these things you are not reformed by Me, but walk contrary to Me, then I also will walk contrary to you, and I will punish you... Leviticus 26:23 & 24

For more evidence of the academic, moral and social decline of American youth since the Supreme Court's decision to remove all references to God in public schools, consider the graphs on page one and page three [Other graphs may be found on our website: www.cubc.us].

The question remains, however, how a mere nine justices could so change the course of U.S. education and set millions of American children on a course that would result in such tremendous damage to soci-

ety. That leads to the fifth, and most vital, component of U.S. education: the American parent.

The pilgrims who came to this country, by their own writings demonstrated that they came for their kids. They had religious freedom in Holland, but their three concerns were the fact that: 1) they were losing their English identity, 2) they had to work such long days to survive, which left little time for their families, and 3) because of the pressures and the influence of Dutch society, their children were not growing up with the same fear of God that their parents had. Therefore, many in this small group decided to risk all to save their families. In 1620 they set sail for a strange land in order to try to build a truly Christian society.

About 200 years later, many of the leading citizens of the newly formed United States had similar views. One illustration will have to suffice. Daniel Webster, U.S. Senator and Secretary of State for three Presidents, was also a renowned orator and lawyer. In the early days of America after the ratification of the Constitution, he argued against a provision in a will whereby the deceased had chosen to found a public school with his estate.

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Where Was God???

Some of you have asked this question many, many times over yourselves. You have wondered where God was when you suf-

fered. You may also be confused about where God is now that you have sinned greatly against Him yourself.

Let me briefly say that Christ bore that pain you felt – to the cross. If you now have also sinned greatly against God, those sins were also born by the Savior to the cross and dealt with completely on your behalf. If you are concerned that life is no longer worth living, that God has given up on you, and that you have no hope; LOOK AT THE CROSS!

The prophet Isaiah, writing about 700 years before Jesus lived uttered the following prophecies concerning Christ's suffering for you.

In all their affliction He was afflicted, And the Angel of His Presence saved them; In His love

and in His pity He redeemed them; And He bore them and carried them all the days of old.

Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities ...

And by His stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way;

And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 63:9; 53:4-6

Jesus died for you. He bore your pain, and the grief your sin has caused to yourself, to others, and to Him. Further, He can take the anguish you have experienced and eventually turn it into eternal joy. God has a special place in His heart for those who have suffered as children. Psalm 68:5 says, "A Father of the fatherless, a defender of widows is God

in His holy habitation." The greatest blessing in life is to know the eternal God, and sometimes the only thing that will cause a person to seek the Lord is the temporary pain that he or she experiences on earth.

God did not cause people to sin against you, but He may have allowed it to call you to Himself and to bless you in a greater way in the end. The prophet Jeremiah spoke for God when he wrote:

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

I urge you to take God at His word and to seek Him with all your heart. You will find both Him and the peace you have been seeking.

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That was not a problem, but his will also required that no minister of the gospel would be allowed on campus. This provision was believed to be an attempt to prevent religious instruction at the school. On the third day Webster argued almost entirely from the Bible. He passionately told the justices at the Supreme Court:

“When little children were brought into the presence of the Son of God, His disciples proposed to send them away, but [Jesus] said, ‘Suffer little children to come unto Me.’ ‘Unto Me!’ And that injunction is of perpetual obligation; it addresses itself today with the same earnestness and the same authority which attended its first utterance into the Christian world. It is of force everywhere and at all times; it extends to the ends of the earth, it will reach to the end of time always and everywhere sounding in the ears of men ... with an authority that nothing can supersede. ‘Suffer little children to come unto Me.’”

The Court’s unanimous decision on this case included the following remarks:

“Why may not the Bible, and especially the New Testament, without note or comment, be read and taught as a Divine revelation in the [school] – its general precepts expounded ... and its glorious principles of morality inculcated? ... Where can the purest principles of morality be learned so clearly or so perfectly ...?”

Why then did American adults stand for the decisions to remove Bible reading and prayer from their schools? *The simple answer is that at some point long before 1962, most American families had removed Bible reading and prayer from the center of their homes.* Why should one kick up a fuss for prayer at school when he does not pray at home? Why should a dad get excited about the loss of Bible reading at school if he does not read God’s Word to his family at home?

So God was forcibly removed from the American classroom with little reaction because He had already been voluntarily de-emphasized in the American home. The resulting explosion of crime, teen sex, and drug use that naturally and predictably sprung from an educational system that purposefully ignored the God of the Bible has led to the col-

lapse of the family unit. This in turn has placed children in dangerous and confusing environments that have further curbed their ability to learn. With literally millions of troubled youth entering schools, the only way to help kids at risk to pass their courses was to drop educational standards. This has

attitudes at both home and school. Children should be encouraged to dedicate their minds to God and to learn all they can for His glory.

2) Pray! *We are in a battle for the very souls of our children!* Satan has used a handful of judges, teachers, union leaders, and millions of complacent adults to set up a

If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war. “A Nation at Risk”

now played out in several generations of Americans, until senior citizens accurately remember the days when an eighth grade education was more challenging than many college prep tracts are today. Those less educated students have become today’s teachers and leaders in education. The NEA is now stacked with leaders who do not fear God, but who work to teach their new morality to those too young to discern its blatant errors.

The answer?

1) Repent! – Haggai the prophet said that his generation had: **“sown much and bring in little.”** He went on in verses nine and eleven to explain why this was so.

*Why?” says the LORD ...
“Because of My house that is
in ruins, while every one of
you runs to his own house.
Therefore the heavens ...
withhold the dew, and the
earth withholds its fruit.
For I called for a drought
on the land ... and on all the
labor of your hands.”*

Adults need to turn from their foolish distractions and their selfish goals and return to God and to their homes. *Even teens and children must repent of selfish and lazy*

stranglehold on our public schools. This has hindered many good teachers and administrators from sharing major elements of our nation’s history and our nation’s God with students. For too long Christians have turned to anger and picket signs instead of humbly asking God for His forgiveness and mercy.

3) Act! Parents and grandparents, you must shoulder your responsibility to teach your children to fear and honor God (**Eph 6:4**)! Like a teacher, you must know God yourself before you can adequately teach others of Him. Dads, you must particularly accept your God-given role to teach your children. This was a command of God (**Psalm 78:1-8**)! You must start reading the Bible daily yourself, try to obey what God teaches you, and lead your family in Bible reading as well. You must attend a Bible-preaching church with your family, not merely demand that they go. The way out of the dismal failure of the last many years is to start where we got off track: at home! God said in **Deuteronomy 6:5-7**:

*“You shall love the LORD your
God with all your heart... soul
... and strength.*

“And these words which I command you ... shall be in your heart.

*“And you shall teach them
diligently to your children....”*



Coming Events



September

29 Ladies Seminar, “Womanly Graces,” 8:30 AM—4:30 PM

October

14—21 Revival Meetings with Tom Palmer, 7 PM nightly
26 & 27 Fall Adult Retreat in Lancaster

November

18 Harvest Dinner

December

15 & 16 Christmas Program—“He Gave Everything”



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**Answers to: “Who Said It?”
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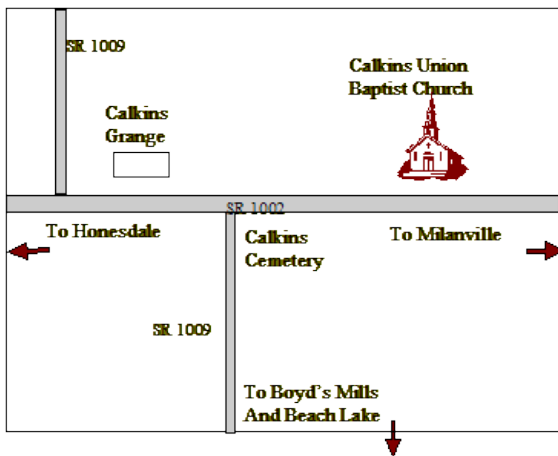
1. This is the exact wording from the Northwest Ordinance: the first federal law on education. “Religion, morality, and knowledge” were the three key elements in American education. The men who enacted this legislation were the very same congress that ratified the Constitution.
2. George Washington said these words to a group of Indians who brought their children to him in order to have them educated in American schools. Washington said that these children would be taught: “above all the religion of Jesus Christ.”
3. Gouverneur Morris spoke these words. He is called: “the penman of the Constitution” . He is the man who actually wrote the polished language of the Constitution.
4. **How about one more?** “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 statute the ill effects of a bad system. The education of youth lays the foundations on which both law and gospel rest for success.”

Noah Webster

Our Service Times
Sunday
 8:30 AM Morning Service
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11 AM Morning Service
 6:30 PM Evening Service
Wednesday
 6:30 PM Bible Study
 Buckaroo Club
 ProTeens
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