

The Need for Christian Education

R. Hanko

Are Christians schools necessary? We believe they are.

We believe they are necessary, first of all, because only by means of Christian schools and Christian education can Christian parents fulfil their calling to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

This calling does NOT belong to the civil government, but to parents. Search the Scriptures and you will not find even one passage that suggests that the civil government has any calling to instruct the children.

That calling, which God has given to parents, does not end when the child walks out the door in the morning to go to school. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 makes it very clear that it is a full-time calling: "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest in the way, and when thou liest down and when thou risest up."

Nor is the calling to bring our children up in the Word of God, in the fear of God, and in the nurture and admonition of the Lord Jesus Christ, fulfilled by a few hours of religious education each week, especially when that religious education presents Christianity as just one other religion among many and teaches many anti-christian values and philosophies.

Instruction of children in the home and bringing them under the ministry of the Word in the church are not our whole our calling as parents. Home, church, *and school* must work together: "A three-fold cord is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12). Sadly, the third strand of Christian education in Christian schools is usually lacking today. So the cord is broken, and our children lost to the influences of the godless world in which we live!

The spiritual well-being of our children is at stake. Psalm 78:1-11 tell us that the failure of the Israelite children to keep God's covenant and their refusal to walk in His law was due to the failure of their parents consistently to teach their children the Word of God. The distressing days of the Judges came about because there had come a generation which knew not the Lord nor the mighty works He had done for His people. Shall we not learn from these examples?