

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BIBLE STUDY

Jeffrey O. Brown, Ph.D.

Introduction

Our ideas of education take too narrow and too low a range. There is need of a broader scope, a higher aim. True education means more than the pursuit of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come. Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 13.

I. The Eden School

1. What did God consider to be the best setting for growing in knowledge? Nature. Gen. 2:8, 9
2. What was the goal of their education? Knowledge of God. Job 37:16; 2 Cor. 4:6
3. What was included in the curriculum of this school? Work. Gen. 2:15

II. The Education of Israel

4. Where was education centered in the time of the patriarchs? The home. Deut. 6:6,7
5. Where was the focal point of spiritual as well as manual training? The sanctuary. Ex. 31:1-6
6. What events were designed for regular educational experiences? The feasts. Ex. 12:17

III. The School of the Prophets

7. What was the goal of these schools? To be distinct from the world. 1 Sam 8:5, 6
8. What role did these prophets play in the society? Leaders. 1 Sam 10:10
9. What was their curriculum? Music, nature, and the word of God. 1 Sam. 10:5

IV. The School of the Disciples

10. What was Jesus' mandate to his disciples? Teach all nations. Mat. 28:19
11. What is the job description of the Christian teacher? Snatch from the fire. Jude 23
12. How awesome is the responsibility of the Christian teacher? Few should take it on. James 3:1

V. The Apocalyptic School

13. What is the driving force behind Christian education? The everlasting gospel. Rev 14:6
14. What is the ultimate goal of Christian education? Restoring the image of God. Gen.1:27
15. Should we opt out of education because Jesus is soon to come? Occupy till I come. Lk 19:13

VI. The School of the Hereafter

16. What will occupy our time on the new earth? Learning, building, planting. Isa. 65:17-23
17. Will there be amazing new things to learn in heaven? I can only imagine. 1 Cor 2:9
18. What characteristic of education then must characterize education now? Service. Mat. 20:28

Conclusion

In planning for the education of their children outside the home, parents should realize that it is no longer safe to send them to the public school. Shall we allow them to be contaminated by the world--by its iniquity, its disregard of God's commandments? I ask those who are planning to send their children to the public schools, where they are liable to be contaminated, How can you take such a risk? Ellen G. White, *Child Guidance*, p. 315.