

The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, FOUNDED EDITOR

"Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day"

The Secularization of Christian Education

Dr. Clay Nuttall

National Theological Seminary & Writer at the Shepherdstaff

The term "secular" is most often used as a contrast to that which is spiritual, so that the world is divided into those two parts. That is actually a liberal concept. Believers often divide the work of the local church into those two parts, too. The problem is that, in the believer's life, there is no such thing as secular or "non-spiritual". The truth is that, for us, everything is a spiritual responsibility, right down to our very thoughts.

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that ex-

alteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. (II Corinthians 10:5)

In the local church, we have made a false dichotomy because that allows us the freedom to do it our own way. This is exactly what has been done in our personal lives as well. Where did this human-based idea come from? This dangerous insertion is the way of the world. It is rebellious man wanting to live his life without spiritual intervention, to feel that he is in charge of his world, the "captain" of his soul. Human government has used this to strangle spiritual influence, and it is everywhere in the world around us.

Why did this false idea spread so rapidly? One of the major reasons is that it has been a centerpiece of our education systems, allowing man to answer the major questions of life rather than following

(Continued on page 3)

Spending Yesterday's Capital Until Nothing is Left

by Pastor Tod Brainard

Dr. Travis Smith of the Hillsdale Baptist Church of Tampa recently used this statement from Martyn Lloyd Jones, the deceased pastor of Westminster Chapel in London. I will reproduce a well-written paragraph from Pastor Smith's recent blog, "From the Heart of a Shepherd," on the decline of men and ministries in this era, *"It is the third generation that is now in positions of leadership in our churches and institutions.* History evidences the propensity of the third generation to set upon a path of spiritual apathy and decline. This generation lacks a sense of identity with the faith and vision of the first generation. They often become critics of those who went before them and, if they are honest, wrestle with spiritual uncertainties questioning who they

(Continued on page 9)

Inside this issue:

Secularization of Christian Education	Front Cover
Spending Yesterday's Capital Until Nothing is Left	Front Cover
Editor's Desk	2
Spotlight on Contemporary Issues	4
Proverb Practicals	5
Focus on Religion	6
Teaching Tips	7
The Preservation of Liberty	10
Stars of the Morning	11



EDITOR'S DESK

by Pastor Tod Brainard



Hurray for Rules!

by Pastor Sam Owen
Eagle's Wing Baptist Church
Dupree, South Dakota

First Published in Call to Glory, April, 2015

Edi-

tor's Note: In light of our society's rebellion against the commandments of Scripture, this devotional is a reminder about the character of those who despise God's rules. I greatly appreciate the admonitions that Pastor Owen gives and so we have made this our guest editorial.

"For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life" (Proverbs 6:23).

The Bible is a Book filled with directions for life. According to II Timothy 3:16, it contains doctrine (what is right), reproof (what is wrong), correction (how to fix what is wrong), and instruction in righteousness (how to stay right).

God did not give us His Word to take up space in a book. God did not give us guidelines in order to make our lives miserable. Rather, God gave us His Book, the Bible, so that we would have a lamp to light our way. In other words, if we are going to have the life that God intended, there will always be rules to live by and someone telling us what to do, what we did was not right, how we can improve what we did, and so forth.

Rules do not make rebels; rules expose rebels! Rebels do not like rules. Rebels always want their own way (Proverbs 14:12), and rebels are always naughty (Proverbs 6:12-14). Young rebels be-

come old rebels, and there is not much worse than a crabby old rebel! Rules are safety nets that keep all Christians out of trouble. The best word to remember when it comes to obeying the rules is "submit." Two areas of submission are to God (James 4:7) and to men (Hebrews 13:17).

Learn to love rules and love those over you who care enough for you to teach you right from wrong even when you don't understand. By the way, adults, the young people will never learn to submit and obey if they are constantly watching you think you are the exception to the rules! Ω

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(Continued from page 1 - Secularization)

the plain, clear teaching of God's Word. From such areas as the source of life, to life after death, man has forced his definitions on us. The most tragic issue is that so-called Christian education has followed this concept blindly so that it would appear to be intellectual.

THE RECORD IS CLEAR

There is no question that many of our great educational institutions began with worthy spiritual goals. It's not that they were perfect or had the same beginning; they moved from preparing preachers to creating scholars who despise the concept of a sovereign God with absolutes. The sad thing is that many current Christian institutions are neck-deep in this journey of the secularization of Christian education. This is a difficult thing for us to admit, but our very beliefs and the way we approach the Scripture is tainted by the concept that we have a better idea than God.

The question is why and how did this happen? It is as simple as reviewing the history of Israel. They determined that God as their king was not enough; they wanted to be like the other nations around them with a king they could see and touch. (I Samuel 8) So

God gave them Saul, who was the epitome of "independent man", who could live life the way he determined and yet have one foot in the religious world. This is clearly demonstrated in I Samuel 15. Saul, the secular/religious man, was actually the judgment of God on a nation who wanted to have it both ways. This is exactly what Paul describes with the "religious sinner" in Romans 2:17-29. You can't have it both ways and still have it God's way.

HUMANISTIC EDUCATION AT ITS WORST

In all honesty, state or federal schools are not public. They do not represent the general public; they reflect the view of the elite, who continue to experiment on unsuspecting people. Humanistic education will claim that it is free-thinking and intellectual, but the truth is that state schools function by "indoctrination". That is exactly why, since the 1930's, socialism has blossomed into the entitlement society we live in today.

Please don't use the old lame excuse of there still being some good Christian teachers and administration in the system. Looking at the whole, their number is so small they barely appear on the charts. Talk about believ-

ers bailing out of the educational system is also poorly thought through. When schools were local and community-oriented, our presence was effective; but today the ACLU has more influence on the schools than all of us put together!

THE TRAGIC INFLUENCE ON US

Christian education has been unduly influenced by the humanist agenda. We were taught to think like they do. This liberal mindset is neck-deep in our own schools. We copied so many of their errors in an effort to be intellectual that now we not only think like the world, but also act like the world. A couple of illustrations from the pool of thousands will suffice. We were the people of absolutes and truth, with God and His Word as a standard; now we think that all views are right, and you cannot say that other people are wrong. People do have a right to their own views, but there is only one truth. We need to be kind and polite, but that doesn't extend to our giving credence to error. All of this has affected our theology, too. There is only one right interpretation of a Bible text, but we act like we are not really sure, and they just may be

(Continued on page 8)



Spotlight on Contemporary Issues

A Servant

by Curtis Sluss

As we look at what the Lord Jesus taught His followers, we are confronted with the reality that He taught them to be servants.

First of all, He taught by example: He himself was a servant. We read He “made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant,”¹ and “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.”² During the last supper, He gave a most powerful example of being a servant when He washed the feet of His disciples. Stop and think on the image of the Creator of heaven and earth washing the feet of Judas and the eleven! He was dressed with a towel, as a servant, stooping down to do what servants would do. Hear Him say: “I have given you an example that ye should do as I have done to you.”³

Christians are servants of the Lord. Timotheus, James, Jude, the saints in Rome, and Paul all identify themselves that way. Jesus spoke of His followers as servants when questioned by Pilate. For many, being a servant of the Lord in 21st century America is not all that humbling. Some wear the title ‘servant’ the same as the title ‘Christian’. For them, being ‘a servant of the Lord’ simply means they are in

the Lord’s service.

I do not believe Jesus intended ‘being a servant’ to just be a title one calls himself. I think He really and literally meant what He said. He taught His followers: To be “servants of all.”⁴ Those who would be “chief among you let him be your servant.”⁵ “But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.”⁶ “And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.”⁷ “But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.”⁸

Phebe was a “servant of the church”, Paul was a “servant unto all” and the Galatians were to use their liberty to “serve one another.”⁹

Some time ago my wife and I were staying with a friend in South-East Asia. Because of a medical issue in our friend’s family, a local pastor and his wife invited us to stay with them. This godly pastor welcomed us with open arms, taking us with him as he visited both lost and saved people. One visit was to an elderly Christian blind couple who had no one but each other. The pastor mentioned that he visits this couple every week. It was a delight fellowshiping with them in their small humble home. The

pastor asked my wife and me to sing for these dear saints, which we joyfully did. As we sang, the pastor slipped out as if he were going to the restroom. The sound of a mop and a brush being used caused me to turn and see under the curtain that he went in there not to use the facilities, but to clean the Chinese toilet! After he finished cleaning, he quickly rejoined us as we sang the songs of Zion.

Friends, this man gave up his time for us, his bed for us, he drove us up and down traveling 800 miles taking us to various Christian works, and he cleaned a poor blind couple’s toilet! This dear pastor had no idea that we knew that he was cleaning the toilet. He did not do it to be seen of men, he did it because he has a servant’s heart. I have seen lived out in this man’s life what it means to be a servant. Make me a servant like You, dear Lord. Ω

¹Philippians 2:7

²Matthew 20:28

³John 13:15

⁴Mark 10:44

⁵Mat 20:27

⁶Mark 9:35

⁷Mark 10:44

⁸Matt 23:11

⁹Galatians 5:13



Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 14:15, *The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.*

Apt

Every one of us enters this world as simple and uncomplicated. God assures us that He looks out for our welfare for He gives the simple understanding. He loves the simple and in His infinite wisdom provides for them to grow from simplicity to wisdom. Proverbs 19:7 says, *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.* God the Father desires to move His children from simplicity to wisdom and He has methods and ways to do it. Proverbs 19:25 tells us that the simple can learn by observing the smiting of a scorner. When the scorner is punished, the simple learns from the scorner's punishment and is made wise. So those who are simple are teachable.

It is important to note that the simple have innate weaknesses. There is level of innocence that causes them to be trusting of others. They have limited understanding

upon which to discern what is true or false so they often believe anything they are told. The simple believe "every word" because they have not been equipped to discern.

Evidence

On the other hand, believing God's Word is good, for that is what faith is all about. You can rest in God's Word because God is truth and every word of God is truth. But God does not expect you to believe His Word without studying the evidence of its validity. Our understanding of God's Word is based upon evidence that God Himself amply provides. You are to put His Word to the test as we are told in Psalm 34:8, *O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.* You are to compare scripture with scripture to see the perfect consistency and order of His Word. If we are to test God's Word how much more are we to test every word of man.

Knowledge

Satan loves to devour the simple for they can be easy targets. Peter, through the Holy Spirit, warns us in 1 Peter 5:8, *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.* Millions are deceived by the television huckster/preachers because they are simple concerning God's Word. Some novelty that tickles the ear is passed for the revelation of God. Some favorite and popular name often deceives the simple, unquestioning innocent. Unless we have knowledge and understanding of God's Word, we will tragically move from being simple to that of being a scorner. No man or woman remains neutral in this world. Notice what Paul tells the Ephesians in Chapter 4:14, *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in*

(Continued on page 8)



FOCUS ON RELIGION



George Counts and the New Social Order Part II by Pastor Adam Watt

In our last article, we introduced George Counts, an influential educator in the push for a socialistic America. His most influential writing came in 1932, but before that time, his social theory began to be formed in graduate school, shaped by four key influences. First, his graduate education under Charles H. Judd of the University of Chicago constructed Counts' socio-educational approach to research. Judd taught Counts to take a scientific approach to educational research so that the impact of sociology could be measured. Furthermore, Judd introduced the idea that man's journey for intelligence (his education) is responsible for altering and constructing society. From this paradigm, Counts would later advocate the teaching of socialism as the best approach to form a new society.

Second, Counts' independent research of the school system formulated his mindset of egalitarianism. In 1922, he published *The Selective Character of American Secondary Education* with many charts and scientific data describing the problems caused by social barriers. Through the study, Counts concluded that secondary education only benefitted the wealthier classes who were sheltered from the injustices of society. The entire public (including the

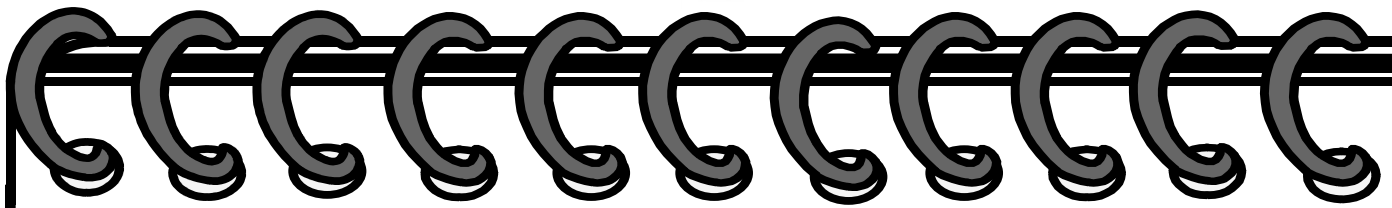
poor) paid for education, but only the wealthy or privileged had the time and opportunity to attend school. If secondary education was not going to be opened for all, Counts suggested that the select group be taught the meaning of social obligation so that their lives and careers would center on helping the less fortunate.

Third, an infatuation with Russian Communism forged Counts' thinking about society and revolution. For eight months, Counts traveled through Russia, experiencing first-hand the five year plan of Stalin. While Counts was greatly impressed with the elimination of class, he did not approve of Marx's revolutionary and violent methods. To attain social class egalitarianism, Counts began to form a theory that involved a quiet revolution through the school system, avoiding the forced submission which was disdained by free Americans.

Fourth, the Great Depression of the late 1920s also influenced Counts; through this economic tragedy, Counts' disdain for capitalism was solidified, catalyzing a more aggressive vocalization of his social theory. Progressive educators of the time began to bemoan the economic problems of capitalism; for example, Judd wrote that the school needs to change its

methods and curriculum in light of social and economic issues that arise in each generation. In 1930, Counts wrote *The American Road to Culture* in which he urged educators to change their mentality so that the enormous task of educational construction could begin. Educators cannot sit on the sidelines and watch the decline in society and economics. Two years later, Counts accepted his own challenge, defining terms and proposing remedies to the educational-social issue in his revolutionary work, *Dare the School Build a New Social Order*.

Obviously, Counts was concerned that education be the key factor in changing society. The division between wealthy and poor classes in America was hindering society as a whole, causing depressions and market crashes. In Counts' opinion, the only way to fix the problem is through education; teachers must take a new approach so that the social egalitarian consciousness of the students is awakened. Through the schools, therefore, a new social order of equality and democracy could be constructed, free from class barriers that cause social problems. In our next article, we will discuss the key elements of Counts' theory as written in *Dare the School Build a New Social Order*. Ω

*Teaching Tips**by Doris Peppard*

Little Ones

But Jesus said, “Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:14). Jesus loves little children. It is His desire to see them brought up properly according to the principles of the Word of God. Formal Christian education begins in pre-school. We have a special desire in our hearts to teach these little people and help them learn about Jesus’ love for them. We thank God for those who are burdened to teach these little children and guide them with a tender heart toward the Savior.

One of the first things to prepare is a neat and orderly classroom. Young children thrive in organized situations. They can quickly learn where to place their belongings when things are labeled in their classrooms. Give careful thought to having a place for all school supplies, children’s extra clothing and coats, their papers, as well as the seating assignments at the tables.

Once the physical aspects of the classroom are planned out, the teacher also needs to consider the actual children God has placed into their class as soon as assignments have been made. Begin by praying for your children by name in your personal devotions. Praying for them individually will help you become sensitive to their needs and this, then, will give you “a heart for every child.” Remember, God created them. He makes no mistakes – every character trait, each wiggle-worm, each shy smile, and each little mind is in need of development and guidance by a Christian teacher who will “bear their burdens” and bring them to Jesus’ feet. Remembering that He alone can save them, we certainly have many opportunities to point them to Christ.

The first week will set the tone for the entire school year with young children. One of our first concerns is that the students learn to respect you. If you are the right sort of teacher, they will also like you; but, you must first command respect. Teach children to raise their hands and respond to you with “Yes, ma’am.” Being consistent by applying both praise when earned and consequences when deserved, will help young children learn to respect you. Even little children know how to “read” their teacher. Show a genuine love and concern for each one.

The teacher’s attitude is highly contagious! If you are a happy person and have a sense of humor, your students will be happy, too, and they will enjoy preschool. A fair and kind, but firm teacher lets the children know that you mean what you say and their school year will provide a wonderful learning experience for little ones. Ω



(Continued from page 5 - Proverb Practicals)

wait to deceive.

Prudence

Children tossed to and fro. Simple, yet deceived. Satan's cunning craftiness is designed to convince the simple to become scornors of God's Word and His Divine authority. We are not to be as children substituting feelings and excitement for solid Biblical principles. We may be simple when we come into God's family, but God does not intend for us to remain so. By obedience to God's Word the simple become prudent. The prudent man is cautious when hearing the words of men. He enters into conversation with a God-given understanding of the nature of man and man's self-serving ways. He tests before trusting. He is careful of the consequences of his actions.

Remember Nehemiah 6:2, when he was engaged in the important task of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem! *Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.* How did Nehemiah discern their thoughts to do him mischief?

Why did he not leave the work and meet Sanballat and Geshem? Because he was prudent, he was cautious in his dealings with men. It was his developed habit to carefully consider his actions and their consequences. John, the Apostle, advises prudence in 1 John 4:1, *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.* Look well to your going by the only standard that will pass the test.

Wisdom

Through centuries of time, the Bereans are remembered as noble saints because they did not simply believe the great Apostle Paul's word. *They searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so (Acts 17:10-14).* Why? The Bereans were prudent and interested only in knowing God's truth. Because of God's work in their hearts, they had moved from simplicity to wisdom. They had grown to believe that all things were to be done decently and in order. They weighed the words of men against the Word of God. *The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.* Ω

(Continued from page 3 - Secularization)

right. Instead of being a matter of black and white, truth has turned gray.

We wanted to be approved by them, and in doing so we became like them. The demise of the Bible college movement is a result of this terrible compromise. What do the intellectual heathen know about what God wants our academic standard to be? Herein is the great failure. In Christian education, we have divided life into secular and spiritual. That is our excuse for allowing men and women who hate our God and us to tell us how education is best accomplished. Of course, most every one of us reading this was trained to think with a liberal mind-set, and that is why Christian education has become secularized. We act, think, talk, and smell like our culture rather than having the sweet smell of truth and holiness. Ω

"If you leave out the truth of the coming of the Lord Jesus, you miss a power of holiness that God has given to us." (See I John 3:3.)

~ E. Dennett



(Continued from page 1 - Spending Yesterday's Capital)

are, what they believe and what they should practice. ***The sad reality is that a spiritual apathy often dominates this generation leading to dead orthodoxy [doctrine; beliefs] and inevitably a rejection of the convictions of the generations that went before them. Lifted up by pride, they tend to be obstinate and independent of God and man. They have fought few battles, are benefactors of the sacrifices of others and few are willing to confess they have themselves built nothing. They have, in the words of Martyn Lloyd Jones, "spent yesterday's capital until [they] have nothing left." (See Dr. Travis D. Smith's posting at "From the Heart of a Shepherd" at wordpress.com)***

This spring we have witnessed the closures of Northland International University and Clearwater Christian College. It has been with great sadness to watch these two, once Fundamental schools decline over the past number of years. ***The Projector*** predicted the closure of Northland in 2011 due to its infatuation with new philosophies of ministry ("Missional," "Gospel-Driven", etc.), New Calvinism, and especially

Contemporary Christian Music. Clearwater Christian followed a similar route and when Dr. Jack Klem was appointed president, many knew where the school was headed and where it would eventually end up, in spite of the defenders who would not listen. Standards were lowered because they were considered "legalistic", CCM was exalted because it was considered "missional", and worldly rap and rock music was permitted on campus because it was "relevant" to student retention. "Ichabod" was etched upon what remained.

No one rejoices in the fall of a pastor, church, school or college. What Dr. Smith says above is right on target. Spiritual apathy concerning what the Bible teaches concerning Biblical separation and the glorious principles and doctrines of Scripture leads to spiritual decline which leads to spiritual ruin. Biblical distinctives are what make Christianity different from all the false religions of the world. When you set aside those distinctives you become no different than the world. Why would anyone send their student to a "Christian College" that looks no different than a public college or university?

What advantage is there? What Christian directives could possibly be communicated to students when the heart and soul of Christian purity is missing? Biblical distinctives matter! The late John Ashbrook used to say, ***"You cannot maintain a position without crusading for it."*** These two schools and their leadership stopped crusading for Biblical Separation years ago. By the way, there are other Bible colleges and universities who are following this tragic course, perhaps at a slower rate, but without radical changes to return to the old paths, we will sadly watch their demise as well. Biblical separation is the cornerstone of all Biblical distinctives. ***"Cleans(ing) ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and the perfecting of holiness in the fear of God"*** (II Corinthians 7:1) is the heart and soul of consecrated Christian living. It is not optional. It is part and parcel of the DNA of a Christian. It is what identifies us with our Lord Jesus Christ in this world. It is the distinctive of distinctives. When the cornerstone is removed, the building collapses under its own weight.

We would do well to study

(Continued on page 10)



The Preservation of Liberty

by the late Dr. M. H. Reynolds

(As quoted in FEATURE, A Daily Bible Study Guide-July-September 2015)

Galatians 5:1, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

"The political freedom we enjoy here in the United States of America is such a great blessing. On this Independence Day, we take time to recognize and commemorate our liberty. Yet, we also need to realize that our liberties are under attack as never before. The enemies of faith and freedom are twisting words such as liberty and freedom in order to defend their wicked ways; however, true, biblical liberty will never "call evil good, and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20). A host of religious, political, and social organizations in the United States and in other countries are seeking to limit or even extinguish the freedoms of speech and religion that are our God-ordained right, while, on the other hand, many defend vile language and pornography as "freedom of speech" or "free expression." Others are seeking to silence those who simply desire to enunciate and apply biblical principles and convictions to their own personal lives.

We must "stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (vs. 1). Yes, the primary application of this com-

mand concerns spiritual liberty, but the underlying principle also can be applied to the preservation of constitutional liberties guaranteed in free nations. Often, wicked political policies run concurrent with the actions and beliefs of rulers who are still under the bondage of the sin nature. Satan is a master counterfeiter. He and his angels of light use false promises of liberty to deceive millions (II Peter 2:19). This is no time for pacifism or silence. We cannot preserve our liberty if we are wobbling in our convictions. We must firmly stand fast and speak up for that which is right!"

Editor's Note: *With the recent landmark decision of the Supreme Court to legalize "gay marriage" in all fifty states, now more than ever God's people need to pray for His mercy and that He will grant a spiritual awakening in this land. We as Christians must stand up for righteousness as defined in the Bible. Since marriage was not originated in human law, but rather by God Almighty as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, the Supreme Court had no right to redefine it. The Supreme Court's decision on marriage (5 - 4 decision) repudiates the fixed moral standards established by our founding documents and expressed through "the laws of nature and of nature's God" (Opening paragraph of the Declaration of Independence). Ω*

(Continued from page 9 - Spending Yesterday's Capital)

the demise of these two schools, and others (Pillsbury, Tennessee Temple, etc.) and mark the distinctives that were set aside under pressure. The pressure of culture, anemic Christians, and outright worldly "Christians" (lost people who are religious) is very real and mounting. These two schools spent **"their spiritual capital until nothing was left."** What is more important, loving and maintaining God's Biblical distinctives, or loving and maintaining cultural adaptations under the guise of "relevancy?" Your answer will determine your outcome. Ω

Congdon Ministries International

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Dr. Rob Congdon has recently released a new book entitled "Oops, I Thought I was a Four-Point Calvinist." It is a thorough overview of Five point Calvinism. This book offers a system of theology that is Biblical and harmonizes with the Scriptures. Further, it enables the reader to properly understand God's purpose and plan for earth's history and eternity.

In addition to this recent publication, Dr. Congdon has several books and booklets related to New Calvinism as well as Prophetic Studies.

Dr. Congdon's website is www.CongdonMinistries.org. The editor highly recommends the ministry of Dr. Congdon. He is available for meetings and can be contacted at 864-498-0988 or by email at info@CongdonMinistries.org



Stars of the Morning

ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH

by "Aunt Carolyn"

*Little Boy Blue, Come blow your horn,
The sheep's in the meadow, the cow's in the corn;
Where is that boy, who looks after the sheep?
Under the haystack, fast asleep.*

"Under the haystack fast asleep! Under the haystack fast asleep!" Then she said it a third time, "Under the haystack fast asleep! So much for you, *Mr. Dependable!*" Becky taunted her younger brother with mocking voice and motions. "You will pay! You will pay!" she teased!

"Go away! Leave me alone!" Randy retorted. "You think you never make a mistake. You think you're so perfect!"

"Oh, Bud, I know I'm not perfect, but I know enough to stay awake when Mom leaves me with the baby! What were you thinking? How could you have been so careless? No wonder Mom was ready to skin you alive! Just think what could have happened!"

"What? What could have happened? We were perfectly safe! If something had happened I would have wakened up! I would have protected the baby! He's my little brother, too, you know. I care what happens to him as much as you do! So there!"

"Well, you didn't act like it this afternoon! Mom or nobody can trust you if you're going to go to sleep at the switch! Suppose the house had caught on fire, and you were sleeping and smoke swept through the whole house."

"Hey, no problem! That's what the smoke alarm is for."

"Yes, but suppose it had been as dependable as you! Suppose it didn't go off! Suppose the battery was dead and we didn't know it," Joyce continued her scolding.

Just then Mother walked into the room lightly rocking the baby in her arms and softly singing a lullaby.

*"Hush, little baby, don't say a word,
Papa's going to buy you a mockingbird,
And if that mockingbird won't sing,
Papa's going to buy you a diamond ring..."*

She sang on and on until the song ran out and then started a new one:

*"Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so..."*

After a few verses of that dear song, the baby relaxed and was off to dreamland. Somehow everyone in the room relaxed, too. "It's true," Mother mused, "A baby when it's sleepin' has no cry in', but that's another lullaby. Let me lay this cherub down, then I think it's snack time."

The room was rather quiet as the children downed milk and cookies and Mother had some tea. In a little while, Beckie broke the silence. "Mother, aren't you going to scold Randy and give him a 'talking to'?"

"What would I 'talk to' him about, Beckie? What's on your mind?"

"Well, that he went to sleep while he was supposed to be watching the baby! You've told us very plainly to stay awake and alert when we are with him, and Randy went to sleep on duty!"

"So he did! And I have tended to him in no uncertain terms. I don't believe Randy will be careless again when he knows we are depending on him. I think, however, rather than your criticizing him, you would do well to remember a few times of lapse in your own dependability."

Beckie's face flushed. "What did Mother mean?" she wondered.

"I don't like to bring up old faults," Mother said, "but I imagine you remember the time you were supposed to warm milk for the new little calf. While you were supposed to be watching it, you let yourself be distracted and started playing with the cat. Before you knew it, there was milk boiling over on the stove and onto the floor. What an awful mess!"

"Oh, yes, I remember, Mother," Beckie said almost whispering. "It surely was a mess to clean up, too! How could I forget that?"

"Well, it's done and settled now, just like Randy's wrongdoing. We must just go forward, learn from our mistakes, ask God's forgiveness, and never repeat them again."

"When someone gives us a job or responsibility, we must

(Continued on page 12)

