

## BATTLE FOR THE MIND

**"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."**

Proverbs 1:7

Dr. Frank Hayward Sells was my mentor during my seminary years, and for many subsequent years following my ordination to the gospel ministry. Dr. Sells was born at Johnson City, Tennessee, in 1910. He was the son of Samuel Riley Sells, a United States Congressman, serving in the House of Representatives from 1917-1919. For decades Dr. Sells was a revered professor of the Bible at many colleges and universities, in Tennessee, South Carolina, and Virginia. Some of the following "principles of education" are from a course on *Biblical Poetry* by Dr. Sells and concisely edited from my college notes.

Many of America's prominent universities and colleges have responded with anti-Semitic rhetoric following the unprovoked attack by Hamas on Israel. This biased outpouring of prejudicial hate, coupled with their blatant failure to acknowledge the atrocities of Hamas, have compelled me to do an article on the principles of a true education.

In response to the anti-Semitic protests on campuses we have heard that some alumni are denouncing their alma mater, some are resigning as serving board members, and others have stopped giving vast amounts of monetary support to these once prestigious schools. We might refer to the terminal sickness found in these schools as the SECOND-GENERATION SYNDROME.

**Yale University** was founded by a group of ten Congregational ministers led by James Pierpont in 1701. The ministers donated their books to start a new college to train future ministers. Presbyterians founded **Princeton University** in 1746 in order to train ministers. The college was the educational and religious capital of Scottish-Irish America. **Harvard University** was founded in 1636 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. For centuries its graduates dominated Massachusetts' clerical and civil ranks. Many other colleges and universities could be included on this list.

Most of these Ivy League schools from their conception propagated the Christian faith and Biblical principles. These institutions promoted a high moral ground in our society and instilled a patriotic allegiance to our country. But **"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"** Psalm 11:3. Communism has been chipping away at the foundations upon which these institutions were built for years. This is not only true of the Ivy League schools but this is also true of colleges and universities across the United States. We have come a long way from the required reading of *MASTERS OF DECEIT* by J. Edgar Hoover. The book's subcript: *What the Communist bosses are doing to bring America to its knees*. The "hammer and sickle" is on display at almost every college protest.

For many years communism lurked in the dark shadows of clandestineness. Now these Marxist deceivers are openly brainwashing our youth at universities without opposition or fear. **"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."** 2 Timothy 3:13. We need our brains washed but not by some wuss behind a lectern propagating a Marxist doctrine. We need our brains washed with the infallible Word of God. **"That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word."** Ephesians 5:26.

Generations of our youth are being deceived. They are being educated out of faith in God. Communism has infiltrated every segment of our society. We see their converts in government, schools, courts, churches, Hollywood, social media platforms, in our woke military, and in the media. They are even going after our pre-school children. The baby boomer generation is rapidly passing away and we will be replaced with indoctrinated generations of our children, allied with illegals that are being grafted into our country. The SECOND-GENERATION SYNDROME. It is a terminal condition, and I fear that it will "...bring America to its knees."

There is a battle taking place for our children's minds. Our kids need a solid foundation to confront these deceivers and their training must begin with the parents, in the home. **"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."** Proverbs 22:6

Someone has said, "We are all dumb, just on different subjects." Many universities have set the moral and intellectual bar so low today that they are producing an army of dimwits. Go on any campus and ask questions about current events, the history of our republic, or about the real issues surrounding their protests. You will get a host of

answers that seem to be parroted from some Marxist professor, some extreme left-wing organization, or they sound off with the sheeplike mentality of the contemptable mob that they hang out with. They are dumb!

The Book of Proverbs lays down great principles of education which are diametrically opposed to worldly principles of a pseudo-education. One of the great values of the book of Proverbs lies in the fact that it is the inspired check upon worldly philosophy, worldly sociology, worldly psychology, and worldly pedagogy. Since one of Satan's greatest attacks against the people of God is in the field of education, one of the greatest values of this wonderful book lies in the fact that Proverbs is designed to turn us from man's idea of education to God's plan of true learning.

There are at least four great contrasts between man's futile ideas and God's plan in the field of education.

Worldly education begins with a question while true education begins with an affirmation. Man asks, "What is the beginning of wisdom?" but God says, "**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.**" Proverbs 9:10. Worldly education tries to build its own foundation while true education accepts the foundation which God has laid. Worldly education is basically inductive while true education is basically deductive. In true education there is no place for the inductive method of reasoning unless it is based upon a strongly deductive foundation.

Worldly education is centered in the mind while true education is centered in the heart. True education says that the mind is important only as it is related to the heart. The truth of Proverbs 4:23 lies at the very center of all true education: "**Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.**"

Worldly education teaches us to think independently and thus it weakens all true thought processes. True education teaches us to think dependently and thus it strengthens all true thought processes. The importance of an absolute dependence upon God is stressed in Proverbs 3:5, 6: "**Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**" The importance of a relative dependence upon man is emphasized in Proverbs 11:14: Worldly education teaches man to think for himself in a spirit of independence. "**Where no counsel is, the people fall....**" Proverbs 11:14a. True education teaches man to think for himself in a spirit of dependence. "**...but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.**" Proverbs 11:14b.

Worldly education does not cut across the grain of the natural heart but true education cuts across the grain. The idea of many worldlings today is to never say "no or don't" to a child. This concept of childrearing is diametrically opposed to the emphasis of Proverbs which is filled with negative as well as positive commands. Worldly education in its emphasis upon psychological motivation appeals to pride but true education appeals to the fear of the Lord, and it lays stress upon the consequences of disobedience. "**For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:**" Proverbs 1:29.

In conclusion, I regrettably deem that our schools are in crisis. We have seen a downward spiral since removing God and the Bible from the classroom. We have allowed Masters of Deceit to instruct our children with an agenda that rejects religion and promotes atheism. This corruption becomes more evident as our schools, our churches, and our country goes into decline. Seldom can the decomposition be stopped, nor can these once prestigious schools reacquire their former glory. "**...and great was the fall....**" Matthew 7:27

Semper Fi

*Chaplain Ron*



Dr. Frank Hayward Sells (1910-2003)