

## **Being Wise in Education Choices**

**11-17-19 AM**

When God promised Manoah and his wife a son, they asked the Angel “what will be his vocation?” This was an important question; guiding those we influence into wise vocation choices is part of spiritual leadership. As his parents, they understood how important it is that they formed his path.

One of the most important decisions that Christians make is the vocation that they will pursue. The Bible teaches that Christians need vocations; we are not permitted to “freeload” or to live off of the charity of others indefinitely (2 Thessalonians 3:6-10). Christians glorify Christ in our labors; much of our influence in the world is seen in our work (Colossians 3:22-25).

The first job that anyone will have is the education that will bring them into that vocation. ALL vocations require knowledge preparation; we can see that with doctors or lawyers, but even laborers and homemakers (Titus 2:3-5) require a vocational education. Therefore, our pursuit of an education for the purpose of establishing a vocation is of great spiritual importance.

We all can see that education is important. Whether it is the education we obtain in lower grades or a college education, it is an opportunity to learn more about the creation or to prepare ourselves for a vocation. However, there are also dangers involved in the process of education. Solomon once said that with much learning is much sorrow (Ecclesiastes 1:18).

Many things we are taught are contrary to the truth. Our education system is founded on the philosophy of materialism. This ideology is based on the idea that anything that is real is material (including thought and consciousness). Obviously, such an ideology discounts the existence of God (Hebrews 11:3, 1 Timothy 6:15-16), who exists in a reality that is apart from ours. Our education system promotes ideas such as humanism, atheism, evolution, and moral equivalency.

While in high school there is a temptation to not take seriously the work we are doing. It is because of immaturity that many fail to realize that their conduct has consequences. Many of the sinful habits of life are learned in high school or even before; drinking, drugs, promiscuity and vulgarity are all common in high school. As well, there is a theme of disrespect and rebellion that is promoted by many of those in school. We need to make wise decisions in high school; many lives have been ruined by a 16, 17 or 18 year old who wanted to fit in but failed.

After high school many people go straight into the work force. Others will choose to go into school. From a spiritual perspective, neither is better or worse. College is an important step that many make, but fail to spiritually plan when doing so. When you choose what school to attend, is your spiritual life first among priorities? Is there a church that you can faithfully attend?

As well, college offers more opportunities for worldly conduct that require greater self-control. Sexual activity is rampant in college life, as is drinking and drugs. Many Christians leave home at 18 and then fall away because they made poor decisions in choosing their school and then their lifestyle. As well, the educational environment in most schools is even more ant-Christian than any other environment, and many feel compelled to conform to fit in, or are deceived into denying God.

We must be very careful that our education pursuits do not rob God of the things that we owe Him. When our pursuit of knowledge overwhelms our service to God (Romans 12:1-2, Hebrews 10:25), then we have failed to discern the proper order of our lives.