



Christ  
in  
Education

*Dr. William Sims Allen*



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## Christ In Education

The late loved and honored Dr. Lee R. Scarborough once said, "I think the most majestic picture God ever painted on the canvas of the world is a saved, educated, consecrated man." In that one sentence the great and good man described the product of education with Christ in it—"Saved, educated, consecrated."

Education offers opportunity for the development of powers and talents of students for the discovery of truth. Education with Christ in it does this and much more; it offers opportunity for students to grow in stature and in wisdom and in understanding of man and in love of God. It purposes to strengthen the spiritual life and improve the conduct of the students. It includes the development of the physical, the mental, the social, the aesthetic, the emotional, the moral, the spiritual. It proposes the growth, yes, the enrichment of man in his own ideals and thinking, in his relationships with the universe in which he lives, in his relationship with God. It therefore is education that develops the whole personality, as God would have it developed in each individual. It is complete education. Its dominant purpose is to develop dynamic Christian character and to send out young men and women to minister to life.

It was Emerson who said, "The measure of a civilization is the character of the people a nation turns out."

Education with Christ in it begins in the home where the Christian father and mother teach their children to know Jesus and to love Him and to live his ideals. It continues through life in the Sunday school and in the church.

Today, I am dealing with Christian education in the college and the university. I pause to add that if the Christian college is to be most effective, its scholarship standards must be of the highest. Cultural advantages must be of the best. Teachers must be the most scholarly and cultured, as well as Christian, that can be secured. Libraries, laboratories, and other equipment must be adequate. Courses must be offered in the six or seven great fields of world knowledge. Respect for truth must be developed wherever truth may be found, with the realization and assurance that all truth comes from God who is truth, and whose Son said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

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I would pay tribute, first, to public education, from the kindergarten through our great state universities; and to the Christian men and women who teach in those institutions. Our very form of government demands that every citizen be informed if democracy is to last. Freedom and learning have marched ever hand in hand. I am for public education so far as public education can go. But the state cannot teach religion, and rightly so. Hence, alongside state education we must have education with Christ in it for at least two reasons: (1) to educate young people for places of leadership in our denomination life; (2) to develop a responsible Christian citizenship for our nation and the world.

As we turn back the pages of history, we find the contributions of education with Christ in it to American progress:

Twenty-three of the first twenty-four colleges founded in America were Christian colleges. Of the first 119 colleges and universities established east of the Mississippi River, 104 were Christian colleges and universities; and of the 250 institutions of higher learning founded before the Civil War 233 were builded on Christian principles. Seventy per cent of the colleges and universities in the United States today can trace their origin to Christian influences.

The great leaders of early America who gave us the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the basic ideals of the American way of life were the product of education with Christ in it. President John W. Raley was correct when he said: "The inculcation of Christian principles into political philosophy gave birth to the world's first great democracy. The American democracy was born in the Christian college and nurtured by it for the first 150 years."

Sixteen of the first eighteen presidents of the United States who were college graduates were graduates of Christian schools. Seven of the first eight Chief Justices of the Supreme Court who were college graduates were the product of education with Christ's principles.

Ninety-eight per cent of our Baptist missionaries and ninety per cent of all missionaries of all denominations came out of education with Christ in it.

Christian education has given us a Thomas Jefferson, an Alexander Hamilton, a Henry W. Longfellow, a Nathaniel Hawthorne, a Horace Mann, a Jane Adams, an S. Parks Cadman, a Charles Evans

Hughes, a Robert A. Milliken, an Elihu Root, a Robert E. Speer, a B. H. Carroll, an E. Y. Mullins, a Luther Bagby and Mrs. Bagby, a Samuel Palmer Brooks, a Eugene Sallee, a Lee R. Scarborough, an N. M. McCall, a George W. Truett, and a host of other noble leaders in every worthy work of life—men and women alike.

Education with Christ in it gives enduring values of life; highest respect for truth in every realm and from every source; clear, constructive and courageous thinking on every problem; a view of the whole world as one world, and some understanding of the needs and hopes and ideals of all peoples—white, and black, and red, and brown, and yellow—and reminds us that God made them all, and that we are our brothers' brothers. It teaches that learning never ceases so long as life is. It gives perspective—vision—through a study of the experience of the race—in the humanities, the natural sciences, the social sciences, in music and art and law and Bible. It helps each student find and prepare for the particular work that he or she was born into the world to do. It teaches the highest expression of patriotism—love of liberty, of equality, of justice, of humanity, of the brotherhood of man—an equal opportunity for all the sons of men! It gives a Christian philosophy of life and goes hand in hand with the Christian home and the church in pointing young people to God through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. These are some of the enduring values of education with Christ in it. For the years ahead, the home, the church, the Christian school, must join in a more dynamic partnership for the educational and spiritual development of our country and for the civilization of the world.

Christian education and the Church and Christian citizens have never faced a greater challenge than they face at the present hour.

The world is in confusion. Peace still hangs between life and death. Most of the peace treaties are yet to be signed; millions of starving people are to be fed; three hundred million youths of teen age, among the submerged peoples of the world, have never had one hour of formal education and have never heard of Christ in education; more than half of the two billion people in the world are unable to read or write a single word in any language, and most of the others have had but little training in political democracy. Russia and the United States have yet to come to an understanding if the peace of the world is to be maintained. India, on the threshold of independence, is threatened with

civil war because of the contentions of two religious sects. Her nearly 400 million people need Christ in education. China, with more than 400 million people, is in the midst of civil war. Belgium is suffering from wounds and contentions of the past. France is confused and weak and divided; Italy is struggling against communism; the Palestine issue is still unsettled; the philosophies of Germany and Japan are to be dealt with in the years ahead. The United Nations Organization is still to be developed. It will grow as the people of the world grow in intelligence, in good will, and in the spirit of the Christian brotherhood of man. The more its growth is hampered and delayed by whatever cause, the more likelihood of world war number 3 and the complete destruction of civilization. These are some of the conditions around the world.

In our own country we have confusion and greed and selfishness and ignorance and prejudice (caused by ignorance); political chicanery in high and in low; pressure groups and blocs; racial disputes and misunderstandings and hatreds; too little faith in God, and too little working for God by helping humanity around the world. Sixty per cent of our adult population belong to no church, Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, or Baptist. Serious crime reached a new high mark for the decade in 1946, the total number of serious crimes being 1,685,203 for the year. The cost in money is estimated at fifteen billion dollars a year, forty million dollars a day, twenty-eight thousand dollars a minute. The cost in human suffering is incalculable.

If civilization is to be saved and made better, it will be through the leadership of saved, educated, Christ-loving, Christ-obeying, Christ-serving, Christ-living men and women. This is the world's supreme need today and tomorrow.

The church and education with Christ in it have the values that are the saving power of civilization. Through these institutions we must call humanity up again to those ideals, those foundations which cannot fail:

The foundation of cultured Christian homes—homes founded on love that is as pure as the blue of the sky and as lasting as time; homes where Christ dwells; homes where at every meal God is thanked for his blessings; homes where the day is begun by asking his guidance and help; where his book is read and studied and where the principles of Jesus are followed; homes that are places of

love and comradeship and joy and work! Dr. Millard A. Jenkins has expressed the ideal so beautifully:

So long as there are homes that pray,  
We still can hope;  
The nation will not lose its way, nor  
In darkness grope:  
For He shall go before, Who is the Light,  
And guide its steps aright.

So long as there are homes whose  
Anchors hold—  
Faith, and hope, and love, and  
Courage bold;  
And there is strength to labor, and patience  
to endure,  
A nation is secure.

So long as there are homes with fires  
Of faith aglow;  
That seek God's way, and follow where  
His banners go:  
And women pray, and men of God draw nigh,  
A nation cannot die.<sup>1</sup>

We must call humanity up to the foundation of Christian citizenship in a democratic society. We should all read again the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, Washington's Farewell Address, Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, Woodrow Wilson's "Road Away from Revolution." We should read again Christ's Sermon on the Mount and remember that he said, "Ye are the salt of the earth" . . . "Ye are the light of the world," and "By their fruits ye shall know them." We should read again II Chronicles 7:15: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land." We should read again Micah 6:8: "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."

We must call humanity up to the foundation of mental virtues; honesty, honor, reliability, sincerity, truthfulness, integrity, humility, moral cleanness, reverence for God. "The first thing in knowledge is reverence for the Eternal" (Psalm 111:10, Moffatt).

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1. Jenkins, Millard Alford: *Special Day Sermons*. The Broadman Press, Nashville, Tennessee, 1942, 110. Quoted with permission of author and publisher.

We must call humanity up to the fountain of appreciation and enjoyment of the beautiful in life through literature, and music, and art, and nature, and love for God's holy Word; and away from the cheap, and the low, and the sordid, and the unworthy. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork" (Psalm 19:1). Help us, O God to see thy beauties, and to realize that every beautiful thing is the expression of a divine thought to lift us nearer to thee.

We must call humanity up to the foundation of a triumphant faith in God, man's supreme need today and every tomorrow! In the words of William Pierson Merrill:

Rise up, O men of God!  
Have done with lesser things;  
Give heart and mind and soul and strength  
To serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O men of God!  
His kingdom tarries long;  
Bring in the day of brotherhood  
And end the night of wrong.

Rise up, O men of God!  
The Church for you doth wait,  
Her strength unequal to her task;  
Rise up, and make her great!

Lift high the cross of Christ!  
Tread where His feet have trod;  
As brothers of the Son of man,  
Rise up, O men of God!<sup>2</sup>

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2. Merrill, William Pierson: "Rise Up, O men of God!" *The Broadman Hymnal*, p. 186. Broadman Press, Nashville. Quoted with permission of publisher.

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## Kentucky Baptist Schools

Georgetown College  
Campbellsville College  
Bethel Woman's College  
Cumberland College  
Oneida Institute  
Magoffin Baptist Institute

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