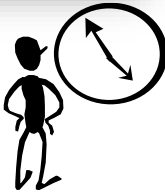


Inside this issue:

<i>Our Public Schools and the Homosexual Agenda</i>	1
<i>What's Wrong with Today's Youth</i>	3
<i>A.M. Sermon Outline: The Doctrine of Balaam</i>	4
<i>Support the Weak</i>	6
Duty Rosters	7
Announcements & For the Record	8



Time of Assembly



Sunday:

Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
Worship	10:00 a.m.
Worship	5:00 p.m.
(every other week)	

Wednesday:

Bible Study	6:30 p. m.
-------------	------------

Our Public Schools and the Homosexual Agenda

By Jefferson David Tant

America's public-school system in many places is falling prey to the agenda being promoted by the homosexual agenda, which seeks to make homosexual behavior perfectly normal and acceptable. To help achieve this goal, the prime targets are our public-school system.

One of the agents promoting this is the Southern Poverty Law Center. This organization was originally chartered as a national "civil rights" organization, whose original aim was to help fight against racial discrimination, but it has transformed into an organization that seems to label any organization that upholds traditional moral values as a "hate group."

The SPLC's Teaching Tolerance program is used in many K-12 schools. Hundreds of teachers are using this program around the nation, and some are not aware of the goals of SPLC. The organization has a publication for educators promoting an "LGBT Inclusive School Environment."

The goal of its "Teaching Tolerance" campaign is to put pro-LGBT curriculum in every public school in the USA. They seek to reduce or eliminate the influence of any parental organizations, such as the PTAs, which object to their agenda by labeling them as "hate groups." The SPLC has a "Toolkit for 'gender spectrum'" which encourages teachers to host a "gender-neutral day" where boys become girls and girls become boys even beginning in the third grade.

SPLC has a "Best Practices" handbook which aims to help school personnel to create an "LGBT-inclusive Climate" and urges leaders to "use gender-inclusive language," while calling for students to cross-dress and attend events with same-sex dates. They also seek to ostracize students, parents or organizations who have objections to these goals.

Teachers have been paid to attend SPLC training programs to help them put into practice the goals of the homosexual advocates. They also are promoting open attacks on parents, Christians, teachers or anyone else who is opposed to their agenda.

In Hawaii, state rep Bob McDermott filed an ethics complaint against SPLC, because they were paying teachers to promote their agenda. But Hawaii law prevents outside organizations from paying teachers. Their program was also biased against Christians. Teachers are also trained how to respond to parents who oppose cross-dressing their children or object to their agenda. These parents are labeled as “haters.”

A group of Minnesota parents fought against the LGBT program, and they were sued by the SPLC and were labeled as a “hate group. In view of these disturbing facts, Christian parents need to be involved in their children’s school programs and let their voices be heard. If things are not going well, parents might consider home schooling or a private school. We cannot let the world mold our children after the ways of the world.

And this becomes even more serious when we consider that, according to some estimates, 90% of college professors are liberal, and their agenda is to destroy the faith of the ignorant, Bible-believing students that come into their classroom. Some surveys have determined that as high as 70% of young people from church-going denominational homes lose their faith while in college. One reason is that these students have no foundation for their faith.

It is vitally important that local congregations need to teach classes on evidence to give our young people a solid foundation for their faith. Consider the following quotes that clearly show the agenda the some have for the remaking of America and the destruction of the faith of our children.

“We try to arrange things so that students who enter as bigoted, homophobic, religious fundamentalists will leave college with views more like our own... We are going to go right on trying to discredit you (fundamentalist parents) in the eyes of your children, trying to strip your fundamentalist religious community of dignity, trying to make your view seem silly rather than discussable. We are not so inclusive as to tolerate intolerance such as yours” (Prof. Richard Rorty, in his essay “Universality and Truth”).”

“Every child in America entering school at the age of five is insane because he comes to school with certain allegiances towards our founding fathers, towards his parents, toward a belief in a supernatural being... It is up to you teachers to make all of these sick children well by creating the International Children of the Future” (Chester M. Pierce, Harvard Professor addressing public school teachers [Berit Kjos, *Brave New Schools*, p. 161].)”

In view of this, we must be diligent, and we must ground our children’s faith, that they be strong to resist the forces of Satan that seek to destroy us and our children. *“Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the*

evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm” (Eph. 6:13). “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1).

What’s Wrong with Today’s Youth?

By Bill Hall

All along we hear questions raised as to what has gone wrong with today’s youth. Recently, a brother expressed his concern along this line and then asked, “What advice would you give young parents to help them avoid mistakes that we have made in our generation?”

The first thing we would say is: All is not bad with today’s youth. We see young people in the church voluntarily attending special classes conducted for their benefit and studying diligently in preparation for these classes. We see them singing in the worship periods, listening to sermons, following in their Bible, obeying the gospel as they reach accountability, and living conscientiously before God.

But all is not good. We are aware of drug abuse, sexual promiscuity, drinking, gambling, and crimes of all sorts among the youth of our day. We are appalled at the lack of self-control exhibited by athletes in both college and pro ranks. What has gone wrong?

A recent newspaper article helps to explain what has gone wrong. The opening paragraph says: “A high school football player who was arrested and charged with hitting a 15-year-old in the face with a crowbar has his coach concerned and his mother worried about his football future.”

Worried about what? When parents are more concerned for their children’s football future than they are for their character; when they are more concerned for their children’s financial well-being than for their eternal well-being; or when they are just not concerned, period, we can expect problems among our youth. Priorities are all wrong. Too many parents, in order to feed their own egos, push their children into positions that will bring honor and popularity, but give little thought to what will build character, integrity, and responsibility within them.

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4, ESV).

What advice would we give to young parents? Bring your children to every service of the church; encourage them to form close friendships with other children who attend regularly; do not try to shield them from hurts and disappointments, but allow them to work through their disappointments; hold them responsible for the consequences of wrong-doings; make sure that your greatest desire for them is that they go to heaven and that they are aware that this is your greatest desire; pray with them and teach them how to pray; and love them, love them, and love them some more.

Support the Weak

By Mike Johnson

Paul closes the book of I Thessalonians with some very important and practical exhortations. In I Thessalonians 5:14, he "*exhorts*" (NASB — "urge") the brethren to, among other things, "*uphold the weak.*"

Christians have a responsibility to "*uphold the weak.*" The weak are those who are spiritually weak. Most churches have those who are immature, and they need to be "upheld." The fact they are to be "upheld" does not mean we are to uphold these individuals when they are wrong, nor does it mean we are to make excuses for them. Instead, we are to "help" (NASB) them spiritually. We are to do things for them that will help them to increase their spiritual strength.

Churches having immature members is not necessarily a bad sign, any more than it would be to say that some families have physically weak members. Children, for example, are physically weak family members, yet having children in a family is not maligning. Churches also might have immature members for various legitimate and acceptable reasons. One converted to Christ, for example, usually will lack strength at first. It is a good sign when a congregation has many new converts because it shows the church has been bringing people to Christ—they have been working. The Bible refers to immature Christians as "babes" in Christ who are on the milk of the word. I Peter 2:2 says, "*... as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.*" It takes time for the new Christian, the babe in Christ, to grow into a mature Christian.

Those who are new Christians are weak and need help. An infant is not left by his parents to feed, clothe, and care for himself; neither should the new Christian be left to himself spiritually. Matthew 28:18-20 records the Great Commission given by Jesus. The commandments are to "teach," "baptize," and then "continue to teach." However, often, we do not continue to work with the new Christian. We need to encourage them, continue to teach them, listen to their problems, and advise them. Frequently this does not happen as the new Christian is by himself to face the temptations of the world without teaching and encouragement. Soon, he may miss some services, and he eventually falters. At this point, many excuse themselves by saying, "Well, I figured he wouldn't last; he probably never was truly converted, to begin with."

While some are spiritually weak because they are new Christians, others may be weak because they have not made an effort to grow. These have had plenty of time to grow, but they have not. In Hebrews 5:12, we read of certain ones who should have become teachers, but instead, it says, "*. . . For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.*" These people need teaching; they need the first principles again; they need to be encouraged to have zeal and to grow — they have gone backward.

All Christians need to "uphold" (help) the weak. We should have concern for others. In conclusion, Philippians 2:4 states this important principle "*Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*" (NASB)