

Reading text ^{Report on the Religion Course Court Case}

Thus the Lord commanded in the days of Joshua that the children should be raised up to know something of the mighty acts of God. That they should be taught what God has done in times past. That they should know that God is living, God is real, and that His word is entitled to their study and to be lamp to their feet and a light to their path.

It used to be that Christian people tried to see that the education of their children was directed in such a way that they would be under definitely Christian influences right through. That they would be raised up to know something about the Bible and the great acts of God and to follow in the footsteps of their fathers. About 100 yrs. ago a great movement began in the U.S. to spread the education so that everyone would have a chance at education and consequently to bring it more and more under control of the state, of the government.

A.A. Hodge, noted Princeton Theological Seminary professor, looked rather askance at this development. Last week I heard Dr. Bob Wells give a quotation from A.A. Hodge, a quotation which I have with me today because I would like to give it at this point. He said something like this: The development of an education under control of the state can produce the mightiest organ for destruction of Christian faith that the world has ever seen. If the education has to be under the direction of the state which represents all the people, then those who believe most must give way to those who believe little, and those who believe little must in the end give way to those who believe nothing at all. Perhaps Prof. Hodge was prophetic. I'm sure not many supposed our state directed education would move in such a direction. What would he have said if he had known that today, 100 yrs. later, the very institution where he taught the Word of God at that time, Princeton Seminary, is itself an organ to train people in denial of the Word of God, to train people in the higher criticism, to prepare them to go out and undermine faith instead of building it up. In our educational institutions today, it certain parts of it, it has not only become something which tries to keep from giving Christian training, it has in sections of it become something that actually tears down Christian training! and teaches religious views that are anti-Christian. That is what led to the development out in Seattle Washington last month of which Dr. McIntire has said considerable on the radio.

I would like to say a little about it this morning. First, I'll mention an experience to an experience I had about 20 yrs. ago in N.Y. when I happened to be walking through Central Park. There I saw a very nice little raised -- something like a pulpit, very nice, you could hardly call it a soap box because it was so well fixed up with a little ladder to go up it and stand there with like a pulpit in front of you to address the people. A man was there with a small crowd of people listening to him. I only listened for about a minute, but in the course of this minute I heard him say this, "You people don't realize what communism is. He said, Communism is the control of education, of the economic life and of the religion of the people in the community by the community itself." Well, I thought how beautiful that sounds! Let the community control the religion of the people of the community. Think about it a little bit. Though it sound beautiful it isn't. It means that every individual is to be forced into line with what those in control, ~~want~~ those in power believe. That is what the communists do wherever they have control. But in our country things have moved in that direction much more rapidly than most of us realize.

About 40 years ago down in the state of Tennessee, some unbelievers