



The Principle Approach and America's Christian Heritage

1

Session 1

Why a Christian Education?
America's Historic Method,
The Principle Approach



2

Objectives

1. To gain an understanding of the Biblical mandate for education.
2. To examine the emergence of the modern Principle Approach movement and Dayspring's history
3. To review the history of education from the coming of the Pilgrims to the mid-19th Century



3

Objectives (continued):

4. To gain an overview of the Seven Principles of the Principle Approach
5. To begin to learn some of the P.A. Distinctives:
 - The Notebook Method
 - The 4R: Biblical Word Study



4

A Brief History of Dayspring



5

The Launching

In 1981, the Lord began to lead Mike Myers to seek admission to Regent University to earn a master's degree in educational administration for the local public school in which he was acting science department chair



6

The Principle Approach Seed is Planted



- It was in this library, as he was reading from Dr. Paul Jehle's text, *Go Ye Therefore and Teach...*, that Mike was introduced to the **Principle Approach** to American Christian Education.

7

That encounter changed his life forever...

- True education cannot exist apart from God and His Word.
- Christian education must be biblical in its philosophy, curriculum, and methodology
- Historically, America employed a Christian model of classical education.
- America was founded upon biblical principles of government.

8

In 1986, Mike carried the vision of a Principle Approach school back to his home church in Lancaster, The Lord's House of Prayer.



Principle Approach Resources

A Mission Unfolds...

Partnering with parents and churches to equip students to:

- Acknowledge the Lordship of Christ
- Demonstrate a biblical worldview
- Develop citizens of excellence
- Restore America's Christian foundation and purpose

9

10

A School Name, Scripture, and Logo Followed...

Wkuoxjk#kch#hggh# huf|#ri#xou# rg># khue|#kch#
gd|vsulqj#iurp#rqr#ljk#kdw#y#lvng#k#v#r#j#ly#h#bjk#w#r#
w#hp#k#w#v#w#q#g#d#n#q#w#d#g#q#k#h#k#d#grz#r#i#g#h#w#/
w#x#gh#xou#l#h#w#q#w#k#z#d|#r#s#h#f#n#h#h#
Oxn#h#=# ;0:<


11



12


**DAYSPRING CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY'S FIRST
HOME**
1987
THE LORD'S HOUSE OF
PRAYER

139 East Vine Street
Lancaster, PA



13

1992 - Upper School Expansion
Teamster Building on North Duke Street



14

**Dayspring occupies up to three facilities
for the next five years.**

**133 East
Vine
Street**

1025 North Duke Street



15

1996 – A Big Year!

- Dayspring's 1st Graduating Class
- Dayspring purchases the former Thomas Mifflin Public School at 40 Pearl Street




16

The Pearl and The Vine
1996 - 2001

Vine Street

40 Pearl Street




17

**Pressures of growth and the church's need
for space initiate an exhaustive search.**

2001

- God opens the door at BURLE BUSINESS PARK
- Dayspring incorporates as an independent Christian school

A steppingstone...



18

Dayspring occupies both Burle and Pearl Street until the end of 02/03 school year



19

2003

Dayspring consolidates all grades at the Burle Business Park



20

Dayspring relocates to Mountville, PA in August of 2010



21

Why a Christian Education?

The Biblical Mandate

- Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (&10-12): “You shall teach them diligently to your sons...”
 - When you sit in your house
 - When you walk by the way
 - When you lie down
 - When you rise up
 - Bind them as a sign on your hand
 - Frontals on your forehead
 - Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates

REMEMBER
AMERICA
lecture series

22

Why a Christian Education?

The Biblical Mandate

- Psalm 78:3-4: “We will not conceal them from their children, but tell to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength and the wondrous works He has done...He commanded our fathers that they should teach them to their children, that the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children, that they should put their confidence in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments...”

REMEMBER
AMERICA
lecture series

23

Why a Christian Education?

The Biblical Mandate

- Ephesians 6:4: “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”
 - Discipline—*Paideia*—The whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of the mind and morals). It also includes training and care of the body. Correcting mistakes and curbing passions.
 - Instruction—*Nouthesia*—admonition, exhortation, correction.

REMEMBER
AMERICA
lecture series

24

The Four Components of any Educational System

- Philosophy (Why?)
- Curriculum (What?)
- Methodology (How?)
- Results (Where does it lead?)



25

The Four Components of any Educational System

- Philosophy (Why?)
 - Principle Approach—All about God. Principle based
- Curriculum (What?)
 - Principle Approach—American Classical
- Methodology (How?)
 - Principle Approach—Notebook/Tutorial
- Results (Where does it lead?)
 - Principle Approach—Christian Character and Service



26

Christian vs. Pagan Views

View of Man

Pagan	Christian
Man is simple, primitive, but becoming better	Man is fallen and needs a Savior
Human progress is in altering external environment to produce better internal character	Human progress is in altering the internal nature/character to produce a better environment
The effect: Man is in bondage to his environment	The effect: Free, independent, self-governing individual



27

Christian vs. Pagan Views

View of History

Pagan	Christian
All things came into being through chance happenings	All things were created by God (John 1:3)
Man's environment is the cause of man's actions	Man's heart is the cause of his actions
The goal is to change society economically, politically, etc.	The goal is to become a new creation
Success is the ability to adapt and to adjust to society	Success is in overcoming through Christ
The purpose of history is man's story and man's glory	The purpose of history is God's story and His glory



28

Christian vs. Pagan Views

View of Education

Pagan	Christian
Evolutionary	Wholistic
Human progress is in altering external environment to produce better internal character. Exerts external influence by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stimulating (subject) ● Motivating (consume) ● Enculturating (conform) ● Indoctrinating (confuse) 	Appeals to the internal by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inspiring the heart ● Consecrating to Christ ● Cultivating the new man ● Instructing in the knowledge of salvation ● Making <i>conscience the cause</i>
The effect: control the individual by changing behavior	The effect: freedom through character growth



29

The Christian Idea of the Child

- The child's value comes from being a unique creation of God, made in His image.
- The child's purpose is to grow into an adult who will find God's will and do it
- The child is to be taught constantly, continually, unfailingly ("when you rise up, when you lie down, when you walk in the way," etc.)



30

The Principle Approach

Definition: America's historic Christian method of Biblical reasoning which makes the Truths of God's Word the basis of every subject in the school curriculum.



31

Defining Our Terms

- ◆ **Principle:** *A principle is the cause, source, or origin of anything. It is that from which a thing proceeds, an element, a general truth, a seed.*
- ◆ **Approach:** *An approach is the act of drawing near, an access. It is also a term used in fortification referring to both the advances made by an army, as well as the works thrown up to protect them in their advances.*



32

In other words, the principle approach to education...

- ◆ gives students a way to **access** Truth (i.e., how to identify and apply the foundational truths of God's Word [principles], first, in the school subjects, and then to the whole of life). II Timothy 3:16-17; 2:15
- ◆ is a tool to **advance** the kingdom of light into the kingdom of darkness.
- ◆ provides a **fortification** against the onslaught of wrong thinking (secular worldview). II Corinthians 10:3-5



33

The Principle Approach

- ◆ has its philosophical origins in the Bible.
- ◆ has a distinctive methodology revealed through a biblical pedagogy of teaching and learning.
- ◆ unfolds the character and nature of God as revealed in Scripture and demonstrated throughout Creation.
- ◆ discovers the purposes of God for man and government.
- ◆ is applicable to all times and cultures.



34

Historically

“America's historic Christian method...”

This biblical model of education prevailed in homes, churches, and schools during America's colonial and founding periods.

It was this kind of education that equipped a generation to be able to reason from biblical principles to found the world's first Christian-based, Constitutional Federal Republic!



35

Historically...

- ◆ The principle approach model of education was historically identified and revived in the mid-20th century through the **Foundation for American Christian Education (FACE)** and was later coined “**The Principle Approach®**”



36

Method

- The 4R Method of Learning (Research, Reason, Relate, Record)
- Thinking Governmentally. Who or what is in control, directing, regulating, restraining, etc. me?
- Logic—thinking and reasoning justly
- Study of classical literature and western civilization



37

Method

- Study of key individuals, events, documents, etc.
- Teaches history from a Providential Perspective
- Identifies opposing views (Christian vs. Pagan)
- Emphasis on self-government



38

The Four Rs

- Research
 - Always benign with original sources
 - Define words based on their context
 - Find the biblical origin, purpose and perspective of the subject



39

The Four Rs

- Reason
 - Use critical thinking and reasoning skills and formal logic to deduce biblical principles that govern and inform the subject.



40

The Four Rs

- Relate
 - Make application to other spheres of life and learning
 - Internalize the learning so that it can be articulated in speech and written word with credibility and passion



41

The Four Rs

- Record—The Notebook Method
 - Record learning in own hand (“That for which I labor becomes my property”)
 - Develop Christian character traits of diligence, perseverance, orderliness, etc.
 - Think and express in complete thoughts, rather than one-word answers and fragments
 - Preserve learning for posterity




42

The Principle Approach	
IS NOT	IS
A canned education package based on man's wisdom	Biblical in philosophy, curriculum, and methods
Externally focused (behaviorally based; a self-help program)	Internally focused (begins in the heart to affect character and then the mind)
Legalistic (works based)	Life giving, liberty producing (Spirit led)

43

The Principle Approach is...


- Places principles from God's Word as the foundation for every subject
- Teachers are the "Living Curriculum"
- Teachers master their subjects and design a curriculum based upon their own biblical study
- Emphasizes elements of classical education such as logic, rhetoric,



44



The Principle Approach is...

- Christian character development is primary
- Students learn to **think Christianly**, not just learn to act like Christians in given situations.
- Academic standards surpass the government schools
- Students learn to appreciate and demonstrate patriotism for their country.



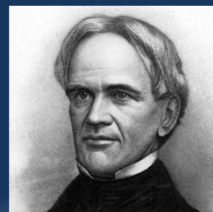

45

History of Education in America
The American Christian Approach: 1620-1830
 Noah Webster, the Father of American Christian Education and Scholarship.

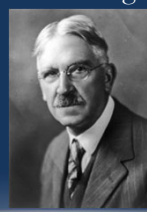

46

History of Education in America
The Socialistic Approach: 1830-1930
 Horace Mann

47

History of Education in America
The Evolutionary Approach: 1930-present
 John Dewey—The Father of Progressive Education

48

The 3 phases: American Christian:

Defined: “comprehends all that series of instruction which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations.” Noah Webster, 1828.

- Approach–Biblical
- Foundation–Biblical principles
- Key doctrine–Love of God and Neighbor
- Character–Christ Centered



49

The 3 phases: Socialistic

Defined: “Education, then beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of men—the balance-wheel of the social machinery...That they (‘the evil’) may become good...that injustice may depart...and be known no more.” Horace Mann. Twelfth Annual Report, Mass. State School.

- Approach–unitarian
- Foundation–social good or morality
- Key doctrine–love of neighbor only
- Character–group-centered, character for dependency and support of socialism. **Humanitarianism.**



50

The 3 phases: Evolutionary

Defined: “Education therefore, is a process of living, not a preparation for future living.” *My Pedagogic Creed*, John Dewey

- Approach–evolutionary
- Foundation–behavioral psychology and child development
- Key doctrine–love of self (Anarchy)
- Character–self-centered. Character for lawlessness in support of Humanistic character. **Secularism**



51

The cause to effect relationship of education to government

<u>Educational Approach</u>	<u>Governmental Form</u>
American Christian–The Principle Approach	Republican–American Christian Constitutional Federal Republic
Socialistic/Unitarian–The goodness of man deprived, not depraved	Monarchy–Socialism
Evolutionary–Chance!	Democracy–Mob rule!



52

The Seven Principles of the Principle Approach



53

#1. God’s Principle of Individuality

- **Statement of Principle:** Everything in God’s universe is revelational of God’s infinity, God’s diversity, God’s individuality. God creates distinct individualities, God maintains the identity and individuality of everything which He created.



54

• Leading Ideas

- The individual has value, because God created individual man in His image. Genesis 1.
 - The secular view is that the individual has value based on his contribution to the whole.
- No two organisms are alike. God’s individuality can be seen in each organism’s distinct qualities.
- In government, individuals have inalienable rights that come from God, not man (government).



55

#2. The Christian Principle of Self-Government

- Statement of Principle--
- “He knows not how to rule a kingdom, that cannot manage a Province; nor can he wield a Province, that cannot order a City; nor he order a City, that know not how to regulate a Village; nor he a Village, that cannot guide a Family; nor can that man Govern well a family that knows not how to govern himself; neither can any govern himself unless his reason be Lord, Will and Appetite her Vassals; nor can reason rule unless he be ruled by God. and (wholly) be obedient unto Him.”



56

Leading Ideas

- Government must first be internal, then external. This is true for the individual and the family, community, or nation.



57

#3. America’s Heritage of Christian Character

- Statement of Principle—“This divine power of the gospel revealed itself to the heathen in the lives of Christians, which showed forth the virtues of Him who had called them out of darkness into his marvelous light, and enabled them to walk as the children of God, in the midst of a perverse generation, among whom they shone as lights in the world!...The whole life of the Christian, from the beginning to the end, is a conflict with the world and the powers of darkness, a conflict within and without...” Dr. Augustus Neander, *Memorials of a Christian life*.

58

• Leading Ideas

- America has a rich heritage of Christian founding—which include the gospel purpose, the founding of Christian Self-Government, and the value of the individual.
- America’s heritage is rich with stories of perseverance, resilience, accomplishment, etc.
- **How character is formed**
 - Through pressure (2 Cor. 1:9-10)
 - Through conflict (adversity) (Gal. 4:19)
 - Consistently taking dominion over externals (environment) rather than conforming to it while remaining faithful to Christ (James 1:12)

59

- We get the type of government we deserve—individual character determines ecclesiastical, home, and state government

• Historical Model

- The Pilgrims—“reform without tarrying for any”

60

- **Nuggets**

- Christian character is the essential ingredient necessary to maintain and advance a Christian form of civil government
- “Good government generally begins in the family, and if the moral character of the people once degenerate, their political character must soon follow.” (Dr. Elias Boudinot)
- “The strength of a nation, especially a republican nation, is in the intelligent and well-ordered homes of the people. And in proportion as the discipline of families is relaxed, will the happy organization of communities be affected, and national character become vagrant, turbulent, or ripe for revolution.” (Lydia H. Signourney)
- Lawmaking is the codification of the lawmaker’s morality
- God uses individual characters to forward His story. He uses Christians and pagans for His purposes.

61

#4. Conscience, the Most Sacred of All Property

- **Statement of Principle:** “Conscience is the most sacred of all Property.” James Madison, *CHOC* Pg. 248A
- **Leading Idea:** Early Americans viewed conscience as a distinct possession, and that God Himself gave it to the individual. It was vital not to lose it or violate it. The believer was convinced that Christian conscience was valuable property—sacred property!
- Conscience is formed by studying the Scriptures

62

#5. The Christian Form of Our Government

- **Statement of Principle:** “As men, we have God for our King, and are under the Law of Reason: as Christians, we have Jesus the Messiah for our King, and are under the Law revealed by him in the Gospel.” *The Reasonableness of Christianity*. John Locke, 1695
- **Biblical Index**
 - Exodus 18:21, Deuteronomy 1:9-19, Isaiah 33:22,

63

- **Leading Ideas**

- Each religion has a form of government (Verna Hall, *CHOC* p. III)
- Religion supports and sustains government (Jedediah Morse)

64

#6. How the Seed of Local Self-Government is Planted


- **Statement of Principle:** “The external threat to our nation will never be so great as the challenge within. That challenge is a challenge to the integrity of individual Christian self-government. The art of self-government is learned through ‘the study and practice of the exalted virtues of the Christian system.’” (Sam Adams, 1790 letter to John Adams)
- “The government of the United States is acknowledged by the wise and good of other nation, to be the most free, impartial, and righteous government of the world; but all agree, that for such a government to be sustained many years, the principles of truth and righteousness, taught in the Holy Scriptures, must be practiced. The rulers must govern in the fear of God, and the people obey the laws.” Emma Willard, 1843

65

#7. The Christian Principle of American Political Union

- **Statement of Principle:** Union with Unity. Unity, which is internal to the nation, must precede external Union. There must be a common unity on the basic principles which are foundational to the nation.

66



REMEMBER
AMERICA[®]
lecture series

The 4R
A Biblical Word Study

67



REMEMBER
AMERICA[®]
lecture series

Questions?

68