



Session 2: Principle Approach  
Distinctives

# Objectives:

1. To gain an understanding of the biblical definition of *education*.
2. To learn about P.A. Distinctives, including the 4R word study, the Notebook Method, and the Providential view of history

# Recap of Session 1

- Dayspring was founded by Dr. Michael R. Myers because he had been exposed to the Principle Approach, wanted that kind of education for his children, and believed God had given him a vision to start a P.A. school.
- The biblical mandate for education (Deut. 6, Psalm 78, Eph. 5)

# Recap of Session 1

- P.A. defined: America's historic Christian method of education which makes the truths of God's Word the basis of every subject in the school curriculum.
  - It teaches students to reason from biblical principles to make application to all areas of life.
    - 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, study of classics, etc.

# Recap of Session 1

- P.A. defined.
  - 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.

# Recap of Session 1

- What are the 4Rs?
- 3 time periods of American education
- 7 Principles of the P.A.

# Principle Approach Distinctive—4R, the Biblical Word Study



# WHAT IS EDUCATION?

According to Noah Webster...

“Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to...



- Enlighten the understanding (John 10:37)
- Correct the temper (2 Pet 1:4)
- Form the manners and habits of youth (Phil 1:11)
- Fit them for usefulness in their future stations. (John 15:16)

# WEBSTER'S DEFINITION IS BIBLICAL

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, ...for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

*II Timothy 3:16-17*

## Webster's 1828 Definition of "Education"

The bringing up, as of a child, instruction; formation of manners. *education* comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations. To give children a good *education* in manners, arts and science, is important; to give them a religious *education* is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties.

# Dictionary.com definition of “Education”

1. the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life.
  2. the act or process of imparting or acquiring particular knowledge or skills, as for a profession.
  3. a degree, level, or kind of schooling:  
*a university education.*
- 
1. the result produced by instruction, training, or study:  
*to show one's education.*
- 
1. the science or art of teaching; pedagogics.

# Dictionary.com definition of “Providence”

1. the foreseeing care and guidance of God or nature over the creatures of the earth.
2. (*initial capital letter*) God, especially when conceived as omnisciently directing the universe and the affairs of humankind with wise benevolence.
3. a manifestation of divine care or direction.
4. **provident** or prudent management of resources; prudence.
5. foresight; **provident** care.

## Webster's 1828 definition of "Providence"

In theology, the care and superintendence which God exercises over his creatures. He that acknowledges a creation and denies a *providence* involves himself in a palpable contradiction; for the same power which caused a thing to exist is necessary to continue its existence. Some persons admit a general *providence* but deny a particular *providence* not considering that a general *providence* consists of particulars. A belief in divine *providence* is a source of great consolation to good men. By divine *providence* is often understood God himself.

## Dictionary.com definition of “Marriage”

(broadly) any of the diverse forms of interpersonal union established in various parts of the world to form a familial bond that is recognized legally, religiously, or socially, granting the participating partners mutual conjugal rights and responsibilities and including, for example, **opposite-sex marriage, same-sex marriage, plural marriage, and arranged marriage:**

*Anthropologists say that some type of marriage has been found in every known human society since ancient times.*

# Webster's 1828 definition of "Marriage"

The act of uniting a man and woman for life; wedlock; the legal union of a man and woman for life. *marriage* is a contract both civil and religious, by which the parties engage to live together in mutual affection and fidelity, till death shall separate them.

*marriage* was instituted by God himself for the purpose of preventing the promiscuous intercourse of the sexes, for promoting domestic felicity, and for securing the maintenance and education of children.

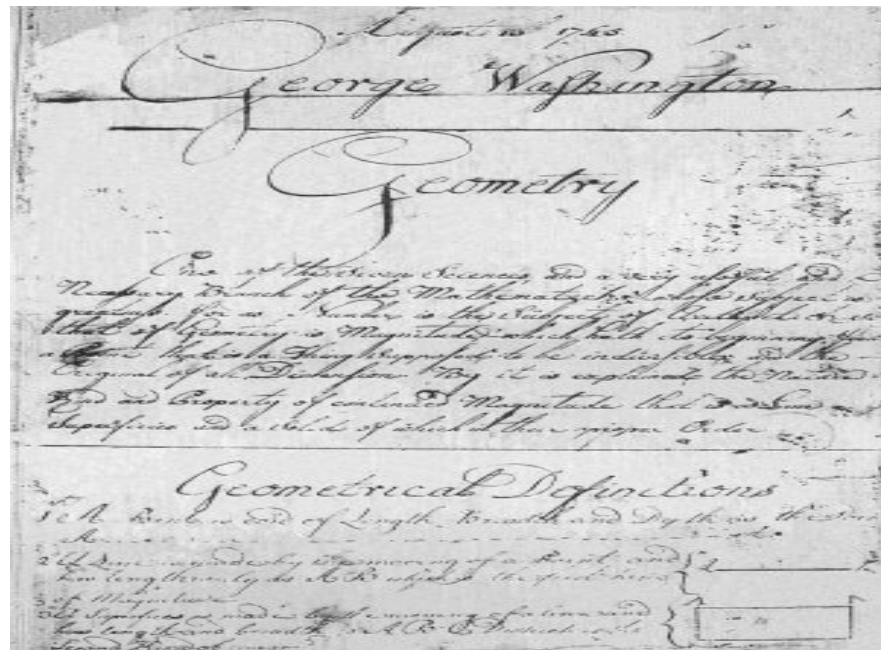
*Marriage* is honorable in all and the bed undefiled. [Hebrews 13:4](#)





# Notebook Method

An Essential Tool and  
Primary Method Used in the  
Principle Approach<sup>®</sup> for  
Establishing Christian  
Scholarship in Teaching and  
in Learning.



# The Spirit of the Notebook Method

*For starters...*

- The Notebook Method is a facilitator for
  - Taking ownership of one's learning.
  - Recording one's learning.
  - Instilling a love of learning.
  - Preparing for lifelong learning.



# Notebook Method

- The notebook is the tool of reasoning and academic discipline found consistently in the education of men and women of great historic character.

# Historical Examples

- John Quincy Adams
- Nathaniel Bowditch
- James Madison



# Notebook Method

The Notebook Method requires the learner to make a written copy of his study. It both requires and produces:

- Reflective thinking and reasoning
- Ability to write and speak with authority and perspicuity
- Mastery of the subject



# Notebook Method

- The Notebook Method or Approach is a useful and extremely valuable instrument of education to the teacher when he applies the method to his personal research and study. As he takes possession of the subject, it sets him free to become the *“living textbook”* – the talking, acting, responding textbook, able to call forth true learning from individual students as the master of his subject.



# Notebook Method

- As the “master” of his subject, he is able to be more flexible, spontaneous, and inspirational in the classroom. Not tied to a textbook or a teacher manual, his fresh lessons and instruction touch the heart of every child in the classroom.



# Notebook Method

The real value of the notebook becomes apparent as the teacher and student become **active producers** rather than **passive consumers** in the educational process. The burden and accountability for learning is placed on each individual. The teacher or student who learns to reason from principles and leading ideas gleaned from personal research and reasoning, eventually becomes a master of subjects.





# Notebook Method

- The use of the Notebook Method by the teacher is the major tool that governs the study of any subject.
- It requires the teacher to research **primary sources**, prepare lessons from his own research, and to learn to present the material through **leading ideas** and **principles** in a concise manner.



# Notebook Method

- Self-governing character
- A standard of scholarship
- A permanent record of progress and learning for further study and future reference.

*Who determines the standard and value for the notebook as well as its usefulness?*



# The Notebook Method “Paradigm”

- Students copy notes from the board (in younger grades) and *into their own words* (in older grades)
- Students copy (or paraphrase in older years) particular sentences from resource material (citation required)
- Students summarize their notes in a paragraph or outline.
- Students paraphrase an author’s/expert’s presentation/conclusions. (citation required)
- Students summarize what they have read from a resource. (citation required)
- Students draw conclusions from a lesson or resource.
- Students answer “reason/relate questions.”
- Students illustrate a point in a lesson.
- Students summarize through illustration.
- Students research biblical truths/principles that are evident in a passage.

# The Letter of the “Notebook Law”

- Use three-ring binder
- Use indexed dividers
- Use title pages
- Use proper heading
- File by date
- Use ink (age appropriate)
- Be neat, thorough, accurate
- Correct mistakes

# The Spirit of the Notebook Law:

- A “living” textbook
- God’s Principle of Individuality
- Liberty in creativity
- Excellence in representation
- Labor promotes ownership
- Valuing of “property” of learning
- Accurately reflects learning

- The Principle Approach restores the 4R's to teaching and learning.

**Research,**

**Reason,**

**Relate,**

**and Record**



# Notebook Method

It begins with the 4R's to teaching and learning:

- **Re/search** = diligent inquiry, search for truth (in God's Word for established and absolute principles John 5:39; Acts 17:11)
- **Reason** = to deduce to a conclusion (from these principles to our particular subject area Acts 24:25; I Peter 3:15)

# Notebook Method

- **Relate** = to tell, recite (these principles personally to my life, and how I will have to change -- Relating Biblical principles to each student, to Christian character, to Christian self-government, and to the stewardship of God-given talents.

Luke 24:27; Acts 11:4; Acts 18:26)





# Notebook Method

- **Record** = to write a permanent record (and express this knowledge myself; take mastery and dominion over it. The written record by each student of the individual application of the principles.)



# Notebook Method

Imitate God, as He gave us His thoughts through His written Word, we can keep diaries and journals – Keep a record for our posterity.



# Notebook Method

The learner is equipped for life with:

- a self-governing character,
- an independent mentality, and
- a Christian work ethic.



# The Value of the Notebook Approach

1. It aids in the Biblical purposes of education.
2. It is the product of the student's creativity and illustrations.
3. It is a permanent record of his productivity.
4. It aids parents and teachers in identifying student progress, showing what is being taught, and shows graphically his character development, his industry, diligence, and responsibility.



# Notebook Method

- The Notebook Approach is the tool of reasoning and academic discipline that restores academic excellence to education and forms individuals whose character enables them to achieve their God-given potential and to accomplish great moral feats!

# Principle Approach Distinctive

The Providential View of History



# *Providential History*

- *“Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is none else; I am God and there is none like me; declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure ... yea, I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.”*

Isaiah 46:9-11



# Providential History

- “The more thoroughly a nation deals with its history, the more decidedly will it recognize and own an overruling Providence therein, and the more religious a nation will it become: while the more superficially it deals with its history seeing only secondary causes and human agencies, the more irreligious will it be...” Rev. S. Foljambe, 1876





# *Providential History*

- The Key to Understanding History
- The doctrine of Divine Providence is a distinctly biblical doctrine.

# *Providential History*

Throughout the Bible, nature, history, and the varying fortunes of individuals are attributed to God's providential control. At the same time, individual personalities and second causes are fully recognized as having their proper place in His plan. "He upholds all things by the word of His power" Hebrews 1:3.

# *Providential History*

- Most historians who wrote before 1900 viewed history from a **providential view**.
- Most young Christians want to have a goal toward which they can work with God's help: they want to have a purpose and a hope. This requires being taught to see the Providential Hand of God in their lives.



# *Providential History*

- Providential history takes into account the fact that God has everything under control.
- It takes the written Word (revelation) and couples it with reason.
- Reason coupled with revelation is Providential History.
- The cause of His-story is God!

# *Providential History*

- We have a purpose because of God's plan for us.

*“Daniel answered, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever! For wisdom and might are His! He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding!”* Daniel 2:20-21

# *Providential History*

- Neglecting to teach America's history from a providential view, which sadly has been the case for nearly one hundred years in our nation, leads the citizenry into a non-Christian or secular interpretation of history, and leaves it without hope for the future.

# *Providential History*

This neglectful approach is a “superficial approach”. It is today’s social studies approach, -- the result is to make us an “irreligious” people. Our students are unable to see that all history is related to the unfolding of His Story of liberty, both internal and external, religious and civil.



# *Providential History*

The secular approach separates Christianity from America's history in our thinking.

- Remember the Sons of Ephraim (Psalm 78:9-11)

*They forgot the Hand of God in their history and dire consequences followed.*



# *Providential History*

- Rosalie Slater also observes: “The failure to recognize the importance of the Providential Approach has resulted in educating Christians to live in two worlds – a spiritual world and a secular world. This was not the way of the Pilgrim, who lived in one world, the world created by God, ruled and directed by God, for God’s purpose and glory.” (RJS, *The Journal*, Vol.1, 1989, p.22)

## *Ephesians 1:9-10* (J. B. Phillips)

- For God had allowed us to know the secret of his plan, and it is this: he purposes in his sovereign will that all human history shall be consummated in Christ, that everything that exists in Heaven or earth shall find its perfection and fulfillment in him.

# *Providential History*

- It presents the whole view of history from eternity's perspective and answers for the student of history:

# *Providential History*

- Who? God – His sovereignty, nature, character, and purpose.
- What? Events, individuals, and nations
- Where? Geography, the stage for man's activities
- Why? The Gospel -- the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ – the message of Liberty!

# The Ten Links of the Timeline of America's Christian History

- How men are governed?
- How did God use individual character to forward Christ, His Story?

# Next Week

America's Christian Heritage & Providential Story



Questions?