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## TRUE EDUCATION

School is out! Good news or bad news? That probably depends on your age, or whether you have school-age children in your life. But God's divine design for learning means you never stop learning, every day in every way. And that's good news!

The Bible says "***The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge***" (Proverbs 1:7). When you fear, reverence and respect God as your Creator you have a proper starting point. You are designed in His image to be intelligent and creative. Knowing God lies at the heart of understanding, logic, and reason. The rest of the passage says "***fools despise wisdom and instruction.***" No one comes close to "knowing it all" - though the person you live most closely with may sometimes think that you think you do!

Knowledge leads to understanding your purpose in life. You can't get that without instruction. You might resist that process, but that's how you learn the truth about your Creator and why He made you. A key part of wisdom is knowing what to do with what you know. God and His Word is where you start.

2 Timothy 2:15 says "***Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the Word of truth.***" Some translations say "work hard" or "study." You appreciate good workers, and expect that in others. God expects this in you too.

The 7x7 prayer guide from the National Day of Prayer offers an excellent resource to pray for education, one of the seven influence centers of our lives - family, church, education, business, media, military, and government. Go to "[commit2pray.com/7x7](http://commit2pray.com/7x7)" for more information.

Noah Webster, "the founding father of education" said in 1788, "*The education of youth is an employment of more consequence than making laws and preaching the gospel, because it lays the foundation on which both law and gospel rest for success. Education is useless without the Bible.*"

The framers of the United States knew this well. The Library of Congress reports that early actions of the new American government involved printing Bibles, and the establishment of schools for teaching religion, morality, and knowledge. Today, the Bible is hardly recognizable in schools. Despite our wonderful teachers, as kids get older and older, the curricula and system of education lead them further and further away from God.

Also, a review of educational attainment statistics shows America now ranks 29th among 65 developed countries of the world. There's no appreciable improvement in comprehension of math and language skills. You have to go back to the 1960s to find America at the top.

At the same time, educators lament the lack of discipline in schools, both in behavior and in learning. That should be expected, when the root problem is the gagging of God in the minds of intelligent creatures who are created by Him, in His image, for His purposes. When parents realize we are ultimately accountable for the education of our children, including maintaining local control of curriculum and standards, then we see that simply throwing more money at the problem is not the solution.

This gives us great incentive. If you have young people in your life, pray for them. Encourage them in their education. Pray for their teachers. The organization "[kidsHOPEusa.org](http://kidsHOPEusa.org)" offers excellent resources for you to get involved. No matter your age, do all you can to teach children about God and the Bible.

Deuteronomy 6 encourages, "***You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.***"

Teaching and learning never ends, and God blesses your efforts. Next time - putting a "teaching tractor" to work!