

God has imparted the gift of wisdom to use His creatures in the right way? Let us pray for that wisdom and for the grace to always follow the way of wisdom.

The name of geography among the humanities dates back to its history in classical Greece, and certainly it is most important in the realm of human relations and interrelationships, and holds within itself connotations of real qualitative aesthetic values. Did not God Himself upon His completion of the universe behold the work of His hands as being very Good? Is it not the home of man, the highest creature, the king in creation? More importantly, for us, is it not the temporal home of His chosen, the redeemed of the earth? Do not all human relationships take place in the Earth under the Heavens? More importantly for us, was it not the temporal dwelling of The Chosen One, the Redeemer of His chosen and of the earth? Is it not the place where the world as chaff serves the Church, the wheat? To ask these questions is to answer them. The earth is also a mammoth source of art and beauty, the like which no creature can compare. It is the work of The Creator. So great is this Work of Art that man will spend millions of dollars yearly to behold this work, while many chosen are even able to see in part a part of the Work of Art.

It does not make much difference in

which division of learning we place geography. Since it would be more usual for a Christian science department to include an aesthetic view than for a Christian humanity department to be scientific, perhaps the science department might be the better place. However, for an adequate study, both the scientific and the human and aesthetic views are of primary importance and must properly be incorporated into one complete subject for the covenant child.

The earth, the world, the cosmos is an entity which exists closest to man physically, but which often has been ignored by man intellectually. May we not be named among them. We must know God in His work of creation. We must know God in His work of preservation, His preservation of things, and also His preservation of His Church. We must know God in His work of redemption. It will better help us to look forward to the Advent of Recreation when there will be no more contamination and unrighteousness under Heaven.

The teaching of geography, then, is mandatory at all academic levels. It is expedient that the covenant young person in his pilgrimage to his everlasting Home be better equipped to better know God and the ways of God in Creation. Who can better know God than those to whom the riches of His heritage are bestowed?

P O T P O U R R I

“What Do We Gotta Learn This For?”

by Mr. Peter Vander Schaaf

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The question above is heard often by the teacher as he tries to explain Newton's laws of matter, causes of World War II, the main theme of a poem, or the intricacies of English grammar. As often as not the student who asks the question already had an answer for it. He thinks, if he does not say, that if the subject matter is not "practical", then it is no good at all. Whatever the student's attitude, however, the question is a good question, and deserves a good answer. I have heard the question in every class that I teach except Bible. For that reason I will give a short explanation for Christian liberal arts education in general rather than for any one subject in particular.

The purpose of Christian liberal arts education is not to train the child of God for any specific calling. Instead, it is to equip him with knowledge - knowledge of creation itself and of what goes on in God's creation - with which he can work out his salvation with fear and trembling in whatever calling God gives him. Christian liberal arts education equips the child of God with knowledge with which he can live wisely, that is, according to the Word of God. It does this both in a negative and a positive way. It strengthens the Christian against the ties that are so prevalent in the world around us, ties such as the theory of evolution and the belief that man progresses up as he builds that man progresses up as he builds civilization. On the other hand it helps the Christian to profess God's truth as it applies to all areas of life, and it helps him to see God's hand in all things as God upholds all things by His power and guides them to the revelation of His glory.

I will use the study of the body - biology - as an example. It is "known" by the ungodly world that man evolved from lower forms of life. It is also "known" that man is, therefore, nothing more than an intelligent animal governed only by the

chemical reactions that go on within him. In accordance with this false knowledge man devises plans to control and "improve" human behavior by means of chemicals and by actually changing the operation of the brain. In addition to this man seeks to control human population levels in the same way that he controls the population of dogs. Having the wisdom of Scripture, the child of God knows that man was made by God a moral, rational being, and given to bear the image of God. In the study of biology the child of God learns how the brain, the nervous system, and the body structure itself enable man to be rational, moral, and, as man did at creation, to bear the image of God. Possessing this knowledge the child of God is strengthened against worldly distortions of science and gives a clearer witness against them. He seeks with deeper conviction to be controlled and "improved" (to use the world's term) only by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. In faith, he carries on the biological renewal of Christ's church on this earth. To the extent that covenant youth have an understanding of biology that is in accordance with and based on Scriptural truths concerning the nature of man, to that extent will they have a strong, clear defense against science, falsely so called. Also, they will be able to say with deeper knowledge and greater appreciation, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

It is not the calling of the child of God to avoid knowledge. It is his calling to seek knowledge to the extent that he is able, and to apply this knowledge to his walk in accordance with Scripture. It may be that knowledge is not always directly related to one's job; but it is always related to and "usable" in the antithetical life of the Christian. It is useful to the mind that sees God's hand in all things and praises Him for his power and great glory. The value of Christian liberal arts education is that it imparts knowledge to this end.