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The character God requires in a Christian teacher

A lecture given at the Free Presbyterian Christian Education Seminar

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"Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him," II Kings 12:2.

Holiness is the result of instruction in righteousness. Man is, by nature, utterly void of all knowledge of holiness and how it is to be attained. Not only is he in utter ignorance of holiness, but he hates instruction in holiness. "Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee," Psalms 50:17. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction," Proverbs 1:7.

Such instruction as man requires comes from God alone. The Lord is the great Teacher and Instructor of the Church. "He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye," Deuteronomy 32:10. God's instruction is given through His word as applied by the Holy Spirit. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," II Timothy 3:16. "Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them," Nehemiah 9:20. Thus the people of God are led in God's path. "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye," Psalms 32:8.

Instruction in holiness should begin at an early age. God commands that the church in general and believing parents in particular, should take care to teach the young in the ways of God. "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, Deuteronomy 6:7. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven," Matthew 19:14. The world should have no part whatsoever in the education of a believer's child.

Our text sets forth the tremendous influence that godly instruction exercises. "Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him," II Kings 12:2.

Sin is the direct result of coming under ungodly instruction. Eve in the Garden of Eden illustrates that truth most powerfully. Evil instruction exercises an equally wide influence as that of godly instruction. If evil is not to triumph, then its influences must be matched and countered by the teaching of God's truth.

We are occupied with the matter of combatting the evil influence of the system of instruction that is presently operating in state controlled schools. The direst consequences will follow for children under such instruction and influence.

The purpose of the Christian school is to provide an environment free from such error, the rebuking of sin and the refuting of falsehood and the dissemination of the truth of God amongst children. The Christian who teaches in the State system is not free to act so! They should but they would be in breach of the terms of their employment were they to do so!

I challenge any Christian in State education to refute this statement!

The Christian school is, I believe, a divinely ordained institution. The Holy Scriptures never envisaged a system of education for the young that is not entirely Bible-based. "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, Deuteronomy 6:7. The people of God have ever been in error whenever they have permitted the world to take control of the education of their children. It was an incursion into the courts of the Lord that ought to have been resisted. May God in His mercy, however, stir hearts today to arise and counteract this intrusion.



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Central to the Christian school is the Christian teacher. Such a person, being the servant of the Lord, must be characterised by certain spiritual qualities. These qualities are set forth in God's word. I might add that these spiritual qualities must be harnessed to an adequate degree of academic and vocational knowledge.

The portion of the Bible we are looking at records the activities of Jehoiada the high priest. I want firstly to consider the information given us about the man.

I. THE PERSONAL DETAILS OF THE TEACHER

1. His name. JEHOIADA means "Jehovah knows". That is a good name for a teacher. Do you believe that Jehovah knows all things and that there is nothing hid from Him? That is not the testimony of most teachers today. If there is one thing they are sure about, it is that God does not know all things. His word is not accurate or infallible. The widespread and standardised teaching of evolution has ensured that the Bible's account of creation is rejected as a fable. If you are to be an instructor in a Christian school then you must be a Jehoiada, one who believes that God knows all things. "The LORD is a God of knowledge," I Samuel 2:3. "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding," Isaiah 40:28.

2. His title. He is described as the INSTRUCTOR of the young king Joash or Jehoash. The Hebrew word for "instruction" (Hebrew — yarah) is very interesting. Let me show you a few examples of its use. I have underlined the different translations of the word.

"And he sent Judah before him unto Joseph, to direct his face unto Goshen," Gen 46:28.

"Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say," Exodus 4:12.

"And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them," Exodus 15:25.

"And thou shalt do according to the sentence, which they of that place which the LORD shall choose shall shew thee; and thou shalt observe to do according to all that they inform thee," Deuteronomy 17:10.

"And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers," I Samuel 31:3.

Here is a wonderful definition of what true teaching entails. It entails directing the hearts and minds of children, showing them, informing them. It requires the skill of the archer, a firing of the arrows of truth into the minds of children.

This is teaching according to God's word.

3. His calling. He was a priest. Here was his primary function in life.

a. He ministered unto the Lord. The first time the term priest is used of an Israelite, in Exodus 28:1, it refers to ministering unto the Lord. You are called to minister unto the Lord as a Christian teacher. You are serving Him as you seek to teach.

b. He interceded for the people. Jehoiada the high priest fore-shadowed our Great High Priest, the Lord Jesus of Whom it is said: "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens," Hebrews 7:25-26. You must be an intercessor for the children you teach.

c. He was a teacher of the law of God. Jehoiada the high priest was a teacher of the law of God. "Now for



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a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law," II Chronicles 15:3. You are to be a teacher of God's law in all matters. The State system has ecumenical and evolutionary falsehoods as well as the promotion of alternative lifestyles mixed into all subjects; we must have the word of God permeating all subjects in our school.

II. THE SPIRITUAL AWARENESS OF THE TEACHER

1. He was aware of danger. Jehoiada knew the danger facing his young charge. Joash had been the target of a wicked and murderous attack by Athaliah who was anxious to procure the throne of Judah for herself. She was a usurper. She pictures the nature and ambitions of the devil. He targets the royal seed of Christ, especially children. The teacher must be aware of the devil's schemes to destroy the seed royal today. The teacher must see the danger that threatens.

2. He was aware of what must be done. He helped to hide the child. He separated Joash from the danger. He would have been attacked today by those who claim that Christian Education is wrong because it isolates the child from the real world. Rubbish! It was a matter of isolation or death. So it is today, and a few years will prove this to many Christian parents to be all too sadly correct.

3. He was aware that he must risk much to save the child. What courage and daring Jehoiada showed! When he hid the child, he endangered his life. You may not endanger your life but you will forfeit a career and a substantial amount of financial reward that would have gone with it if you are to be faithful to your calling as a Christian teacher. You will be required to show much courage and daring on occasions whenever an "Athaliah" comes at you, screaming, "Treason" and denouncing what you are seeking to do as an evil and foolish thing.

III. THE WORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE TEACHER

"Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him."

1. He did much for Joash. The king's doing right in the sight of the Lord is directly credited to Jehoiada's instructions. Without those instructions, it would have been evil that was wrought, not good, in the sight of the Lord. Something of what would have been in the absence of Jehoiada and his godly influence is seen in what happened after he died, II Chron 24:17-25.

2. He did much for the nation. Who may calculate the benefits that spring from a godly ruler? "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn," Proverbs 29:2.

IV. THE HONOURABLE ATTAINMENTS OF THE TEACHER

The labours of Jehoiada were recognised.

1. He was buried with honour. He was buried as a king. "But Jehoiada waxed old, and was full of days when he died; an hundred and thirty years old was he when he died. And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God, and toward his house," 2 Chronicles 24:15-16.

2. This was something that Joash did not attain to. "And when they were departed from him, (for they left him in great diseases,) his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and slew him on his bed, and he died: and they buried him in the city of David, but they buried him not in the sepulchres of the kings," 2 Chronicles 24:25.

3. Might I say that not all who are under godly instruction profit as they should from it. Joash is an example of an all too frequent occurrence. "Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, The LORD look upon it,