

## AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

*As taught by Pastor Ron Baity*

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The killing of our youth in our public school systems is out of bounds. When the human race fails to deal with the depraved heart of humanity, the results is carnage in our education system. Jesus explained it this way: "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:" (Matthew 15:19) What a difference our educational system provided when God was at the center of its training.

- I. WILLIAM HOLMES MCGUFFEY (1800-1873)
  - A. Mr. McGuffey had a remarkable ability to memorize and could commit to memory entire books of the Bible.
  - B. Mr. McGuffey became a roving teacher at the age of 14.
    1. He began with 48 students in a one-room school in Ohio.
    2. Student's ages varied from six to twenty-one years old.
    3. He often worked 11 hours a day, six days a week, in the schools.
  - C. Mr. McGuffey was an American educator.
    1. He was the president of Ohio University.
    2. He was professor at the University of Virginia.
    3. He was the department chairman at the Miami University of Ohio.
    4. He was responsible for forming the first teachers association in that part of the nation.
  - D. Mr. McGuffey published the first edition of his McGuffey's Reader in 1836.
    1. His book was the mainstay in public education in America 'till 1920.
    2. As of 1963, there had been 125 million copies sold.
    3. It was the most widely used and influential textbook of all times.

4. Since 1961, the Readers continue to sell around 10,000 copies per year.

E. In the foreword of his book, Mr. McGuffey wrote:

*“The Christian religion is the religion of our country. From it are derived our prevalent notions of the character of God, the great moral governor of the universe. On its doctrines are founded the peculiarities of our free institutions.*

*“The Ten Commandments and the teachings of Jesus are not only basic but plenary,”*

## II. HIS INFLUENCE ON HENRY FORD.

A. Ford often cited *McGuffey’s Readers* as one of his most important childhood influences.

B. As an adult, Ford could quote from McGuffey’s by memory at great length.

C. Ford republished all six Readers from the 1867 edition.

1. He distributed complete sets of the Readers.

2. He gave schools across America complete sets of the readers at his own expense.

D. In 1934, Ford had the log cabin where McGuffey was born moved to his museum at Dearborn, Michigan.

## III. LET’S NOTICE SOME OF THE LESSONS OUR YOUTH LEARNED EARLY ON.

A. Lesson 37 of McGuffey’s Reader is entitled “Evening Prayer.”

*“At the close of the day, before you go to sleep, you should not fail to pray to God to keep you from sin and from harm. You ask your friends for food, and drink, and books, and clothes; and when they give you these things, you thank them, and love them for the good they do you. So you should ask your God for those things which he can give you, and which no one else can give you.*

*“You should ask him for life, and health, and strength; and you should pray to him to keep your feet from the ways of sin and shame. You should thank him for all his good gifts; and learn, while young, to put your trust in him; and the*

*kind care of God will be with you, both in your youth and in your old age."*

- B. Lesson 62 of *McGuffey's Reader* is entitled, "Don't Take Strong Drink."

*"No little boy or girl should ever drink rum or whiskey, unless they want to become drunkards. Men who drink are glad to have any excuse for doing it... and the man who uses it, becomes a sot. Then he is seen tottering through the streets, a shame to himself and to all his family. And oh, how dreadful to die a drunkard. The Bible says that no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of heaven. Whiskey makes the happy miserable, and it causes the rich to become poor."*

- C. In the preface to his 1837 *Reader*, McGuffey states:

*"In making my selection, I have drawn from the purest fountains of English Literature...For the copious extracts made from the Sacred Scripture, I make no apology.*

*Indeed, upon a review of the work, I am not sure but an apology may be due for my not having still more liberally transferred to my pages the chaste simplicity, the thrilling pathos, the living descriptions, and the matchless sublimity of the sacred writings.*

*From no source has the author drawn more than from the Sacred Scriptures. For this I certainly apprehend no censure. In a Christian country, that man is to be pitied, who, at this day, can honestly object to imbuing the minds of youth with the language and spirit of the Word of God."*

- D. In his 1837 *Third Reader*, McGuffey gives instruction:

*"The design of the Bible is evidently to give us correct information concerning the creation of all things, by the omnipotent Word of God; to make known to us the state of holiness and happiness of our first parents in paradise, and their dreadful fall from that condition by transgression against God, which is the original cause of all our sin and misery.*

*The Scriptures are especially designed to make us wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus; to reveal to us the mercy of the Lord in him; to form our minds after the likeness of God our Saviour; to build up our souls in wisdom and faith, in love and holiness; to make us thoroughly furnished unto good works, enabling us to glorify God on earth; and to lead us to an imperishable inheritance among the spirits of just men made perfect, and finally to be glorified with Christ in Heaven."*

- E. In Lesson 21 of *McGuffey's Reader*, the character of Jesus Christ is taught:

*"The morality taught by Jesus Christ was purer, sounder, sublime and more perfect than had ever before entered into the imagination, or proceeded from the lips of man."*

- F. In Lesson 31 of *McGuffey's Reader*, a portion is set forth herein.

*"How awful must be the scene which will open before you, as you enter the eternal world! You will see the throne of God: how bright, how glorious, will it burst upon your sight! You will see God, the Savior, seated upon the majestic throne. Angels, in number more than can be counted, will fill the universe, with their glittering wings, and their rapturous songs. Oh, what a scene to behold! And then you will stand in the presence of this countless throng, to answer for every thing you have done while you lived.*

*Every action and every thought of your life will then be fresh in your mind. You know it is written in the Bible, "God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil.*

*How must the child then feel who has been guilty of falsehood and deception, and who sees it then all brought to light!"*

- G. None of the above truths will be found in today's classrooms. The results of these missing truths are manifested by the carnage in the classrooms.