## Our Enemy, the Government School

by John Cobin, Ph.D. for *The Times Examiner*December 29, 2004

To not know our enemy is precarious to say the least. We stand in grave danger when our enemy is established incognito in our midst. Our enemy effectively uses ploys to disguise himself as something innocuous or benign at any given point in time. Yet the egregious social bane it generates is ascertainable in the long run. Why would we expect anything less shrewd from the forces that lead to bondage?

What single American institution, above all others, has done more to erode liberty and morality in our society? One might think of gay activist groups, the major news media, feminist action groups, the pornography industry, or even loathed government appendages like the Internal Revenue Service or the Federal Reserve System. Yet, as bad as these institutions are, there is no single institution that has produced such widespread and long-lasting damage to American society as the government school. Tokugawa Ieyasu (1526-1549) of Japan once said, "To come to know your enemy, first you must become his friend, and once you become his friend, all his defenses come down. Then you can choose the most fitting method for his demise." And this is precisely the means by which our enemy has an iron grip on our society—right under our noses. Conversely, Chinese military strategist and philosopher Sun-Tzu (500BC) said, "If you know your enemy and you know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles" (The Art of War). Let's take his advice and get to know our enemy, the government school.

From its inception, the government school project has utilized outstanding subterfuge tactics to try to hide its true agenda. Under the guise of providing traditional education, children are conditioned to embrace wrong ideas. Spending for "public" education has reached record levels but academic achievement in areas like reading, writing, and arithmetic is appalling. But has the government school failed? As my fellow Times Examiner columnist Ben Graydon has keenly pointed out in two recent columns, the government school has in fact been fabulously successful. The point of "public education" is not merely to give pupils the basic tools and knowledge they need to succeed in life. It is to indoctrinate kids with ways that oppose God and liberty. And to this end it has been stunningly successful. As Dr. Steven Yates noted in his column in last week's Times Examiner, the primary goal of the government school is to indoctrinate children with *statist* principles. Contrary to the vision of the American Founders, students learn that the state qua the state is to be revered and cherished. They must learn to fight for it and uphold its noble foundation. Students are also inundated with principles of Darwinism, "alternative" lifestyles, dubious environmentalist ideologies, socialism, and secular humanism. Biblically speaking, Dr. Yates is right to say that parents are to have dominion over their children's education—not the state—and parents sin by subjecting their kids to "public" education. Likewise, in his last two Times Examiner columns, Alan Melton opines that some parents send their kids to public school in order to "socialize" them. But this activity has been an abysmal failure to the extent that 85% of public school kids from Christian families end up leaving the faith. (Besides television and movies, where else do children get their bad ideas from?) What a tragedy indeed! And it is nothing short of sinful to be involved with the public school.

The enemies of liberty have gained the upper hand by spreading their government school program. While many Christian families have been afflicted by it, many people still (surprisingly) do not see the public school as a threat. Instead, it is viewed as a "mission" field, steady employment, socialization for children, and an affordable education alternative (including important bonus features like team sports). The Apostle Paul charges Christians with the business of "pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God" (I Cor. 10:4b-5). Thus it is fitting that Christians should be tearing down the government school. Yet they continue to support it. Satan is attacking the church and liberty in general, but so many Christians are still unaware what or where their enemy is. Christ warned that, "while men slept, his [God's] enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way" (Matt. 13:25). So it is with the government school evil, which has been sown right under our noses and now flourishes along with us. How grim are the prospects for liberty when Christians defend the clearly wayward public school! They work their own undoing without realizing it.

Indeed some may not even realize where the real battle has been raging until the Day of Judgment comes and the government school program finds its final resting place in the lake of fire.

Sadly, those who tell the truth about the nature and consequences of government schooling ("critics") often become pariahs in Evangelical circles. Whether they are prohibited from being radio personalities or just ostracized by friends as "extremists", damage is done to the church and the cause of liberty when such champions of truth are silenced or despised. What a shame! God's people rejecting the messengers who are sent to them is a recurrent theme in history. May God help us to *know* our enemy!