

# The Exchange Zone



November 2007

“Beating Illiteracy”

David F. Wells, expressing his concern in 1993 about the tendency within the Church to shun biblically-rich thinking, wrote in No Place For Truth:

*There can be little doubt that if the capacity to think Christianly about this world is eroding in the churches, so too will the propriety of doing theology, both in the pulpit and in the academy. The propriety of this kind of knowledge will disintegrate as certainly as would the propriety of a novelist continuing to work when it was discovered that the culture in which he or she was living had gradually lost the ability to read.*

In other words, Wells was concerned that Christians were as unable to receive stout biblical teaching as an illiterate person is of understanding words on a page. What is more, such a situation will eventually lead to teachers and writers no longer offering such teaching since it would go unheeded at best or be vehemently opposed at worst.

My concern is that now, fourteen years later, things have only gotten worse in the Church-at-large. And more specifically, this has impacted Christian families. Well-meaning moms and dads may teach wonderful ethical principles to their children and may take them to Sunday School, yet never lift a finger to teach them about who God is, what He is like, how we are saved through Christ, and what difference His Spirit-applied grace makes in the nitty-gritty of the week’s activities. As such, an entire generation of children can grow up thinking that being a Christian is merely what you feel, a matter of not doing certain things, and fall woefully short of a substantive, fruit-bearing life.

That is why I am so thankful to be in a church which cares about truth. I believe we are “bucking the trend” of the Church-at-large. In fact, the upcoming Truth Project (beginning the last week in January) may very well be one of the most significant ministries we will ever experience. It is not overstatement to say that it might become the nation-wide “Sylvan Learning Center” for worldview and theologically illiterate Christians. I hope and pray that you will not only participate in it, but that you will approach it with great readiness and gusto.

I also hope and pray that the Truth Project will stimulate your thinking about how important it is to make your own family a center for theological and worldview training. It is absolutely necessary that you model the Christian faith in front of your children, but it is equally as vital that you teach and train them in the truth. Make it one of your parenting goals that you will implement the biblical version of “no-child-left-behind” by making sure they are rooted and grounded in the scriptures.

Oh, and one of the key biblical truths that they must learn is that of being thankful to God (cf. 1 Thes. 5:18). Take some time the next couple of weeks to give thanks—thanks for veterans in light of our recent Veteran’s Day, and thanks for all our blessings before the turkey goes into the oven.

Tom