

American Christian History Timeline of Education

Eternity Past

Creation <i>The Creation of Man</i>	"In the beginning was the Word (logos) . . . and the Word was God" (Jn 1:1); Imago Dei: "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness" (Ge 1:26); God gave man the gift of language and the capacity to reason. Adam's mind was in perfect unity with God's Spirit; Revelation from divine truth governed rational knowledge.
<i>The Fall of Man</i> <i>Pagan Idea of Man and Government</i>	Reasoning is corrupted by deception and sin. Man now ruled by rational knowledge. Redemption promised! Nimrod ("rebellion") erected a city and a tower: "Come, let us make a name for ourselves . . ." (Ge 11:4). Abraham is called by God to command his children to keep the way of the Lord that God might bless him and the nations.
The Law <i>Moral Preparation for the Gospel</i> 1450 B.C.	The Eternal Law was written on tablets of stone: A picture of righteousness given. God's instructions for the education of children imparted.(Dt 6); God instructed Moses to write His instructions and laws in a book (Ex 17:14).
1100s	Samuel's Schools of the Prophets: In 20 years Israel turned back to God
500-400	Ezra restored God's Word to heart of Israel's education as God prepared to send the Messiah; Greek logic and rhetoric formalized: Socratic method of reasoning, Aristotelian logic, the scientific method of reasoning
Jesus Christ <i>Focal Point of History</i> <i>Christian Idea of Man and Government</i>	THE Master Teacher: "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life!" (Jn 14:6); Taught with principles (Lk 8:11); The Eternal Law now written on tablets of flesh! (2 Co 3:3). Internal liberty! Day of Pentecost: The Holy Spirit of Truth, the Teacher, was sent by Christ to abide within the believer. Renewal of the mind now possible through regeneration; It is possible to have "the mind of Christ" (1 Co 2:16).
Paul A.D. 60 70 - 132	The gospel goes westward; New Testament churches are planted; Paul reasoned from the Scriptures with the Gentiles: "See that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception." "Be renewed in the spirit of your mind." Dispersion of the Christian Jewish believers throughout the pagan Roman Empire forced establishment of Christian schools.
Dark Ages	The Bible in the hands of just a few scholars caused great ignorance, fear, and illiteracy among the commoners. Charlemagne revived learning in palace school of Aachen, Germany (A.D. 732); Alfred the Great (800s) established schools in England.
1225	Thomas Aquinas and scholasticism: Rationalized faith and denied the need for revelation. Intellectualism was highlighted at the cost of practical application; Rise of European university system and classical education (Greek trivium and quadrivium revived from pagan antiquity.)
1340-84	Gerard Groote: Dutch forerunner of the European Reformation: Recorded his reasoning and revelation from Bible in a spiritual diary: a book of principles; Taught with principles; Founder of the Common Life Brethren, a laity who established schools for commoners with a principled curriculum; Impacted all the great European reformers through his philosophy and methods of education: Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Knox, Sturm, Comenius, Erasmus, à Kempis, Loyola, and the Puritans.

Columbus 1492	Opened the Atlantic Ocean for the gospel to move westward “in God’s fullness of time” when a “people of the Book” were prepared and capable of reasoning with God’s Word into the civil realm.
The Bible in English 1500s	God’s Word in the language of the commoner and accessible through the printing press birthed liberty in reasoning and thinking! New ideas and applications inspired the sciences and the arts. Wycliffe Bible, Tyndale Bible, Geneva Bible, King James Version (flowering of English language)
The Reformation “Sola Scriptura” 1517	Martin Luther and John Calvin set a high priority on the education of children; The Bible became the “first-book” of instruction. Cry of the Reformation: The Bible is the sole authority for all of life and living! Huguenots planted 2,150 Calvinist churches and Bible-centered Christian schools in France for ALL the children! Amidst the fires of persecution, denial of rights, imprisonment, and death at the gallows, Church fathers continued to make it their first care to provide the next generation with primary instruction which the Roman Church had failed to furnish their flocks.
Christian Founding 1620	Pilgrims came to America; wrote Mayflower Compact; the Bible was single most important cultural influence in colonial life; it was America’s primer of all learning and her political textbook. Colonials reasoned with the revelation of God’s Word, related its principles to all of life, especially to church and civil government; colleges founded to train ministers of the gospel; education produced highest rate of literacy in the world and a Christian self-governing character and conscience!
American Christian Republic 1776	American Revolution: Biblical reasoning tested in the civil sphere and produced great documents of civil liberty: Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights; civil government founded on God’s Law; constitutional liberty was to be for all.
Expansion and Erosion 1800s	Flowering of America; the spirit of invention and enterprise; Westward expansion; Noah Webster, father of American education and scholarship preserved America’s vocabulary of liberty; his dictionary documents biblical and governmental meanings of words.; his school books and spelling primer go West with pioneers; Horace Mann, father of progressive education; God’s Word is removed from heart of education; decline of biblical reasoning
1930s	John Dewey expounds socialism in education; progressive education produces an illiterate, secular, American society
Restoration	<i>If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do? (Ps 11:3).</i> The need for Christians to restore God’s Word and biblical methods to the heart of education, laying Christ and His Word as the foundation of all sound reasoning and learning.
21st Century	You! _____ (Your place in His Story!)

Eternity Future