

I. Philosophy of Library

God designed and used story telling and the written word to communicate with His people. Mankind, as creative beings created in God's image, also use the written word to disseminate information, transmit cultural heritage, and for enjoyment. Libraries, as repositories of the written word, should reflect God's creative nature as they assist students in seeking information and evaluating it against God's character.

II. Instructional Goal and Biblical Truths

God has called us to seek wisdom and knowledge. By promoting reading and educating students with library skills, students are given tools to aid them in this search.

1. Reading is of special importance to those who believe and trust God.¹

When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the Lord his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees. (Deuteronomy 17: 18-19)

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2)

2. To be effective, reading must include understanding.²

Let me understand the teaching of your precepts; then I will meditate on your wonders. (Psalm 119:27)

They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read... Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them. (Nehemiah 8: 8,12)

3. God initiated storytelling as a method of communicating truth.³

"And God said..." Genesis 1

After Moses finished writing in a book the words of this law (Deuteronomy 31:9)

¹ Haycock, Dr. Ruth C. Encyclopedia of Bible Truths for School Subjects. 1993. Association of Christian Schools International. 142

² Haycock, Dr. Ruth C. Encyclopedia of Bible Truths for School Subjects. 1993. Association of Christian Schools International. 146

³ Eckel, Mark. The Whole Truth. 2003 Xulon Press. 159

Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
(Deuteronomy 6: 7)

4. God is concerned that communication be clear and easily understood.⁴

They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read. ... Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them. (Nehemiah 8:8,12)

For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. (1 Corinthians 14:33)

But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. (1 Corinthians 14:40)

5. Knowledge of non-Christian literature may be used by God in His service⁵

Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action. (Acts 7:22)

Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility – young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians.....Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. (Daniel 1: 3-4, 6)

6. Man's writings reflect his inner thoughts and desires: therefore we study literature to understand people.⁶

The words of a man's mouth are deep waters, but the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook. (Proverbs 18:4)

But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. (Matthew 15:18-19)

⁴ Haycock, Dr. Ruth C. Encyclopedia of Bible Truths for School Subjects. 1993. Association of Christian Schools International. 138

⁵ Haycock, Dr. Ruth C. Encyclopedia of Bible Truths for School Subjects. 1993. Association of Christian Schools International. 160

⁶ Haycock, Dr. Ruth C. Encyclopedia of Bible Truths for School Subjects. 1993. Association of Christian Schools International. 165

7. Our minds must be constantly filled with that which is pure and wholesome. We are responsible for those things with which we fill our minds.⁷

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked....But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2)

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things. (Philippians 4:8)

8. We must evaluate the truth of all other communication by the Bible, since it alone is absolute truth.⁸

For your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth. (Psalm 26:3)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

⁷ Haycock, Dr. Ruth C. Encyclopedia of Bible Truths for School Subjects. 1993. Association of Christian Schools International. 165

⁸ Haycock, Dr. Ruth C. Encyclopedia of Bible Truths for School Subjects. 1993. Association of Christian Schools International. 137