



ILLINOIS Family Institute

Boldly Bringing a Biblical Perspective to Public Policy in the Land of Lincoln.

VOTE

Your Values on March 19th

illinoisfamily.org



From the **Executive Director — David E. Smith**



During the COVID-19 pandemic, homeschool enrollment in Illinois and throughout the United States increased dramatically. Since the end of the lockdowns, homeschool enrollment has dipped somewhat here in the Prairie State, but this decrease has been slight. Pandemic-era restrictions may have given some parents the initial motivation to try homeschooling, but it appears that many liked it well enough to continue even after the pandemic was over.

Data from the Washington Post shows that homeschooling enrollment has increased 50 percent across the nation since the 2017-2018 school year!

And there's good news for us! Illinois is known as a "low-regulation state" for homeschooling families. This means there are no requirements to register with the state or local school districts. Parents have the freedom and flexibility to educate their children at home as they see fit, using the curriculum of their choosing – so long as it meets Illinois' core subject requirements, which are:

- Language Arts
- Math
- Biological and Physical Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Fine Arts
- Physical Education and Health



Most Christian homeschool curricula present a perspective that students will never get in government schools. Just one example of this is creation vs. evolution. Using Christian materials, parents can teach their children that God made the heavens and earth and everything in them (Acts 17:24-28). They can teach that He holds the whole world in His hands (Hebrews 1:1-4) and that human beings are His crown jewel

of creation, as we have been created "fearfully and wonderfully" in His image (Psalm 139:14; Genesis 1:26-27).

At most government schools, however, the theory of evolution is taught as absolute fact, with no dissent allowed. Teaching that we evolved accidentally leaves God and His purpose for our lives out of the discussion, robbing many children of hope. This lie and its effects are likely major contributing factors in widespread drug and alcohol abuse, as well as the tragic increase in youth suicide in our nation.

Of course, there are other reasons to consider homeschooling, chief among them being that the Word of God instructs parents to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Passages such as Deuteronomy 6, Psalm 78, and Ephesians 6 require that we take this responsibility seriously.

Why does the Bible emphasize the religious teaching of our children? Because discipleship is central to God's plan of world evangelism. It starts in our homes.

Who doesn't want their children to increase in wisdom? Scripture indicates fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10; Psalm 111:10). In Luke 6:39-40, Jesus tells a parable in which He points out,

"Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher."

Do we want our children to become like the world, trained by the Apostles of Wokeism? Or do we want them to have godly instruction from parents who understand the priority of passing on the baton of faith and fidelity? It is far more important to teach them to be God-honoring, productive members of society who will

continued on page 5 ...



College Endowment Accountability Act

U.S. Senator JD Vance (R-OH) introduced a bill to tax the endowments of our nation's most elite institutions, but Senate Democrats blocked the bill.



Senator Vance's College Endowment Accountability Act would raise the excise tax on endowment net investment income from 1.4 percent to 35 percent for secular, private colleges and universities with at least \$10 billion in assets under management.

As of FY2022, endowments subject to the tax hold a combined \$270 billion of assets under management and include: Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Princeton, MIT, Penn, Northwestern, Columbia, Washington University in St. Louis, Duke, and Vanderbilt. Senator Vance delivered the following remarks on the Senate floor:

"How is it that universities, that should be responsive to the public will, responsive to their donors and alumni, responsive to their students, how is it that they can go so far so fast without any pushback? And the answer, my fellow Americans, Mr. President, is university endowments, which have grown incredibly large on the backs of subsidies from the taxpayers, and they have made these universities completely independent of any political, financial, or other pressure, and that is why the university system in this country has gone so insane. At just three universities, Mr. President, Harvard, MIT and Penn, the endowments are approaching \$100 billion: that is as large as some of the largest hedge funds in America. In fact, Harvard, Penn, Yale, many of our Ivy League institutions and others beyond that are little more than hedge funds with universities attached to them as pretend.

"This must stop. It must stop because

it has enabled political insanity. It must stop because it has burdened an entire generation of Americans with over one trillion dollars of student debt, student debt relief that many of my friends on the other side would like plumbers in Ohio to pay for, but I think if the universities cause the problem, Mr. President, they ought to pay for it ...

"Right now, they pay a tax that is less than 2 percent on their net income... far lower than any of the working-class members of my own family, far lower than most Americans pay in taxes. Why is it that we allow these massive hedge funds pretending to be universities to enjoy lower tax rates than most of our citizens, people who are struggling to put food on the table and buy Christmas presents this season? And yet they 'enjoy' a far, far higher tax rate than these university endowments. It's insane. It's unfair. And I think we ought to fix it in this chamber now." ★

Pro-Life Bills in DC

U.S. Representative Mary Miller (R-Taylorville) introduced three separate bills in Congress which, if enacted, would have an impact on U.S. abortion policy.

The "Woman's Right to Know" bill would require a mandatory 24-hour waiting period and that an ultrasound be performed prior to an abortion. A 2016 study found that Utah's 24-hour waiting period resulted in 20 percent of women who made an initial appointment not returning for a final abortion appointment. This points to the reality that mandatory waiting periods are impactful and lifesaving.

Miller has also introduced the "Pregnancy Is Not An Illness" bill which would prohibit the US Department of Health and Human Services from declaring pregnancy a life-threatening illness in order to justify the use of abortion drugs. Despite considerable fearmongering, this bill is simply an attempt to close a loophole whereby

pregnancy can be used as grounds to receive abortion pills (as distinct from procedures like a salpingectomy in cases of ectopic pregnancies).

The final piece of legislation introduced by Rep. Miller is the "Love Them Both" bill, which would prohibit the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from using the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act to cover abortions. It is a gross misappropriation of the spirit of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act to use it cover abortions. The intention of the Act is to provide reasonable accommodations to a woman who experiences workplace limitations arising out of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

These pieces of legislation will hopefully generate some much-needed debate about specific areas of abortion policy. ★



Did You Know?

A study of terminally ill patients found that desire for assisted suicide was associated with depression, and that desire decreased in patients who responded to antidepressants (Psychosomatics, Vol. 51, No. 2, 2010).

Wouldn't it be fascinating to see how Christian prayer, worship, and fellowship would influence these patients? ★



In this Issue...

- Worldview Matters! p. 3
- Surge of Illegal Immigrants Continues p. 4
- From the Executive Director. p. 5
- The Abortion Pill p. 5
- The UK Got It Right This Time p. 6
- Parents' Rights Ballot Initiative p. 6
- Alien Law Enforcement? p. 6
- 10,000 Hours of Education. p. 7
- IFI Prayer Requests. p. 8

Worldview Matters!

Written by Jonathan Lewis

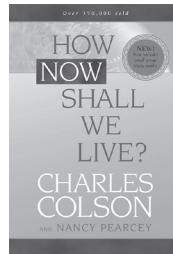
Do I need to engage in “worldview training” with my children and grandchildren? What difference does it make? Isn’t all of that “worldview” stuff just for philosophers who use big words that my kids and I can’t understand anyway? Isn’t it enough to just follow Jesus and leave worldview to others?

It might be tempting to think that way, but let’s pause for a moment to consider what a “worldview” really is. Our worldview, simply put, is our view of the world. It’s the philosophy or viewpoint we use to interpret everything around us. It’s our roadmap to how we live our lives.

That means every single one of us has a worldview. It might be an organized, coherent philosophy, or it may be a hodge-podge of ideas we’ve picked up here and there with no organizing principles. But each one of us, whether we realize it or not, has some kind of worldview.

Of course, there are many worldviews in our culture today. There’s humanism, pantheism, socialism, postmodernism, etc. And, of course, there’s biblical Christianity.

At the foundation of any worldview are certain “big ideas” that undergird everything else. Chuck Colson and Nancy Pearcey, in their book *How Now Shall We Live?*, contend that every worldview must answer three questions:



Creation: Where did we come from, and who are we?

Fall: What has gone wrong with the world?

Redemption: What can we do to fix it?

The Bible answers all of these questions, of course, and those answers form the starting point of a biblical worldview. And if we choose to live consistently with those answers, every facet of our lives will be impacted.

But what would happen if we change the answers to those three foundational questions? Simply put, we’ll end up with a very different worldview.

Marxism, for instance, gives answers that are radically different compared to Christianity. In her book *Total Truth*, Nancy Pearcey explains it this way:

1. What is Marxism’s counterpart to Creation, the ultimate origin of everything? Self-creating, self-generating matter.
2. What is Marxism’s version of the Fall, the origin of suffering and oppression? The rise of private property.
3. How does Marxism propose to set the world right again? Revolution! Overthrow the oppressors and recreate the original paradise of primitive communism.

From that high-level, big-question perspective, Marxists can figure out what it means to live a life consistent with Marxism.

If the Bible is true—and it is—then its answers to these big questions reveal and describe the world as it really is. It gives us an accurate picture of true reality. All other worldviews, to one extent or another, distort reality and lead their adherents to live

contrary to the truth.

Our children are going to believe something. They’re going to have some view of the world around them. And if we don’t teach them a biblical worldview, the world will be glad to give them a substitute to take its place.

The truth is, most of the children in our country today are enrolled in secular government schools that don’t share a Christian worldview. They’re also spending vast amounts of time plugged into media that doesn’t share a Christian worldview.

What ideas are they learning? What worldview are they absorbing through all this educational and entertainment content?

If ever there was a time to teach our children a biblical worldview, it’s now. If we don’t do it, someone else will teach them a different one.

Christian worldview training is about equipping our children to understand the world as it really is (because only the Bible has the real answers to the biggest questions), refute the wrong ideas our culture tries to hand them, and live confidently according to what they know to be true.

Let’s make sure we’re intentionally passing on a biblical worldview to the next generation. ★



WORLDVIEW CONFERENCE

Biblical Training for Today’s Culture

RECOVERING BIBLICAL MANHOOD



Dr. Scott Lively
Author, Attorney, Human Rights Consultant,
Pastor & Missionary



Nancy Pearcey
Bestselling Author & Founding Editor
of BreakPoint Radio



Pastor Myles Holmes
Author & Pastor of
REVIVE in Collinsville, IL

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, March 2, 2024

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Village Church of Barrington
1600 E Main St., Barrington, IL

Learn more at: illinoisfamily.org/ifi-events

Surge of Illegal Immigrants Continues

Written by David E. Smith

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) continue to report record numbers of foreign nationals at the southern border, with up to 10,000 to 14,000 apprehensions daily. Those apprehended are often processed and released — which allows “undocumented” immigrants to remain in the U.S. while awaiting immigration proceedings. CBP agents are mandated, by executive order, not to hold illegal aliens for more than 72 hours. We are now learning that Immigration and Customs Enforcement asylum hearings are being scheduled 8 years from now.

The daily surge along the southern border — especially at the Eagle Pass sector — has fluctuated. However, throughout the Biden Administration, the CBP has apprehended over 2 million migrants at the border, the highest number in two decades.

Tens of thousands of those immigrants are being transported to “sanctuary cities” like New York, Denver, Washington, and Chicago. Since Illinois is a “sanctuary state,” some of those immigrants are being dropped off in municipalities like Hinsdale, Buffalo Grove, Beecher, Kankakee, Glen Ellyn, Downers Grove, Oak Brook and Elmhurst. Hundreds of foreign nationals have even been flown into Rockford.

In late October, the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security released its latest “Startling Stats” factsheet outlining CBP 2023 border encounter data, which recorded 269,735 encounters in September alone at the Southwest border. Since President Joe Biden took office, there have been more than 7.5 million encounters nationwide and 6.2 million encounters at the Southwest border, in addition to 1.7 million known “gotaways.”

- In FY2023, 169 individuals whose names appear on the terrorist watchlist were stopped trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border between ports of entry. 18 were apprehended in September alone.

- In FY2023, CBP has arrested 35,433 aliens with criminal convictions or outstanding warrants nationwide, including 598 known gang members, 178 of those being MS-13 members.

- In FY2023, CBP, including Air and Marine Operations, has seized 27,293 pounds of fentanyl coming across the Southwest border—enough to kill more than 6 billion people.

- It is astonishing to watch how the Biden Administration is ignoring the open borders, which has made it much easier for drug traffickers to smuggle drugs into the country. As a result, we are seeing drug overdose deaths spike over the past five years. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the southern border has become the primary source of fentanyl in our nation, resulting in 109,680 recorded overdose deaths in 2022 alone, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

You would think that the President of the United States would act swiftly and decisively to deal with the fact that fentanyl kills approximately 300 Americans a day. But the Biden Administration is turning a blind eye to this multi-level crisis.

Then there’s the horrific problem of human trafficking.

Mexican cartels have become more involved in this insidious criminal enterprise because it is highly profitable. The United Nations estimates that the global trade in human trafficking generates \$150 billion in profits each year. In Mexico, human trafficking is estimated to be the third-largest criminal activity, behind drug trafficking and gun running.

On November 13, 2023, U.S. Representatives Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA), Mary Miller (R-IL) and thirteen other Republicans filed an impeachment resolution against Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas. H.R. 863 accuses the Biden administration official of high crimes and misdemeanors for the failure to address the invasion at the southern border.

ACTION: Please do not remain silent in the face of this crisis! Send a message to your member of Congress and to the White House to demand that they take action to secure the southern border. Even if you have spoken out before, please do it again and again. We must continue to petition our federal officials and be persistent.

In order to stop the influx of immigrants, criminals, potential terrorists and deadly drugs, please urge them to pass the Secure the Borders Act and specifically:

- end policies relating to the “catch and release” of illegal immigrants into the U. S.;
- build a physical barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border;
- mandate that Homeland Security deport aliens who have been convicted or charged with any criminal offense;
- support the effort to impeach Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas for his failure to secure our borders. ★



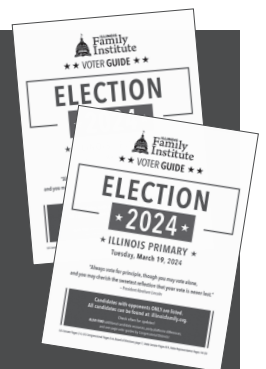
Order Voter Guides for Your Church

FI's non-partisan voter guides are legal for churches to distribute to their members.

Has your church ordered them? Have you ordered them to distribute to your neighbors and friends?

The Illinois Primary Election is March 19, 2024 with early voting starting on February 8th.

Don't delay! Call 708-781-9328 to order any amount.



From the **Executive Director** *(continued from page 1)*

shine the light of Jesus and not add to the darkness of our culture.

Another incredible blessing of homeschooling is that each child's education can be tailored to where they are and what they need. Based on their strengths and weaknesses, a homeschool educational plan can be easily customized to fit them.

Homeschooling provides parents the flexibility to allow their children to press in on subjects where they excel while giving extra time and attention to subjects where they struggle. It allows parents to pick resources that will help each unique child reach their full potential rather than being forced into the same cookie-cutter expectations as their peers.

This is particularly true of character training. I cannot tell you how many times I've had to moderate a disagreement or argument in my home among my children. "It's not fair!" is probably the most common complaint I hear about how one sibling is treating another. Yet these are the occasions when we teach them that no matter how unfair life is, as followers of Jesus Christ, we have an obligation to respond biblically, not in the flesh, to our circumstances. It is an opportunity to teach them the fruit of the spirit instead of the desires of the flesh (Galatians 5:16-26).

You can be sure that these important, character-building lessons are not being taught in government schools. Additionally, parents can emphasize the purpose of our lives and other biblical moral values, including the importance of godly character: personal integrity, hard work, diligence, dependability, meekness, courage, honesty, gratitude, generosity, and contentment, to name just a few.

You can see how this lays the groundwork for a solid biblical worldview. Heather Jenkins, Director of Educational Curriculum for Answers in Genesis, points out:

"For believers, we should examine the world around us through a biblical lens, using Scripture as our starting point to discern what is true and right. We rely on the perfect,



complete, and infallible Word of God and not the worldly ideas as our foundation to guide us in all areas of our lives (Romans 12:2; Psalm 119:105)."

These are critical lessons that are not being taught in government schools.

As government schools continue to degenerate with anti-Christian religious instruction, academic failure, and LGBTQIA extremism, many more Christian families will likely choose homeschooling. Homeschooling and other educational alternatives, including Christian schools, micro-schools, or homeschool co-ops are far better alternatives than government schools. They put parents in the driver's seat—exactly where they belong—regarding their children's education.

Please check out Illinois Christian Home Educators (iche.org) and the Home School Legal Defense Association (hsllda.org) for more information and great resources. You'll find helpful information on both sites as you prayerfully consider your options.

We also highly recommend the ICHE's upcoming three-day annual conference, which will be held at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, from May 30th through June 2nd. ★



The Abortion Pill

The U.S. Supreme Court announced in December that it will hear a legal challenge concerning the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's relaxation of restrictions on the distribution of the chemical abortion pill mifepristone and who is authorized to dispense it to patients.

The Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians & Gynecologists, the Christian Medical & Dental Associations, and four doctors filed a lawsuit in November 2022 challenging the FDA's approval of mifepristone in 2000. The lawsuit also aims to challenge the Biden administration for its removal of protective restrictions. By doing away with restrictions, the Biden administration allowed the drug to be distributed via mail and sold at pharmacies without requiring a doctor's approval or oversight.

The pro-life organizations contend, with evidence, that the drug poses serious risks to women, especially when provided outside of a medical setting or without screening for conditions such as ectopic pregnancies or other potential complications.

PRAY that the U.S. Supreme Court will rule in favor of life and women's health once again! ★



Subscribe!

Illinois Christians need an alternative to the establishment media for unvarnished truth about what is happening in our state and nation.

Please subscribe to our email list today at illinoisfamily.org

The UK Got It Right This Time

The Education Department in the United Kingdom recently issued guidance for schools in England. The document says, "parents should not be excluded from decisions taken by a school or college relating to requests for a child to socially transition."



It goes on to say, the views of the child's parents should carry great weight and that parental consent is expected to be required in the vast majority of cases. As a reminder, social transition can involve a student using a new name, new pronouns, different clothing, and using the bathrooms or playing on the sports teams of the opposite sex. Importantly, the document calls gender ideology itself a contested belief.

Moreover, this official guidance says the school should notify parents and encourage the child to talk to their parents themselves. It advises a cautious approach that includes a period of watchful waiting and that the school should take great caution with elementary-aged children, who should not be referred to by pronouns different from their sex.

Interestingly, this guidance says children should use the bathrooms and locker rooms of their biological sex.

Regarding sports, the UK guidance says kids should be separated by biological sex when physical differences threaten the safety of children. It actually adds that there can be no exception to this since boys are generally stronger, larger, and heavier than girls and pose a safety risk to girls.

The guidance document also addresses sleeping arrangements. It says no child should be allowed to share a room with a child of the opposite sex. Also, all-boys and all-girls schools are allowed to refuse to admit students of the opposite sex. Overall, the document is a resounding rejection of gender ideology in schools on just about every front and a welcome acknowledgment of the important roles of parents.

The Apostles of Wokeism in Illinois and much of America are far from making these types of concessions.

By now, most Christian parents/grandparents have heard about the fifth grade Colorado girl who was assigned to sleep in the same bed with a fifth-grade boy who identifies as transgender during an overnight trip for a cross-country track team. Praise God that the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) is representing the girl's family, seeking clarification of the school district's policies.

Do parents have any rights in the United States, or can we assume that school officials have the authority to usurp our rights whenever they are compelled to advance their agenda? Apparently, no consideration is given to the privacy, dignity, and safety rights of children. Parental rights and biological truth are jettisoned in favor of accommodating, affirming, and celebrating "trans"-cultism.

Let's hope and pray that our fellow Americans will see through the lies of the transgender movement and that common sense will prevail. ★

Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, **let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.** GALATIANS 6:9-10

Parents' Rights Ballot Initiative



As the state of Illinois continues to encroach upon parents' right to be involved in their children's lives – particularly within the context of major life-altering decisions such as abortion or gender modifying therapies and treatments – the Parents Matter Coalition (PMC) is working toward a ballot initiative to pose this important question to voters:

Shall the written consent from a minor's parent or guardian be required before any entity, person, clinic or school can provide a minor (under the age of 18 years) any nonemergency medical procedure, medication, pharmaceutical, or any gender modification procedure, gender identification counseling or gender therapy?

If the 500,000 signature minimum is met by April of 2024, and if it survives any legal challenge it may get, this question will appear on the ballot of every Illinois voter during the November 5, 2024 General Election. ★

Alien Law Enforcement?

In the meantime, Gov. J.B. Pritzker has signed a law to allow certain non-citizens to become police officers in Illinois. As if that wasn't deeply troubling (and unconstitutional) enough on its own, U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth are pushing S.R. 2401, which would allow illegal immigrants to serve in the United States military.



"If you are an undocumented person in this country, and you can pass the physical and the required test, background test alike, then you can serve in our military," Durbin said. "If you do it honorably, we will make you citizens of the United States."

Our question: How many "undocumented" Islamic Jihadists and/or Chinese Communists have crossed our southern border and are able to meet the requirements? Why would we ever empower, equip, and arm potential enemy cells? Senators Durbin and Duckworth's treachery is shockingly brazen. ★

10,000 Hours of Education Written by Israel Wayne

In 2008, in his book *Outliers*, best-selling author Malcolm Gladwell introduced a new concept into the American psyche. The “10,000-Hour-Rule” suggests that if you wish to truly excel in any field of endeavor, you need to dedicate 10,000 hours of focused and targeted practice, study and development.

Successful musicians, athletes, artists, lawyers, actors, doctors, etc. have all given witness to investing this level of commitment into their craft.

According to the Center for Public Education, most states require between 175 and 180 days of school and/or between 900 and 1,000 hours of instructional time per year, depending on the grade level. Taking the lower number of 900 annual hours, this calculates to 10,800 hours of seat instruction for students enrolled in a government school.

Every educator is seeking to utilize those 10,800 hours to their maximum benefit.

Owning the Child's Time

No education is ideologically neutral. Every system of education is training a student to embrace a particular set of beliefs and values (and behaviors). To train someone towards a predictable outcome involves many factors, but the most significant (by far) is time. To persuade someone towards an ideology, one must

have access to the student. This is why governmental compulsory attendance laws were deemed to be necessary by those who founded the government school system. They realized that whoever owned the child's time would eventually own the child.

Rarely do people ever stop to consider who should be responsible for the shaping of a child's values. It is naturally assumed (because of social conditioning) that it should be the civil government through the so-called “public” schools. But it is not the values of the “public” that get promoted in these schools (because there is no such thing as a public moral consensus). Some values are promoted, and some values are suppressed.

There are many viewpoints to which you personally do not agree. This is one of the problems inherent in government-controlled schools. As soon as beliefs that are considered to be anathema are being taught at taxpayer expense, education ceases to be for the common good. The First Amendment recognizes the right of American citizens to have freedom of speech and freedom of religion. This means people are allowed to hold to views we don't. But when the government dominates the means by which values are transferred to the youth of society, we quickly risk totalitarianism.

Decentralize Education

This is why education is best controlled by parents, not bureaucrats. As we all know, the proverbial twig tends to stay bent in the direction to which it is inclined in one's youth (see Proverbs 22:6). Increasingly, our American youth are being trained into irrationality, gender dysphoria, moral relativism, socialism, and other leftist and progressive ideals. The only way we can hope to have a future that includes our time-honored and hard-won liberties is if students can escape the indoctrination



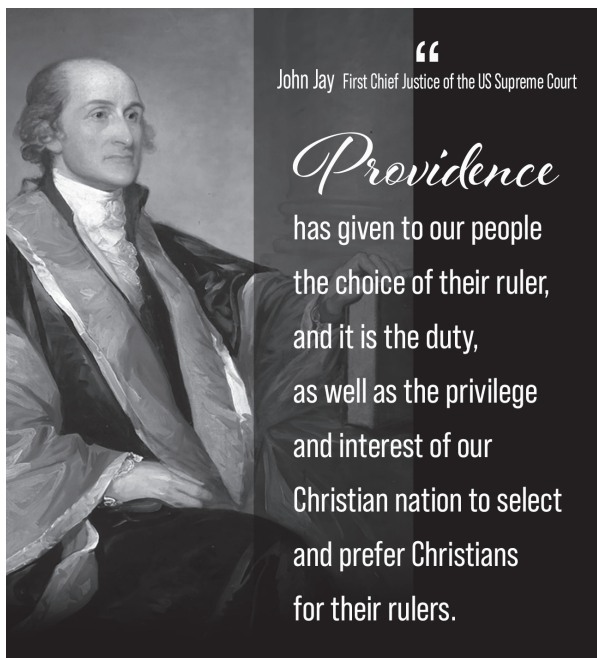
centers we call “public schools.”

In what do you want your child to become an expert? Do you want him or her to learn the values of sacrifice and diligence? What about moral restraint, logical thinking, financial responsibility, humility, honesty, integrity, and perseverance? These lessons do not spring from atheism and social evolution. They come from an objective framework of morality that is only possible if there is a universal moral law; and that is only possible when we acknowledge a universal Moral Law Giver. Government schools not only do not acknowledge this Supreme Being, but they also undermine His existence by ignoring Him and pretending He is not there.

If you want your children to embrace transcendent ethical values, you need to take full and complete responsibility for passing them on to your children. The government schools will not only NOT pass on these values, but they will also do everything they can to undermine them. Yes, this will take a lot of time and even financial sacrifice, but previous generations of Americans recognized that anything of value required thinking past our own immediate comfort and convenience. It's time to bring education home and put parents in charge. Only then can society escape the future tyranny of government control of our society.

It's time to buy back those 10,800 hours of influence and use them to prepare our children to truly be wise and virtuous beings. Whoever controls education controls the future.

What kind of future do you want to see in our land? It will primarily be determined by whoever is doing the actual teaching of our children. Hopefully, that will be you, not the government. ★



Prayer Requests . . .

“Righteousness exalts a nation,

But sin is a reproach to any people.” PROVERBS 14:34

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,

The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.” PSALM 33:12

These verses are well known to Christian conservatives as it pertains to politics and public policy. Often, we apply them to various legislative proposals and to the various positions candidates hold. But do we realize that these verses are actually reflective of the faithfulness of *we the people* to Almighty God?

If we, as a people, are following God and His ways; if we acknowledge God as Lord, our state and nation will be blessed and exalted. If sin and idolatry permeate our culture, we cannot expect God's blessings.

There is a simple formula in 2 Chronicles 7:14 that fleshes this out for us in four simple steps: **1.) humble ourselves; 2.) pray; 3.) seek God; and 4.) turn from wickedness.**

Jesus tells us that, "If you love Me, keep My Commandments." (John 14:15) Obviously, if we are to love God, we must know what He requires. That compels us to study His Word so that we, like David, can say, "I delight to do Your will, O my God, and



Your law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8). Similarly, we read in Psalm 119:97, "Oh, how I love Your law; it is my meditation all the day."

The love for God's righteous law comes from the inside. For "out of the heart" come righteousness and unrighteousness (Matthew 15:19; see also Proverbs 3:1, 4:21, 23). The Pharisees rigorously kept certain parts of law, but it was for their own pride and self-aggrandizement. The Law was extremely important to them, but for the wrong reasons. Mark 7:20-23.

Praise God for our First Amendment rights

to freely exercise our religious beliefs, our right to assemble, our right to free speech, and our right to petition the government when they move in the wrong direction. May we utilize these freedoms for the spread of the Gospel and for His glory and honor.

Please Pray ...

- that Christians would use wisdom and discernment to understand the issues and be motivated to vote their biblical values.
- that Planned Parenthood's plans to profit from the destruction of preborn babies would collapse here in Illinois and across the nation.
- that the U.S. Supreme Court would understand the harms of chemical abortions.
- that parents, pastors, and other community leaders would get involved in expressing their opinions – and moral outrage – at the godless philosophies that are being promoted in government schools.
- that Christian parents will be convicted to intentionally impress Biblical values upon their children's lives.
- that God would raise up bold leaders in our churches who will not shrink back from engaging our culture for Christ.
- that IFI will continue to increase in favor at the state Capitol, in the public square, on social media, and with our allies in preserving the future for families.
- that God would continue to equip IFI with the resources to engage the culture with Biblical truths.
- that enough lawmakers will demand that we secure our nation's borders and end the immigration crisis.
- that we would stand boldly with Israel during this war against Islamic jihad.
- that lawmakers would be wise in foreign entanglements.
- that God would expose the plans of the enemy and the lies that seek to divide us by race and ethnicity and fuel a spirit of hate. ★

Stay up-to-speed on news impacting the family



Become a fan
on Facebook!



Follow us on Instagram
@illinoisfamilyinstitute



Follow us on Twitter
@ProFamilyIFI



youtube.com/
ILFamilyInstitute



Visit our website:
illinoisfamily.org

Illinois Family Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit 501c3 organization. Gifts to IFI are tax-deductible. IFI has a working relationship with the American Family Association, Alliance Defending Freedom, Family Research Council, Liberty Counsel and the Thomas More Society.

Illinois Family Institute | P.O. Box 876 | Tinley Park, Illinois 60477

phone: 708-781-9328 | fax: 708-781-9376 | web: illinoisfamily.org | e-mail: ContactUs@illinoisfamily.org