



**“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...”**  
**2 Peter 1:21**

## Are We Secularizing Our Children?

By Sewell Hall

Several years ago, a Christian who was the president of a large state university stated his belief that students do not lose their faith because of evolution in the science department or humanism, philosophy, psychology, or sociology departments. Rather, he felt that they become so absorbed with secular studies and secular activities that they do not take time for spiritual things. They neglect attendance at services, neglect Bible study and make their friends among worldly people. They die spiritually, not from poison but from spiritual malnutrition. Today, this is happening to children long before they get to college. And some of the finest, best intentioned and most sacrificial and loving parents are contributing to it.

Children are the busiest people in town. Schools have lengthened the school day and long bus rides often require children to leave home very early in the morning and return late in the afternoon. They have homework to get done. Much extra time in school is spent in humanistic activities. Children are constantly exposed to vulgarity and profanity not only from fellow-students, but even from teachers. They desperately need counteracting spiritual influences.

Many conscientious parents, however, want still more secular opportunities for their children than the standard curriculum provides. They encourage participation in extra-curricular sports organized by the school and in others that are privately organized, occupying afternoons and Saturdays and even portions of Sundays as well as the summer months. Students not inclined to sports are encouraged to join the band with long hours of after school practice, summer band camps, compulsory Friday night football in the fall and concerts in the spring. In addition, there are often private music lessons. Scouts also provide wholesome experiences, and parents want their children to be involved. In fact, they feel that their children are deprived if they miss any of these opportunities, and so to provide them parents pack their own schedules full, taxiing the children here and there and sacrificially spending their energy and money.

What is wrong with these activities? Generally nothing. The problem is that they are dominating children's lives. When do we expect our children to change from this heavily weighted emphasis on this world to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness?” If they become accustomed to a secular schedule in elementary school, high school will only increase the pressure. College allows still less time for the Lord unless there is a purposeful determination to keep the lid on secular demands. If such priorities have not been learned under the guidance of parents, it is unlikely they will be developed when students are on their own in college. By the time those school years of immersion in secularism are over, there is usually very little spiritual life left in them.

And it all begins when they are young!

*[Edited for space]*



### **CABOT WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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#### **When We Meet**

##### Sunday

Bible Classes – 9:00 am  
Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

##### Wednesday

Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

#### **Our Elders**

R.D. Hopper  
Norman Kemper

#### **Our Deacons**

Troy Hunter  
Kelly Kendall  
Tony Ramick

#### **Our Preacher**

Alex Hale