

## **Schools of the Prophets or of the Philistines—Better or Different— Our Argument for Christian Seventh-day Adventist Schools**

Today in Atlanta, several schools begin a weekend of graduation celebrations stretching to the end of the month. In many Christian schools linked to a church, there is a Sabbath and/or a Sunday religious ceremony, either followed or preceded by a secular ceremony, the Commencement. In secular public schools, there is one ceremony. In Seventh-day Adventist schools, graduation is more than the fulfillment of a set of academic requirements—it represents an indication of citizenship development, and spiritual maturity and signifies an integration of the academics with each of these. A provision should be made so that all students shall be taught, and so that no child is denied a Christian education, even for lack of finances.

In Biblical times, in the days of Samuel, there were two schools, one at Ramah, Samuel's residence town, and the other at Kiryat Yearim, where the ark of the covenant was located. The schools were started because of the indifference of parents to their Divine obligations and the surrounding idolatrous influences of heathen nations, leading to a divergent path from the education that God had defined. While the home was the main place of the child's education, Christian schools were established by spiritual leaders to help keep the children and families on track and to serve as a barrier to the spreading influence of idolatry. The home and the school were to collaborate and cooperate in the education of the child to create safe and secure environments.

It was in the face of general apostasy that these schools were established and affirmed, for the work of redemption and education were one. A central purpose of the schools was to prepare leaders for Israel. In these schools, the curriculum consisted of instruction in the Law, sacred music, poetry, and history as well as the tenets of pray. Further, the Schools of the Prophets were known for their self-supporting stance, where students were employed diligently in the practical necessities of life and teachers distinguished by spiritual commitment to Biblical truth and the special endowment of the Spirit.

Each of us today has a spiritual duty. God is calling us individually and severally to support Christian education, by both word and deed, for we are preparing leaders, not merely completing academic requirements. The issue is not whether our schools are better or worse, but whether they are different in purpose, character, direction, emphasis and influence. Let every church support Christian education, for as you remit the tithe to the storehouse, God is looking for a remittance for Christian education, for the work of education and redemption are one. So say all of us? The "ayes" have it. Lord, make me a servant for Christian Seventh-day Adventist Schools-- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rzn0e3zKxM>