



# and that's... **The Gospel Truth!!** with Pat Corn

*a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter*

Well, here it is school time again. I sure seems like the kids go earlier and earlier each year. When I was a young boy, we equated labor Day as the first Monday after school started. We'd go a half day on the Friday before Labor Day, then hit it full stride on the following Tuesday.

It was always exciting and gave me butterflies in the stomach as I faced a new teacher and whether or not I would be in the "advanced" class. That was especially important to me for some reason. I was fortunate to go to the first "non-graded" elementary school in the state. Valley Hill Elementary school was led by a very progressive principal, Clara C. Babb, and her leadership in NC education enabled VHES to be the guinea pig for the state desiring to implement the "non-graded" program.

What "non-graded" meant was that instead of have first, second, third grades etc... a student could advance through the "levels" as quickly as they could. The concept was really exciting for the students because nothing would hold you back. As a student, I was a good reader, with good comprehension and good composition skills. The SRA reading program was exciting for me to work through the different colors as quickly as possible. The non-graded system allowed me to excel in my English skills, but on the other hand, the system made my weaknesses glaringly obvious. MATH!!! ACCCK!!! Ooohwee! I hated that part. I dreaded the math sector every day. But with my innate ability in the English skills, the teacher could spend less time on my reading skills more time with me in the areas of math. The total idea was to "balance" the child's education by allowing the student to excel in every area possible and then concentrate the teaching time on the areas that weren't his or her strong suit.

The "non-graded" system was a great idea but as time passed, student numbers increased beyond the norm disallowing the teacher the privilege of spending one-on-one time with the students. Students become more mobile as their parents moved with their positions more frequently from city to city. Student discipline became more of a problem with the mobile student society. Divorce created a higher level of dysfunction in a child's life. Suddenly, the teacher emphasis shifted from education to enforcement and counseling. Dysfunction rules!! The non-graded system died a quick death.

It was a great idea, but social ills caused the death of the system. While this erosion was taking place in the educational system, a parallel was taking place in the spiritual emphasis and education of our kids.

Teaching on right and wrong has been replaced with happy songs and pizza. I've heard it said time and time again, "If you want to get the kids to come to church give 'em great music and pizza". Sunday school classes are now "discussion groups" where the subject matter is not necessarily scripture, but the latest in fashion news and teen gossip generally led by the "preps". A "prep" in my day was someone working toward going to college at a Prep School. Now, it's a group of hoity toity, self centered "plastics", with just the right amount (and color) of blonde hair, skilled at doing the "hair thing".

Teaching God's will has been replaced with a social gospel that borders on, if embraces, the new age theology.

Wouldn't it be cool if our Christian kids had to wear little boxes on their foreheads like the Orthodox Jewish kids do. They wear those little boxes that contain scripture on their foreheads until they learn the scripture inside, which by the way, includes the Ten Commandments. Posting the Ten Commandments on the wall wouldn't such a problem if it's already in their hearts, would it?

Even though the ACLU believes they control our children's education, they don't. We, as Christian parents, control the degree of spiritual education in our children, but we must take charge. They won't get that guidance a school. They might not even get it at church. They must get it at home. That's where the Hebrew children got their spiritual education. Synagogue was not the worship center of the Jews as it is today. They worshiped in the Temple. Synagogue was a group of ten families that met in their homes and educated their children in their faith and heritage. These were kept to a strict maximum of ten families. Close personal relationships were the core of the strength and stability that they enjoyed.

Sure, we are restricted from posting the Ten Commandments on the school wall, but guess what, you can put them in a plastic insert page and put the in the front of your child's notebook. Do it!! It works!!

"But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea." Matthew 18:6

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For a printable display of the Ten Commandments

Go to <http://www.maizeone.com/TenCommandments.htm>

Your comments or questions are welcome

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