

"The Musket"

By: Robert A. Peck

"Weapon Of Breakthrough"

"Education Defined"

Vol.1 No.3

Noah Webster had a wonderful experience with the Holy Spirit 200 years ago in the winter of 1807. In his words, "My mind was arrested ... I closed my books and yielded to the influence which could not be resisted or mistaken, and was led by a spontaneous impulse to repentance, prayer and entire submission and surrender of myself to my Maker and Redeemer. My submission appeared to be cheerful, and was soon followed by that peace of mind which the world can neither give nor take away¹."

Our Heavenly Father, in His perfect timing, "arrested" Noah Webster for the prosperous plans that He had for him. With a Biblical worldview, Noah Webster had the honor of defining a new vocabulary for America at its **birth**. It was no mistake that God used a Spirit-filled-perspective, knowing 26 languages, to establish the foundational American language of over 70,000 words, with its many Biblical references, that would assist in launching this nation on her Christian voyage².

Importance Of Primary Texts

Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary provides for us valuable insight, as a primary text, as to the Christian perspective existent nationally at our original, foundational level. The import of the Christian influence during our establishment was paramount.

The understanding of liberty, and the Biblical perspective of the individual, and government, became refined during the Great Awakening (1730's – 1750's) and then manifest during the Revolution. Preachers like George Whitefield and Robert Muhlenberg burned like flames of fire during the Awakening, exhorting others to governmental liberty, as defined in God's Word

Preachers became so dangerous to the cause of Britain that they were known as the Black Regiment (due to the black robes they wore in the field) and were treated more severely than common soldiers when captured.

As a primary text coming from a Christian perspective, Webster's 1828 Dictionary also has the distinction as providing for us the most exhaustive source available, when used in conjunction with the Bible, for the purposes of defining and understanding words from a Christian perspective. In an age of Relativism, source documents that reveal a Biblical perspective are necessary to stay true to God's purposes and plans for us as individuals and a nation. Let's investigate the Christian perspective of education.

Education Defined

"The bringing up, as of a child, instruction; formation of manners. Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations. To give children a good education in manners, arts and science, is important; to give them a religious education is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties.¹"

As we have neglected this definition of education especially over recent decades, our responsibilities regarding youth have become more and more immense. If our desire for our youth and nation is to **return to true Biblical liberty**, then the sooner we return to this definition, the better!

¹ – Webster's 1828 Dictionary

² – http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noah_Webster

³ – The American Heritage Video Series David Barton www.wallbuilders.com