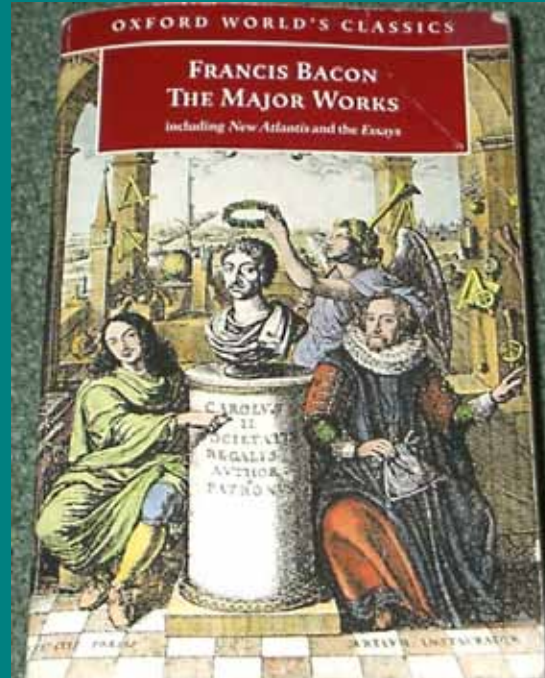


# The Forgotten Message of Francis Bacon



David E. Shormann, Ph.D.  
President, Genesis Science, Inc.  
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# The Forgotten Message of Francis Bacon

- Who was Francis Bacon?
- What was one of his most important messages?
- How have we forgotten his message?
- How do we apply his message to educating our children and ourselves?



# Biographical Sketch of Francis Bacon

- Considered by most to be the founder of the scientific method.
- Born in January of 1561 in London.
- Queen Elizabeth was in control of England.
- Bacon was born into what is considered the “measuring age”.



# Biographical Sketch of Francis Bacon

- Father was Sir Nicholas Bacon, the second most important advisor to Queen Elizabeth.
- Mother was Lady Ann Bacon, described as a “choice lady, and eminent for piety, virtue, and learning”



# Biographical Sketch of Francis Bacon

- Francis was home-educated until he was 12
- Enrolled in Trinity College Cambridge
- Studied at Cambridge for 32 months
- Grew tired of the dogmatic teaching of Aristotelian philosophy



# Biographical Sketch of Francis Bacon

- Served as a secretary to English ambassador of France from 1576-1579
- Father died in 1579
- Graduated from Gray's Inn law school at age of 21
- While celebrated today as a writer and scientist, he was mainly occupied with law and public affairs



## Biographical Sketch of Francis Bacon

- Bacon's writing abilities were no doubt encouraged by the “notebook culture” of the time.
- Bacon had an incredible memory
- At the age of 33, Bacon wrote, from memory, over 1600 quotations.
- *The Advancement of Learning* contains over 1000 quotations



# Biographical Sketch of Francis Bacon

- Purpose of this workshop is to learn about one of Bacon's most important messages
- Discuss how we have forgotten this message
- Learn how to apply this message to advancing all types of learning in our homes





## The Message

- From *The Advancement of Learning, Book 1, Of the Excellency of Learning and Knowledge*
- One of Bacon's first objectives was to deliver learning from some of the discredits it has received
- All of the discredits to learning were because of ignorance



## The Message

- In Bacon's time, the message from the church was that knowledge is something to be accepted with great limitation and caution
- Aspiring to gain too much knowledge was the original temptation and sin (Gen. 2:17, 3:1)
- Other cautions about learning include I Cor. 8:1, Eccl. 1:18, Eccl. 12:12, and Col. 2:8
- The church also warned that learned men were more prone to heresy and atheism.



## The Message

- The church did not distinguish the type of knowledge that led to the fall of man from other types of knowledge.
- It was not the pure knowledge of nature and the physical world that led to the fall (Gen. 1:28, 2:19-20)
- It was “the proud knowledge of good and evil.....which was the form of the temptation” *p. 123, Francis Bacon, The Major Works*
- One type says “You are not God, I am!”, and the other type says “Who are you God, I want to know you more.”



## The Message

- Bacon believed it was not the quantity of knowledge that makes a mind swell (I Cor. 8:1), but the quality of knowledge.
- Our eyes and ears are the two most important senses we have for acquiring knowledge (Eccl. 1:8)
- The danger is not in the quantity of knowledge, but the quality of knowledge we absorb.



## The Message

- Bacon believed that charity (Christian love) should be the reason for all learning (I Cor. 8:1, I Cor. 13:2)
- He also believed that while we can learn a lot, human knowledge has its limitations



## The Message

- We should not place our happiness in acquiring knowledge (Eccl. 2:13-14)
- We should not keep our knowledge to ourselves.
- We should not, by the contemplation of nature, think that we understand all of the mysteries of God (Eccl. 3:11).



## The Message

- Bacon was especially concerned with the church's idea that too much knowledge should incline a man to atheism.
- God's attributes are clearly seen through the things that He made (Romans 1:20)
- Only a fool would say in their heart that there is no God (Psalm 14:1)



## The Message

- “Let no man.....think or maintain that a man can search too far or be too well studied in the book of God’s word or in the book of God’s works; divinity or philosophy; but rather endeavor an endless progress or proficiencie in both; only let men beware that they apply both to charity, and not to swelling; to use, and not to ostentation; and again, that they do not unwisely mingle or confound these learnings together.” *p. 126, Francis Bacon, The Major Works*





## How Have We Forgotten This Message?

- We are forgetting to teach God's word along with God's works
- We are forgetting to tell students what to do with their knowledge
- We are forgetting to tell students that it is okay to mingle God's word and God's works together



# How Have We Forgotten This Message?

We are forgetting to teach God's word along with God's works

- Up until the early 60's, God's word and God's works were openly discussed and taught in public schools.
- By removing prayer, the Ten Commandments, and heavily emphasizing evolution, Americans effectively removed God's word, and the moral principles contained therein, from our schools.



# How Have We Forgotten This Message?

We are forgetting to teach God's word along with God's works

- In America's science classrooms, God's works are studied in great detail, but God is not acknowledged.
- Darwin's main purpose for writing *On the Origin of Species* was to “show that the species had not been separately created” (*Descent of Man*, p. 62), as detailed in the book of Genesis.
- We must make sure our children are educated in a setting where God's works and God's word are both emphasized.



# How Have We Forgotten This Message?

We are forgetting what to do with our knowledge

- The world teaches to apply your knowledge so that you can get a good paying job and be happy and buy what you want.
- According to Bacon, and more importantly, to God, the only reason for obtaining knowledge of any type is so that you can serve Him and fellow man better.
- As you educate your children, make sure you are not raising a bunch of nothings (I Cor. 13:1).



# How Have We Forgotten This Message?

We are forgetting that it is okay to mingle God's works and God's word together

- Today's secular science textbooks try to tell us that science and Christianity don't mix.
- They try to tell students that Galileo's experiments were in conflict with the Bible, when in reality, the conflict was with Aristotelian philosophy.
- A study of history will show you that the majority of scientists and mathematicians who made the most significant contributions were Christians.



# Why Have We Forgotten Bacon's Message?

- It is human nature to try and find ways to forget about God and instead say “I am god” (Romans 1:19-32).
- Many have forgotten Bacon's message because they have chosen to, and the results are being revealed in the gradual decline of moral standards in America.
- When our nation rejects prayer in schools, the display of the Ten Commandments, and no longer requires government leaders to acknowledge God, then what do we expect?



# Applying Bacon's Message to the Advancement of Learning in Our Homes

- Bacon's message must be preached in our Christian homes, churches and schools.
- Carefully select the books your children read and the curricula they use.
- Science: Abeka, Apologia, Bob Jones, DIVE High School Science.
- Math: Saxon w/DIVE CD's.
- Regardless of the course, choose a curricula that allows you to study His word and His works.



# Applying Bacon's Message to the Advancement of Learning in Our Homes

- If your child has plans for college, consider carefully the college they are choosing.
- More importantly, consider their reasons for going to college, and if their number one reason is anything but serving God better by going, then you may want to reconsider.
- It is quite possible that you may not get the results you were hoping for.





## Conclusion

- In his two books on *The Advancement of Learning*, Bacon covers other important topics, such as errors in the way that we study, divine and human proofs to the dignity of learning, as well as the types of human and divine learning.
- Bacon's message is based on Matthew 22:29 "You are mistaken, not knowing Scriptures nor the power of God".
- Do whatever it takes to commit His word and His works to memory.
- Constantly keep in mind the goal of service to God and man as the reason not just for learning, but for living.



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