

James T. Jeremiah
Our Greatly Neglected Phase of Missions – Our Schools
1972

Transcript

James T. Jeremiah:

I was asked by Harold Scholes, who is the chairman of the Education Committee, to bring a message on the importance of the general fund of the college. And since Harold Scholes is one of our trustees and college presidents are supposed to do what the trustee's tell them to do, I'm doing it. I'd rather preach a sermon on a text or a message, especially that text I can't use. I'm going to discuss the subject and I'm going to do it quickly within the next 20 minutes, if I can. And answer some questions and give you some points that you'll have to take rapidly, because there are a number of them.

James T. Jeremiah:

First of all, let me ask you this question. Why is the general fund in our colleges so important.

James T. Jeremiah:

Number one: No students in any one of our six approved schools pays the whole cost of his education. Some pay 65% of it. Some go as high as 90%. The general fund, other colleges subsidizes the student's costs.

James T. Jeremiah:

Number two: The facilities in every one of our colleges must be maintained. We can raise the money for new buildings, build a building and forgot that when we build the building, it must be operated. And when we do it we are in difficulty. The facilities must be maintained out of the general fund of the college.

James T. Jeremiah:

Number three: Campus appearance depends upon the condition of the general fund. We can save money if we don't mow lawns, but you won't like it, if we don't. I can recall years ago when one of our trustees, we were facing financial problems in the early days. And let me say for any of you who may wonder, we always face them and I'm speaking for all six of us as presidents. There never is a time when we don't face the need for money in this fund. One man said, "let the lawns go without mowing". What a horrible looking mess that would be. So the campus appearance depends upon it.

James T. Jeremiah:

Number four: Student aid programs are a necessity in all our colleges. If the general fund is not adequate and money is taken from tuition in order to provide for student aid, then we take from those who have and give to those who have not. And we are following the McGovern policy. I'm not a politician, but I'm against that.

James T. Jeremiah:

Number five: Student costs can be kept at the lowest possible level only as our colleges have sufficient money in the general fund. If you parents and pastors wonder why the college tuitions go up, the reason why they do is because the general fund is not subsidized by our people in our churches. The kids indirectly, maybe more than that directly, the parents have to pay the difference.

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James T. Jeremiah:

Number six: The general fund is important because financial stability is a requirement for accreditation. In case you are not interested in accreditation, the strength with the general fund is necessary for existence. I hear people say every once in a while, I'm not interested in accreditation, accreditation makes a school liberal. Harvard university, I'm told is not accredited, and I'm not sure that went that way because of accreditation.

James T. Jeremiah:

Incidentally, I believe if I were going to have an operation, I'd like to have the best surgeon I could from an accredited medical school do the operating. I don't want somebody's mechanic to do it. I think accreditation on our institutions is a necessity to help guarantee to our kids, the best we can, that they're getting the best possible education they can get. Incidentally, there are some people who don't want accreditation in some places. Not because they are so afraid of apostasy, but because to be accredited, they would have to review, revise and change their views of faculty salaries, academic standards, and racial equality.

James T. Jeremiah:

I think we ought to be honest in our reason if we don't want it. These are reasons why the general fund is important. Five or six of them.

James T. Jeremiah:

Question number two: Why are the college general funds not well supported? Let me make it very clear, but I think I can speak for all of my colleagues, we rejoice in what God has done in our schools and sending money to take care of the operation of the colleges, the schools has been wonderful. But I want to say to you that this must not only continue as it is, but I think I can say honestly, for all of these men and all of those who work with them, that this must increase. Why is it then that the general fund is not supported as it ought to be.

James T. Jeremiah:

Number one: I believe one of the reasons is the churches are not well-informed. Maybe this is our fault. Maybe we haven't told the story. But in all honesty, sometimes I think some of the appeals and some of the information concerning these needs find their place in pile 13. And a good many times, our church people never hear a blessed thing about it. The information seems somehow to have a difficult time sifting to what we call the grass roots. There are occasions when someone says, if it's not "my college", I don't believe "my people" should know anything about it. Frankly brethren, I don't think that's fair.

James T. Jeremiah:

If there are six approved colleges in our fellowship, then I think these colleges, all of them, every last one of them, ought to have an opportunity of being presented to all of our people who have a responsibility in approving them. And if this is not so, and if they cannot be supported in this fashion, then there ought to be just cause brought about as to why they should not be and they ought not be approved in the first place. Importance of this area is not grasped by the average church member.

James T. Jeremiah:

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Number two: They think students sometimes pay the full cost. They have little idea of the operational costs. Will you take a look at your report and find out that this last year our colleges spent \$7,440,863.00. Seven million to operate these schools. Let me say to you, there's nothing romantic about painting a building, mending a roof, repairing a dormitory or mowing a lawn. But they are absolute necessities if our schools operate. We need to research this. We need to study this. We need to understand the importance that some, I'm afraid, in our churches do not seem to grasp.

James T. Jeremiah:

Number three: Another reason why the general funds are not well supported is because there is a multiplied number of appeals for things that are or seem to be more important. I want to ask you something today. Is there anything more important to regular Baptists, then the young people in our churches? We can spend a whale a lot of time clobbering these kids around the nation, but we would do a lot more if we would support institutions that are trying to help them and direct them and challenge them. If we want what that says, we better get with it in preparing those that God sends, because frankly they need the preparation they get out of our schools. The importance is not grasped by the average church member, nothing romantic about it.

James T. Jeremiah:

Number three: Multiplied number of appeals for things that are more important. I mentioned this. Number four: Some pastors and churches are more concerned about schools outside of the fellowship. And through the years in my life as a regular Baptist, we as regular Baptists have helped to subsidize schools that are fighting the very thing for which we now stand. And it's high time, it seems to me, that we awaken to the reality that's before us and got with it and supported the schools that are supporting the churches. Some pastors and churches, I have the one in mind, I know from 18 years of experience that I'm not just shooting in the dark, prove schools ought to be financially supported or disapproved. There's no alternative. If it isn't worth supporting it, then let's take it off the list.

James T. Jeremiah:

Let's not listen however, to every critic who may have something to say about something. There are some people, you know, if it weren't for their own existence would be against motherhood. They have to be for that or else believe in evolution. That would be against the theological concept, so they have to quit that. I said I was going to be blunt? You getting mad?

John:

No.

James T. Jeremiah:

That wasn't very loud, John.

John:

I said no.

James T. Jeremiah:

Okay. All right. I'm glad you're with me.

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James T. Jeremiah:

Number five: And here's why I'm going to get in trouble, but it won't be the first time. Colleges, regular Baptist colleges, are the victims of token giving. I thank God for every church. Long ago I heard Dr. Ironside make this statement, "God's work in missions is done by little churches who sacrifice." And I thank God for every church that contributes to our schools, little or much. But when \$10.00 a month is given to a school and it doesn't involve anything but a token, when it ought to be a \$1,000.00 dollars, it is a down right disgrace. That's pretty blunt. I intended it to be that way. There are some churches that would give \$10.00 a month to a school or to all of our schools and it would be a sacrifice. God bless you. It's my honest opinion that \$10.00 will do more than the \$1,000.00 from somebody who hasn't sacrificed. But don't you have the brass and the audacity to say to somebody that you're supporting a school when you put a little token, a \$10/\$5 on the docket for your support and that's only just tipping instead of giving.

James T. Jeremiah:

Amen. I thank all five of you.

James T. Jeremiah:

Now these are the reasons why the general fund of the colleges are not well supported.

James T. Jeremiah:

Last of all, Number three: Why should every GRB church give to the general fund of our colleges?

James T. Jeremiah:

Number one: The emphasis of GRB schools, all six of them. They teach in practice the doctrine of the local church. Some of our colleges have helped build local churches. Let me make it clear. We, as schools, are not building a denomination to support our colleges. We exist to support the fellowship of which we are already a part. And for that reason, our colleges should have support in the general fund. We are not at a denomination. Let me tell you in this day, there's a vast difference.

James T. Jeremiah:

Number two: The reason why every GRB church could give to the general fund of our colleges is because of the welfare of the GRB youth. This year there were 3,468 of them enrolled in our schools. Either the churches helped pay the price or the students must pay it. Most of our kids cannot afford it. They come from homes where this is difficult. I thank God for young people who have enough spizzierinctum, whatever that is, backbone, intestinal fortitude, or whatever else you want to use to get out and work. But no student today can earn enough money to pay all of his way through college. He has to have help. And because of these young people, and they're our great gang, our churches ought to do this for the welfare of our youth.

James T. Jeremiah:

They can either go to fake universities, somebody says it's cheaper to go to the state school. It all depends on how you evaluate cheapness. You send them out to a school. To one of these apostate institutions, whether it's church related, not church related, state related, and they come out and they are lost to your home and they are lost to the local church, and they are lost for this great call of God. I

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say, we pay a tremendous price. We better recognize that for the welfare of our young people, we ought support the general funds of our colleges.

James T. Jeremiah:

Number three: We ought to support them because of the encouragement of the GRB teachers and staff members. Many of these people serve in our schools at a tremendous sacrifice. They could be serving somewhere else, at 3 times the salary. Also, I want to make clear our administrators and staff members who do the same. There were 216 of our people serving in these schools this last year. I want to tell you what would be an encouragement, when they know that behind them, as they teach, there is a great group of people praying and giving for their welfare. They stand in need of prayer and support precisely the same reason that missionaries stand in the need of support in prayer, because they're doing the work of God, to train the people who are going to be the missionaries and the pastors and the lay workers in our churches. They are giving their lives to this cause. This would be an encouragement to them.

James T. Jeremiah:

Let me also say fourthly, that every GRB church should give to the general fund because of the survival of the GRB educational program. Everywhere you read today, there are prophets of gloom who predict the closing of independent schools. History proves that when the churches fail to support the colleges, they lose them. In the state of Ohio there are some, probably 60 colleges, not the universities, I'm talking about the independent colleges. These colleges were started by godly people through the years. I suspect there are 2 of the 60 in the state of Ohio today that are still church related in the sense that we would call it so. The rest of them have long since told the churches' goodbye. After they've infiltrated the churches with their paganism, they bid adieu, and they've gone on their way. Let me say to you today, friend, our schools will survive only as our people see the need and pray for and give to them, and as the churches keep control of them.

James T. Jeremiah:

You know why I'm concerned that churches support Cedarville College, and I think I can speak for the rest of our brethren, I want our churches to support our schools, not because God couldn't take care of us without you, because I'm sure of God's plan is that, that's what he'll do, but I want our school and I think I can say our schools to be controlled by our people. You get the message. They ought to be. I would certainly think that it would be a waste of time to give your life to a cause that would one day in your older years or after you'd gone, I think of the faculty and the staff and all who have given their lives, to find it went down the drain to spiritual oblivion and apostasy because there were people who didn't care about the survival of the GRB educational program.

James T. Jeremiah:

And then last of all, the responsibility of a GRB people, your kids and those down the street. Let me use it this way. Let me say it this way. I have four children. They've all graduated from a regular Baptist school. Modesty permits me to tell you but prohibits me, to tell you which one. They all graduated, but I can recall the day when we were in the pastorate and in the school, these kids all needed clothes and shoes. Next to us down the street, there were some who needed shoes and my wife and I had a limited income we still have, and we couldn't pay. We couldn't buy shoes for both the kids in our house and the kids down the street. And I don't know whether it's fair or not, but we decided to buy shoes for all them

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kids. And I think when it comes to a practical application, this business of Christian schools, we better buy shoes for our own kids.

James T. Jeremiah:

Well, I wish I could use that text. I wish I hadn't made that promise. But in closing, I'm going to use a text and I'm going to close in a minute. I want to use the text in the 78 Psalm. I want to read some verses and then I'm finished. First time I ever gave a sermon with 15 points in it and this length of time. Probably nobody ever listens got what I meant... tried to say, hope that you did.

James T. Jeremiah:

78 Psalm "Give ear; o my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation, to come the praises of the Lord and his strength, and his wonderful works that he has done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even as the children who should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children; That they might set their hope in God."

James T. Jeremiah:

Now listen. Who's responsible for this. Four generations- first by our fathers, one generation, their children, second generation, the generation to come third generation for six, their children, the fourth generation in case you are a dispensationalist to the extent you can't read anything out of the Psalms that applies today. Let me take you to Paul's swan song, which is about the last thing you can get in the dispensation. And remind you that in this particular chapter of 2 Timothy, Paul says the same thing, "Thou therefore, my son be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things that thou hast heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also".

James T. Jeremiah:

Paul's the first generation. Timothy is the second generation, faithful men the third generation, others also the fourth generation. Now the question is what the generation, I sat in a graduate class in Ohio history and heard a teacher ask each to one of us what a generation was. And we didn't really know he was a PhD. So he came to the conclusion that it was a 30 year period and a PhD can be wrong. So we took it for 30 years. And I thought to myself, a generation, 30 years, four times 30, hmm 120, something like that. Let me say to your friend, if there's anybody in this place, over 120, you don't have any responsibility to education. Anybody here who isn't born, you don't have any either. But everybody in between them does.

James T. Jeremiah:

I'm a grandfather. You can tell that. I heard Dave Nettleton talk about that. Man, I tell you that's great, isn't it? I have five grandchildren. I thank God, because one day these kids will be going to one of these schools. I hope. I'm responsible to think about them. Mine have graduated. The Dean let them out of school somehow. We must face it. Not only in the colleges, we better get with this day school movement too. And we better recognize that if we want to have men and women go on the mission

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field and people serving in our churches, we better stay with this Christian education business. I'm glad for what you're doing. And I thank God for what has been done. Think on it, over 3,000 students, a \$7 million program for education. How wonderful God is.