

WHY *I Believe* in the Sunday School

—J. Edgar Hoover

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation



Honesty more than anything else is needed in America today. We must look to the home, the school, and the church primarily to establish this basic principle in our youth. Significant in the attack of the church upon the legions of crime and delinquency is the work of the Sunday school. Of course I believe in the Sunday school. Crime among youth would become practically negligible if the young people of America attended Sunday school regularly during their formative years. Surely no one cognizant of the true situation in the United States could be blind to the importance of the activities of this institution in reducing materially the army of youthful offenders and delinquents.

In addition to its strictly religious aspects, the social features of the Sunday school are of paramount significance in the lives of its students. Who are the everyday associates of your boy? or your girl? Do they run with the crowd? Do your boys associate with those who idle away their time on the street or in the alleys or who frequent the corner poolrooms or saloons? The Sunday school offers our young people an opportunity to make worthy friends. I firmly believe that there is a vast difference between the average Sunday-school attendant and the boy who habitually frequents the corner dive.

Through the Sunday school it is possible to impress upon receptive youth the principles of Christianity. These, it must be recognized, are foundational in a democracy and in a society predicated upon justice and liberty. Today our democratic institutions are being assaulted by those who would substitute for American

ideals and practice the revolutionary doctrines from foreign shores. These exponents of hatred and atheism seek to infiltrate their hideous and outrageous propaganda into democratic America through the medium of our youth. More and more they are seeking to paint our young people rosy pictures of the conditions of their own godless lands. We in America want none of their panaceas or their deceitful preachments. The Sunday school and other similar institutions can play a vital role in guarding our citizens of tomorrow against the atheistic and undemocratic teachings of those who would "save America."

I believe every child should be taught the Golden Rule and its application to the ramifications of our modern life. The Sunday school affords an excellent training ground for the inculcation of the principle in our youth. It is a fact that too many misguided and neglected boys and girls are thieving, robbing, and engaging in numerous other criminal activities. We know that some mysterious and diabolical hand does not take the child from the cradle and place it upon the road to crime—a road which leads only to misery and destruction. More of our children should be reached by the Sunday school—more should be taught they cannot get something for nothing.

Sunday schools have been a bulwark against crime and delinquency in the past, and their future in this regard is bright indeed. Proper support to insure the continued growth of this institution should present a challenge to the American citizenry.

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WATCH "HERALD OF TRUTH" Channel 50 Sunday, 12:30 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

of Southfield

22355 West Eleven Mile Road 353-2648

WORSHIP PRIVILEGES

-SUNDAY-

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship "Why Read the Bible?"
6:30 p.m. Evening Worship

-WEDNESDAY-

Bible Study
7:30 p.m.
G.E. Montgomery, Minister