Pentecost 13 Proverbs 9:1-6
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Where Do YOU Go to School?
I. Who is YOUR teacher?
II. What classes are YOU taking?
III. What is the end result?

Dear Christian friends,

"**Where** do you go to school?" Yes, I'm asking the children of our congregation if this fall they're going to St. John's – Waupun – Randolph – Beaver Dam – WLA. That's also asking THEIR PARENTS – "**Where** are you sending your children to school?" So IF you're not a child OR you don't have children going to school then you are "OFF THE HOOK" for this sermon.

Think **again**! That word **"YOU"** is in **all capital letters** in the bulletin. This sermon is FOR the children and parents of our congregation – AND ALSO FOR YOU – for each one of us. "**Where** do YOU go to school?"

"Pastor, I was confirmed years ago. I graduated a **long time** ago." You may be done with school but you're DEFINITELY NOT done with YOUR Christian education. **Christian education** is not just education FOR A LIFETIME - it's education that goes on **for a lifetime**! Confirmation is a MAJOR MILESTONE in our **Christian education** but it's NOT graduation. Confirmation doesn't mean we KNOW EVERYTHING or we at least know ENOUGH. We don't graduate from Christian education UNTIL the Lord calls us home to heaven.

In the next couple of weeks school, confirmation class, Sunday school and adult Bible class will be resuming. So I now ask EACH ONE of you, "**Where** do YOU go to school?" For YOUR ANSWER **ask**, 1)Who is YOUR teacher, 2)what classes are YOU taking and 3)**what** is the end result?

I. Who is YOUR teacher?

One of the exciting things about a **new school year** – and sometimes it's **scary** too – is getting a **new teacher** – moving into a **new classroom**. What's Pastor like in confirmation class? What will MR. ROSENOW be like? Will he be hard or easy – lots of homework or **lots of recess**?

But it's NOT JUST that person in front of the classroom **who is the teacher**. We have OTHER teachers. our PARENTS - friends – the people at work – the TV and **internet** – movies we watch, etc. DON'T KID yourself! Don't parents often worry that their children will hang out with the WRONG CROWD and end up learning the WRONG LESSONS? Other people can have a BIG INFLUENCE on us and our children. Who teaches YOU – teaches your **children** - what kind of language to use? **Who teaches** your children – teaches YOU – your morals - **values** and priorities in life? WHO SHAPES your work ethic and how you treat and **talk about** other people?

Proverbs 9 makes the point that there are **finally** ONLY TWO teachers **for all** of us. We have in these verses ***"Wisdom"*** as one teacher. A few verses later it's ***"the woman Folly." "The woman Folly is boisterous. She is deluded. She knows nothing. She sits at the doorway of her house, …in order to call to those who pass by on the street, those who are simply going along on their way, "Whoever is gullible, let him turn in here." To someone who lacks sense she says, "Stolen waters are sweet, and food eaten in secret is delicious." But he does not know that …her guests are in the depths of hell."***

Today schools compete for students. ***"Wisdom"*** and ***"Folly"*** are also competing for students. Which one is YOUR teacher? ***"Folly"*** is the foolishness of the **world** and our **own sinful natures**.

"Wisdom" is God teaching us THROUGH His Word. Our Lutheran schools are not PRIVATE schools but PAROCHIAL schools. The big difference between **public** schools and our Lutheran schools is not the technology in the classrooms – the class size – the sports **program**, etc. Sending our children to our Lutheran schools we are NOT SAYING that the public schools are **junk**. We have Christian education **because we want** GOD TEACHING our children. We want God's Word taught EVERY DAY in **every classroom**. We want every subject taught IN THE LIGHT of God's Word. ***"The fear of the LORD*** (the awe – respect – reverence for the LORD) ***is the beginning of wisdom."*** WITHOUT GOD life finally doesn't make any sense.

So who teaches YOUR children? Who is YOUR teacher? And stepping now **into the classroom** –

II. What classes are YOU taking?

"Wisdom" invites us to CHECK OUT her classroom. ***"Wisdom has built her house. She has carved out her seven pillars. She has prepared her meat. She has mixed her wine. She has already set her table."*** Wisdom doesn't offer FLUFF classes **like basket-weaving**. She offers meat and potatoes – GOOD, SOLID, NOURISHING courses.

What classes are YOU taking? Certainly in our schools there's **math**, science, history, English, etc. But remember that ***"Wisdom"*** is GOD TEACHING us **through** His Word.

The Bible is not a science textbook but it is GOD TEACHING us where we come from. We are NOT **glorified monkeys**. Evolution is a lie straight from the devil's mouth. Mother Earth is a **lie**. When we confess that we believe "in God the Father almighty, MAKER of heaven and earth, OF ALL THAT IS, **seen** and unseen" – we are confessing historical facts. Those facts also put us IN OUR PLACE. **We** are not God. WE are not in charge. **We** are creatures made by the **almighty Creator**.

In our country – and in **much** of modern education – is a **deadly philosophy** called HUMANISM. Humanism pushes God out of the picture and puts us humans **in God's place**. Humanism says, "**Nobody** can tell you WHAT'S RIGHT or wrong. You must decide for yourself. It's YOUR LIFE and you can live it **any way** you want." Humanism is the thinking that I DON'T NEED GOD **interfering** in my life. People will eventually solve **all** problems IF WE JUST work together. **Humanism** replaces right and wrong with, "**What** do YOU THINK – **how** do you feel about whatever?" We see the fruits of **humanism** in the MORAL ROT in our society. "YOU can't tell me how to live my life – GOD **can't either**. I'll do whatever **I want**." Humanism is so appealing to our **sinful natures**.

The FACT of **creation** smashes humanism. GOD made us. God can – AND DOES! - tell us **how to live** our lives. Reread those 10 Commandments. We are responsible **to God** for our lives. Avoiding or ignoring God **doesn't** make God DISAPPEAR.

Wisdom calls out, ***"Whoever is naïve, let him turn in here. To someone who lacks sense she says, "Come, eat my food, and drink the wine that I have mixed. Abandon your naïve ways and live. Travel the road to understanding."*** God gave us His Word ***"to make us wise unto salvation through faith in Jesus."*** A class in God's LAW is hard to take. God clearly spells out EXACTLY HOW He expects us to live. God claims control of EVERY AREA and MINUTE of our lives. God bluntly warns that **any sin** has its CONSEQUENCES – ***"the soul that sins, it shall die."*** God makes so clear that He has EVERY RIGHT to be totally fed up with us and send us to hell forever.

After miserably failing God's **law** GOD TEACHES us His **gospel**. The good news of the gospel is **not** that God gives us a SECOND CHANCE but that God actually gave us His own eternal Son to be our Savior. There is no greater lesson anyone can learn than the **good news** of Jesus our Savior. ONLY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION can teach that lesson!

Through His Word God provides us with a RICH FEAST for our souls. This is no potluck – GOD provides the **main dish** and WE bring **desert**. Our salvation is ALL GOD'S DOING! God provides

everything and WHAT A FEAST it is! Here is the righteousness – the **holiness** – we need to stand acceptable in God's sight – Jesus' own perfect life credited to us. Here is the full payment for all our sins – Jesus' own innocent sufferings and death on the cross. Here is full cleansing from **every sin** – the shed blood of God's ***"beloved"*** Son. Here is victory over death – the sure promise of eternal life in heaven – Jesus' **own resurrection** from the dead. Here is peace with God – a whole new relationship with God – the privilege of **prayer** – ALL OURS THROUGH faith in Jesus.

We need to learn math, science, English, spelling, etc., to FUNCTION in this world. We need to learn the **gospel** to BELIEVE in Jesus and ***"be saved."*** Only Christian education – at our schools, in church, Sunday school, Bible class, confirmation class, **home devotions** – can teach that gospel.

So where do YOU GO to school? Who is YOUR teacher – your **children's** teacher? What classes are YOU taking – your **children learning**? Are YOU – are **your children** - busy learning the WAYS OF THE WORLD or the saving love and will of God?

III. What is the end result?

Some people misunderstand Christian education. **They see** Christian education as only applying to ETERNAL life **as if** there's our spiritual life and then our DAY-TO-DAY life and never the two shall meet. **Some see** Christian schools as AN ESCAPE from the **real world** and not as preparing us for the NITTY-GRITTY of our **real world**.

Let's be clear – the GREATEST LESSON of **Christian education** is eternal life in heaven **through faith** in Jesus. It's not just old people **in nursing homes** who die. Little children and **teenagers** die too. People in their **20s** – 30s – 40s die. Read the obituaries!

We need a SOLID EDUCATION to prepare us for life. But **if** we're only thinking about WINNING the **state championship** – or making **big bucks** – or being popular and **successful** – then ASK YOURSELF Jesus' haunting question, ***"What is a man profited"*** – where to you come out ahead – ***"if he gains the whole world but loses his soul?"***

A solid Christian education ALSO PREPARES us for **life now**. Look again at today's epistle reading. In your devotions this week read Ephesians 4-6 – come study them in Bible class in a few weeks! **There** is CHRISTIAN EDUCATION on marriage and **family life** and parenting – on the Christian work ethic – on living holy lives in a VERY UNHOLY world. Listen to Paul tell EACH ONE of us, ***"Consider carefully how you live, not as unwise people, but as wise people. Make the most of your time, because the days are evil."***

So where DO YOU go to school? Don't just read about school starting – including Sunday School and Bible class – take up ***"Wisdom"*** – GOD'S! – invitation: ***"Come, eat my food, and drink the wine that I have mixed. Abandon your naïve ways and live. Travel the road to understanding."*** Amen.

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