

## **A Challenge to the American Church – William Bronson - February 2025**

It's been said: *"no one should hear the gospel twice, when so many haven't heard it once,"* The time has come for the American church to step up to the plate and claim their right under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, to put The Holy Bible before public school students without comment and let them make of it what they may.

The *attached* **Sense of Congress Resolution** explains why it is Constitutional to do so. The courts have ruled that **if** the curriculum has a secular purpose and neither promotes nor denigrates any religious world view, it is legal. The church should have confidence that The Bible can speak for itself. Teachers should not try to interpret the texts, but simply to make known what the various books say and let the students decide what they mean.

Our organization, **Enlighten Education Co-op, (EEC)** has produced such a curriculum and a **Guideline** for its use, also *attached*. It is in public domain and any school system may use it at no cost. EEC stands ready to consult with school districts who may or may not need help in the implementation of the curriculum.

It is important that teachers **do not overreach** and appear to be **teaching the Bible as opposed to teaching about the Bible**. This is where the difference lies between a legal and appropriate curriculum and one that is not.

Let me be clear, it is not possible for students to read the Bible without encountering its claims. For instance, anyone who reads the first four books of the New Testament will encounter dozens of Jesus' claims to divinity which are listed in our curriculum. Then the student has to decide whether He was "liar, lunatic, or Lord."

We live in a time where the very survival of our Republic depends on a widespread knowledge of Scripture similar to the broad understanding that the Founders of our Republic had. So important was this understanding that the Continental Congress approved the production and distribution of tens of thousands of Bibles **during** the Revolutionary War and completed the task shortly after the War of Independence was won.

If American churches today don't press their legislators to make a Bible curriculum available to the 1400 school districts throughout the land, they will have failed their fellow citizens during perilous times. And 50 million public school students will remain illiterate when it comes to the traditional source of values in *"our land of the free and home of the brave."*

For more information visit [www.EnlightenEducationCo-op.org](http://www.EnlightenEducationCo-op.org)

## Sense of Congress Resolution

Whereas, the United States of America values the diversity of its citizens and their beliefs;

Whereas, the Bible holds significant cultural, literary, and historical value, influencing various aspects of society, including art, literature, and governance;

Whereas, understanding the Bible is essential for comprehending the historical context of many events and movements shaping civilization;

Whereas, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution protects freedom of speech and religion, allowing individuals the right to explore religious texts without government interference;

Whereas, the Supreme Court of the United States has recognized the educational value of teaching the Bible in public schools as part of a secular program of education;

Whereas, teaching the Bible as literature and history can foster critical thinking, cultural literacy, and understanding of diverse perspectives;

Whereas, numerous academic institutions worldwide include the Bible in their curriculum as a valuable resource for studying literature, history, and ethics;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That it is the sense of Congress that teaching the Bible as literature and history in public schools, when presented objectively and as part of a secular education program, is a valuable academic pursuit that enhances students' understanding of culture, history, and literature.

**Stress Free Guide To**  
**Using Enlighten Education Co-op (EEC) Religion Curriculum by**  
**William Bronson, MA, MTS, DMin, President of EEC**

The curriculum is divided into three parts, 1) Survey of Comparative Religions, 2) Survey of Biblical Old Testament Literature, and 3) Survey of Biblical New Testament Literature.

Let me emphasize at the outset that neither teachers nor students need to have any knowledge of the material. We are not asking teachers to “teach” the material and being an elective course, we do not want the students to be tested on the material. So everyone can relax and have a good time letting the texts speak for themselves while teachers encourage polite discussions of the texts among the students.

The Comparative Religion section just lays out the various religions and their key ideas and origins without making any value judgments about them. The teacher is encouraged to just project this section of the material on a screen and read it to the students, allowing for discussion on any points where students raise their hands. All discussions should be polite and any value judgments by students should be minimized.

The surveys of the Old and New Testaments should be approached in a similar manner. No attempt should be made to evaluate or interpret the texts. Simply project them on a screen and have the teacher read the text and then allow the students to raise their hands if they have any questions or things they want to discuss. Students may want to bring their own Bibles to class but it is not necessary.

Students should be told that they are not required to read in class. Much stress can be avoided because students have large differences in reading ability, however if a student wants to read, she or he may raise their hand to do so. If the teacher or student has trouble pronouncing certain names, places, or words, teachers should use this opportunity to give a brief explanation of how using phonics can help resolve any difficulty.

There are many online versions of the Bible such as Bible Gateway. What particular version is used is not important and the teacher might project various translations such as the King James Version (KJV), the New King

James Version (KJV), The New International Bible (NIV), The English Standard Bible (ESV), etc. Comparing the various different versions of the texts may be interesting but not necessary. Discussion of doctrinal issues that may be raised in doing so is not encouraged. The object of this curriculum is simply to place as much of the text as possible before students and let them discuss or simply reflect on the material allowing the material to speak for itself.

Tables of Contents in all Bibles simply list the books beginning with the first book, Genesis, and ending with the last book, Revelation. Sometimes they are also listed alphabetically. The texts are all enumerated by chapter and verse, so it is easy to find them. Online Bibles make it simple to go to a particular text by entering in the search bar the name of the book and chapter or chapter and verse. It is often useful to read all or parts of chapters to avoid getting fixated on a particular verse. Context is important.

Teachers and also students may want to simply go to the Google search page and enter book, chapter, and verse, and it will appear. Also, verses may be found by entering a particular name, or place, or part of the verse someone may remember.

The point is to keep it simple and fun. Arguments are discouraged, just polite discussions are allowed.

Teachers may jump in at any point in the curriculum. Some may want to start in the Gospels which relate the life of Jesus. Others may want to go to the book of Acts which is the history of the early church. Some may want to jump to the end with the Book of Revelation and see how the Bible story ends. Others may want to go to the beginning and read in Genesis of how the world began according to Moses, the assumed author of the first five books of the Bible. Just let students discover the Bible and make of it what they will. Have fun! **(to download curriculum go to [www.EnlightenEducationCo-op.org](http://www.EnlightenEducationCo-op.org))**