

### **Did you know that Harvard College was founded by the Puritans in 1636?**

How did America's great colleges come to abandon their faith and become the secular institutions they are today?

When Harvard College was founded by the Puritans in 1636, they knew what they wanted their school to be: "Let every Student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life, John 17:3, and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom, as the only foundation of all found knowledge and learning..."

In less than one hundred years, that high ideal faltered. Liberals won control of the school. On January 24, 1722, Edward Wigglesworth was appointed to fill the newly created chair at Harvard College. He had convinced orthodox members that his religious convictions were sound, they were not.

In the book *Three Centuries of Harvard*, by Samuel Eliot Morison, we read:

"One of the first theologians in New England who dared publicly to challenge the 'five points of Calvinism,' he [Wigglesworth] employed the deadly method of doubt in inquiry, rather than direct attack . . . Wigglesworth was a prime favorite with Harvard students, and he and his son Edward, who succeeded, had a very great influence on New England theology. It was the Wigglesworths who trained the pioneers of liberal Christianity in New England -- the ministers who led the way out of the lush but fearsome jungles of Calvinism, into the thin, clear light of Unitarianism."

While we do not condone the false doctrine of Calvinism, one can see the very different beginnings of one of America's great universities from what it is today, a cesspool of liberalism.

In 1701, Yale was founded to counter Harvard's drift from orthodox Calvinism. By 1805, Unitarians controlled Harvard.

Today, its students and faculty come from a variety of religious backgrounds, "Christian" (all denominations), Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, etc. Its academic programs attempt to balance theology and religious studies, that is, the "believer's" perspective on religion with the "secular" perspective on religion. In short, this great university basically believes in any kind of religion and thus has no biblical standard. Undoubtedly, the religious faculty would have you believe that they are free, open, and willing to consider and discuss any religious views. But in reality, the consequence of their position is that they no longer teach any view as absolutely valid. While this may please the world and be politically correct, it is not biblical. And to see how far this school came from its original intent is a warning to all who would establish "schools" to teach the Bible. Intellectualism is fostered in educational institutions, and intellectualism advances man not God!

"For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence" (1 Cor. 1:26-29). Meditate on this for a while.