



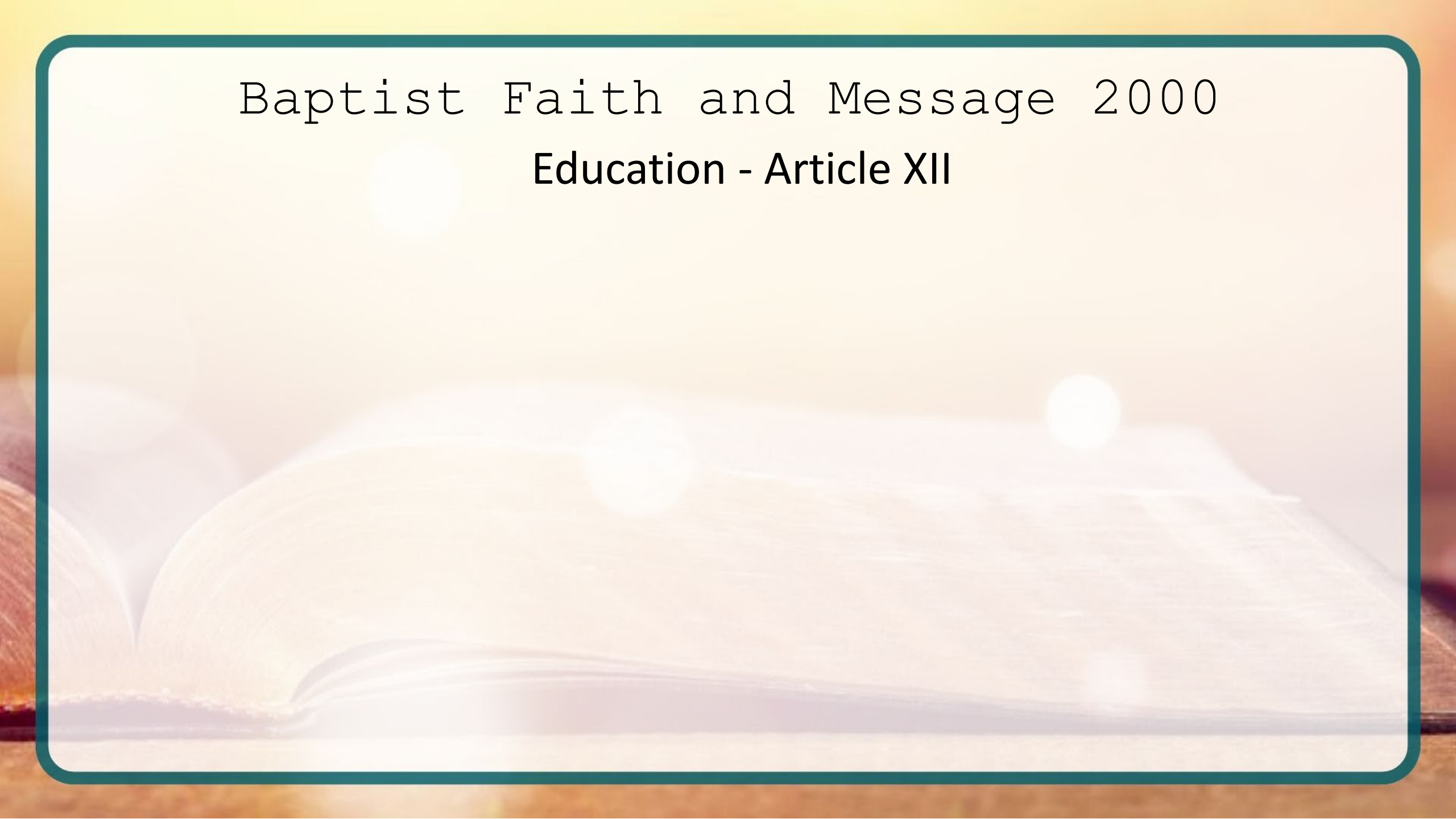
FIRST BAPTIST
MERIDIANVILLE
REAL. FAMILY.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE
BAPTIST
FAITH &
MESSAGE
2000

Baptist Faith and Message 2000

Education - Article XII



Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

Key Texts

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5, 9, 14 (ESV) – *“And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you.”* (v. 1) *“See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.”* (v. 5) *“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children.”* (v. 9) *“And the Lord commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and rules, that you might do them in the land that you are going over to possess.”* (v. 14)

Key Texts

Deuteronomy 6:1-10 (ESV) – *“Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long... Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*”

Key Texts

Psalm 19:7 (ESV) – *“The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.”*

Proverbs 15:14 (ESV) – *“The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly.”*

Key Texts

Matthew 7:24. (ESV) – *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”*

Key Texts

Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV) – *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*



Key Texts

Philippians 4:8 (ESV) – *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”*

Colossians 2:3, 8-9 (ESV) – *“In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”* (v. 3) *“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.”* (vv. 8-9)

Key Texts

James 3:17 (ESV) – *“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.”*



Major Theological Observations

- Baptists in America have always emphasized Christian education and Freedom of Religion.
- Establishment of first Baptist congregation in America 1638.
- Rhode Island college – now Brown University, in 1765.
- The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary 1859.

Southern Baptists have the largest educational network of any Evangelical Group.

- **6 Seminaries**
- **60 Bible Colleges**



GATEWAY SEMINARY
Biblical • Missional • Global

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN



UNI OF
for the Church
MIDWESTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

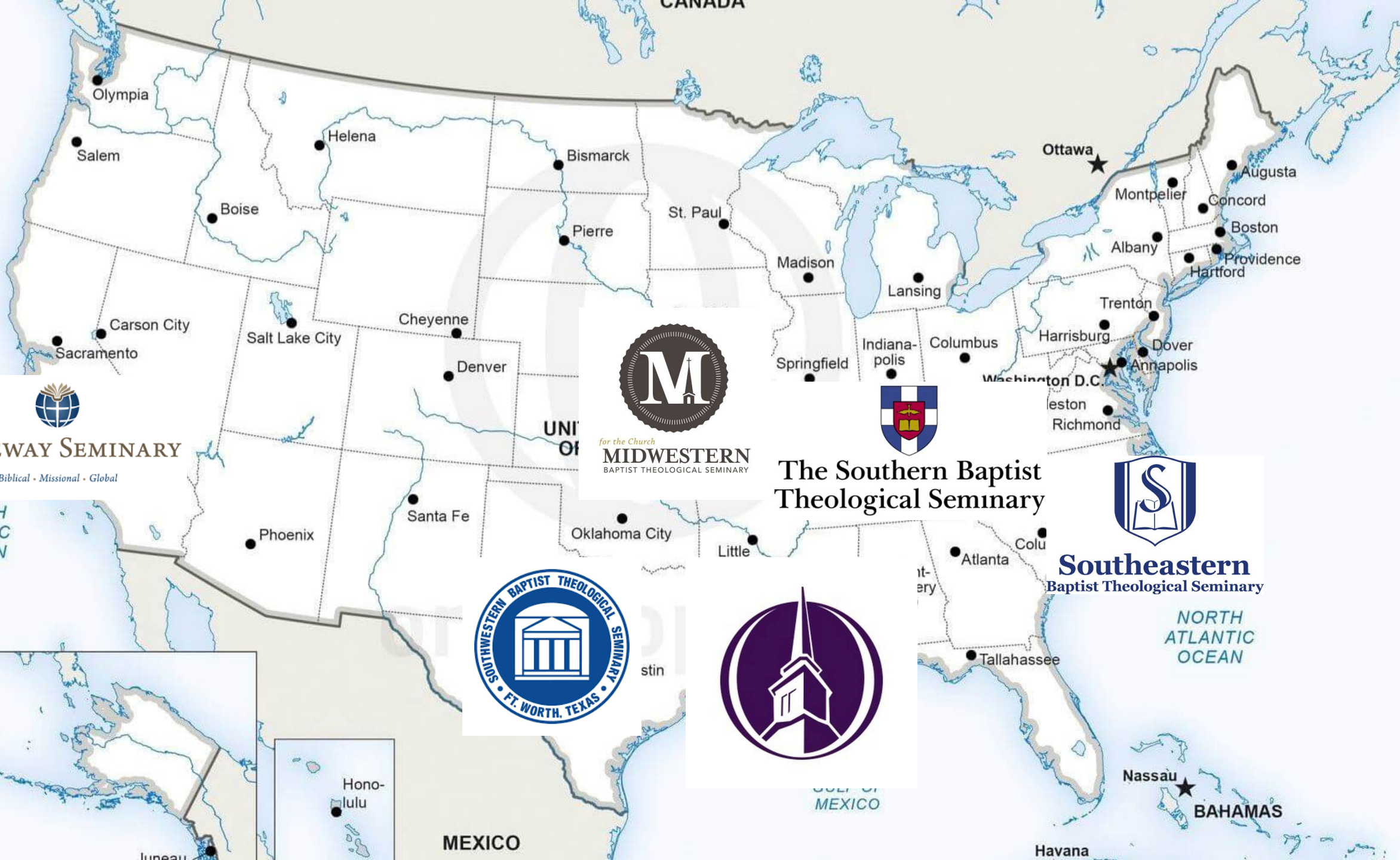
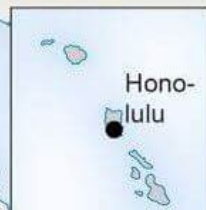


NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

MEXICO

GULF OF MEXICO

BAHAMAS



Major Theological Observations

BF&M affirms a Christo-centric understanding of education;

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence.

In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage.

The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge.

Major Theological Observations

BF&M affirms a Kingdom vision of Education

Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches.

An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

Major Theological Observations

BF&M advocates a balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility

The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.