



Geography

Geography reveals God the designer of the physical world and the provider of resources for His people who dwell in it.

‘God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over every living creature.” **Genesis 1:28**

God designed the earth to be filled with His people and ruled by them.

God is the perfect provider in creating the world for us to enjoy.

Geography is, therefore, the study of the earth and of how mankind is stewarding it for God.

‘From one man He made every nation of man that they should inherit the earth; and He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. For in Him we live and move and have our being.’

Acts 17:26-28

Geography shows us the diversity in God’s universe, yet within the diversity there is unity, reflecting the unity and Trinity of God.

God determined boundaries and allocated areas for people to live.

The word ‘geography’ is derived from two Greek words, meaning to write about the land or to describe the land. The discipline of geography thus must be related to God, since He is the Creator of the land, the world. (**Genesis 1:1; John 1:1; Hebrews 1:10; etc.**). The creation is His handiwork and points to Him. The teacher must continually remind his students of this fact. Someone has summed it in these words: ‘God left His fingerprints all over creation.’

Byron Snapp, ‘Teaching Geography in the Christian School’: On Teaching, Dec 1982

Geography is the study of God's heart for: -

- 1. People** groups throughout the world.
- The **places** where they live.
- The **provision** He has made for them.
- Their **progress** in ruling creation for the glory of God and the good of mankind.

It involves the study of: -

- 1. Location of people groups such as tribes and nations and where they dwell.**
(God cares who is and where and what is there for the people.)

2. Landscapes (and oceans) reflect the character and provision of God:

Examples:

- In Geology: Granite: God is immutable.
Sandstone: Able to be eroded easily and moved by natural forces. Likewise, God operates a flexible response to man's changing posture towards Him.
Goal: God's provision to be sought after.
- Erosion: God's remarkable power to change man's circumstances.
- Deposition: God's power to provide abundantly and move His resources.

- 3. Lifestyles:** Mankind is one family designed to live together with God as Father. Within it the world-wide Church is of particular interest since we are part of it.

It is appropriate to:

- Find out about people groups, nations and especially the Church worldwide.
- Seek opportunities to serve, especially to support and extend the Church.
- Consider lifestyles as they affect the stewarding of the Earth for God. For example: - squandering resources, e.g. oil, Amazon forest
stealing resources, e.g. examine policy of multinational companies
sharing resources, e.g. heart of compassion for Third World
stewarding resources, e.g. sustainable forests, Earth's atmosphere. There is an interdependence between everything God created and a fine balance.
Colossians 1:17; Romans 8:20-22

Core Method

1. Develop knowledge leading to:

- Increased understanding leading to:
- A sense of wonder at God's goodness.
- A spirit of worship to God the Creator
- An attitude of wisdom as stewards of creation
- A heart of compassion towards mankind

2. A framework of studying places in the world:

- Location
- Landscape
- Lifestyle

Resources

Refer to 'Towards a Christian Curriculum' by Barbara Lord

'America's Providential History': Beliles and McDowell. Pub. Providence Foundation
Chapter two: 'Providential Geography' - a fascinating chapter on God's purposes for the continents of the world.

Available: www.providencefoundation.com