

November 2015

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We sent out a memo to a number of church, private and home schools recently discussing changes in the Alabama law on sales, use and lodging taxes. There have been some changes in the law and we were receiving additional questions. This month's Educational Update answers questions related to that. We suggest you circulate it to any church or nonprofit organization which may have questions.

You are probably aware of the rapid changes in our culture. Most significantly, the June *Obergefell* opinion permitting same sex marriage is causing a torrent of activity. For most people, they did not and do not realize what is coming. It was a very broad deep river that appeared to be slow moving but was, in reality, building great pressure. When the *Obergefell* decision was handed down, it was as if a dam broke and the traditional values of America are being swept away by charges of homophobia and demands for tolerance.

We have written many articles and are addressing church bodies, pastors' meetings, and others on the issues that Christians and churches will face in their businesses and even in the churches themselves. We expect to see not only the gay lobby, but the business community in support of laws in Alabama to establish same sex rights in more ways than just marriage.

At the same time, we expect an extensive gambling bill to be introduced in February when the 2016 regular session of the Legislature begins. That bill will be introduced by a Republican and supported by the business community, along with the gamblers, the Indians and the Democrats.

In other words, we expect challenging times next year. Please pray for our preparations. The burden of responding to these issues will fall principally on the church. If the Republican Party is not upholding traditional values, then only God's people will be doing so. Please encourage your church to provide leadership on these issues.

Thank you for your financial support. It enables us to continue working in these areas. With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston