



Dear Friend of IPS:

As 2017 comes to a close, I want to take a few moments to update you on some of the happenings at IPS and provide a partial road-map of the future.

First, the big announcement

As you look through the enclosed annual report, you will notice that our 20 hour “Biblical Principles of Government” course is finally available on DVD. It has been a long road to completion, but so exciting to see it finished.

The filming, editing and production of this product has taken 8 years. But the content of the course has taken much longer. When we began the filming of this DVD series, I had already invested 38 years into its content. It was 1972 and I was twelve years old when I first began to study the answer to the question:

“What is the proper role of government?”

Through many hundreds of books; three college campuses; and thousands of debates (both formal and informal); I have studied this question. Through Divine providence, I have been able to take advantage of the teaching of many of the 20th century’s great minds—both inside and outside of Christendom. This course is a partial result of this work.

Now comes the really hard work

Next, we have the task of marketing and distributing this product. All of our teaching, editing and production work is in vain if no one watches and studies these videos. Marketing this product will be far more difficult than creating it. We need to market to wholesalers, catalogues, bookstores, churches, Christian schools, home school families, political groups, traditional media, and social media. As a companion to these efforts, we need to increase the reach of IPS at conventions, on radio, and in print media. If this sounds easy, it’s not. And if this sounds hard, well... you are right.

You will notice the map of America as the graphical theme of the annual report. This is not just a pretty look. It is intended to demonstrate our desire to expand all of our activities throughout the nation. Most noteworthy in this regard is the 20 hour Biblical Principles of Government course. Because it is taught over 10 weeks, we were only able to offer it within a two hour driving radius of Modesto. But now, through these videos, we can offer it anywhere in the English speaking world.

Unfortunately, any good marketing effort takes both time and money—and even staff time costs money. A few friends have already made contributions toward marketing costs, but we need to raise additional funds to expand this promotional effort. We desire your financial support to help us with this hard, but important, work.

IPS has more to say

IPS is not yet teaching all of the material that we have. To do this, we need to produce more materials. The 20 hour course is just a fraction of what people need to know about the Bible-based principles of government, economics, and the modern deceptions that devour well-intended Americans.

I am now ramping up my efforts to write a book on government that will include—and go well beyond—the content of the Biblical Principles of Government course. I expect this to be a multiple year project.

My hope is that this will be a clear and concise treatment of what a citizen needs to know about government and economics with twice the depth and three times the scope of the Biblical Principles of Government course. It is my hope that this work can serve the dual purpose of being a high school or college textbook as well as a book that is interesting enough to reach a broad audience of average citizens. Please keep me in prayer as I attempt to complete this task while speaking, teaching, fundraising, and marketing the DVDs.

I am blessed with a small but excellent staff of co-laborers in the battle to change the hearts and minds of Americans—and the world. Even with our very modest salaries, it is always a challenge to raise enough money to keep this team employed. But, given the scope of our current work and the great potential that lies ahead, we are going to need to expand our staff. Yes, IPS has more to say, but without an expanded team, few will hear what we have to say.

An update from our summer communications

As many of you know, this past summer was a difficult financial time for IPS—actually our most difficult financial condition in our 12 year history. We expressed this to you, our friends, through mail, email, and a few phone calls. Based on our pleas, many of you

dug deep and made sacrificial gifts to get us in the black. For this I am very grateful—thank you!

(Please be assured that I will never allow IPS to “cry wolf” or to exaggerate our circumstances. If we say that we can’t pay our bills, you know that this is accurate.)

Now we are back to “normal” and we are hoping for a strong December to help us avoid a difficult 2018.

And now the year-end appeal

I know that you receive many requests for your charitable dollars. Like you, I give to a number of different organizations. Like you, I also give to IPS. I place a priority on tithing to my church, but allow me to explain why most of my time and most of my charitable giving goes to IPS.

I see the message and mission of IPS as being fundamental to every other good work. For example:

While we contribute our money to alleviate poverty and hunger, government policies are pushing increasing numbers of people into poverty every year.

While we contribute money to deal with substance abuse and homelessness, our government schools continue to teach impressionable youth that there is no god and no absolute standard of right and wrong. The inevitable results of these falsehoods are increasing numbers of young people who see no eternity and no reason not to grab every possible pleasure—whether it be alcohol, drugs, or sex. These are the building blocks of damaged lives, homelessness, and even abortion.

While we battle to end abortion, our government encourages promiscuity, discourages parental involvement, and funds abortions.

What America needs is a defense for the existence of God; an understanding of the dangers of relativism; a return to Biblical truth; and a government that is not causing problems faster than our charitable giving can attempt to treat them. These problems will continue to escalate until we return civil government to its proper role. The work of IPS is aimed at the root causes of most of society’s problems. IPS is truly the ounce of prevention that our world needs.

Please help us fill our tank for the battle that lies ahead. Here are some specific actions that you can take:

1. Pray regularly for IPS, our staff, and our work
2. Make a year-end gift
3. If you are not a Continuous Support Circle donor, consider becoming one
4. Consider the possibility of including IPS in your will or estate planning

If everyone who receives this letter would do these four things, I am convinced that we can grow enough to have a measurable impact on our nation and the world.

Serving The King,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mike Winther', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Winther

P.S. As you are probably aware, many ministries and non-profit organizations depend on strong year-end giving for the necessary funds to operate throughout the year. As true as this is for most non-profit organizations, it is doubly true for IPS. It is the extra giving in December that funds much of our operations through the spring and summer.

What a year!
A year of firsts. An exciting year. A fruitful year.
A lot has happened, but there is still much to be done.
And there are many opportunities on the horizon.

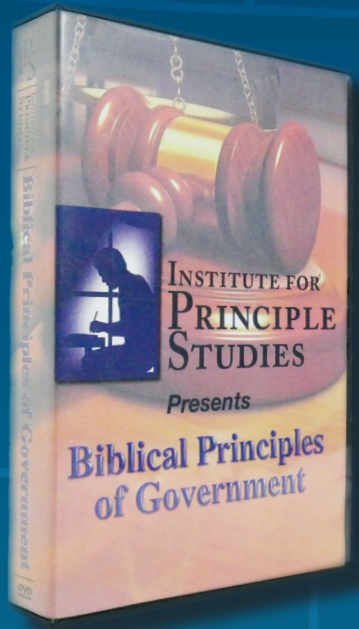
By far, the most noteworthy accomplishment this year is the completion of the Biblical Principles of Government DVD set. This class has changed the lives of thousands of individuals across California, and now, we can begin reaching our fellow countrymen in other states with the foundational principles of liberty rooted in the Word of God. This outreach will open many doors for us in 2018, and we ask for your prayers in lifting us up before the Lord to use and direct us in the most substantial ways.

We continue to invest heavily in the leaders of tomorrow as we know that they will ultimately be the ones who transform society. Through speech and debate, we are raising up and equipping the next generation to represent Christ and promote truth in every field. By instilling worldview training, leadership skills, and a thorough understanding of civics among the homeschool and private school students enrolled in our programs, we are preparing future voters, business owners, government officials, teachers, clergymen, and lawyers to reclaim America for limited government and real liberty.

Other noteworthy accomplishments this year, include: rebuilding the IPS website, awarding the first IPS Honor Society graduates, hosting our largest in-person class with over 350 students, and starting a new series of short educational video clips.

There is more that could be shared, but the important thing to remember is this: IPS is changing the hearts and minds of our nation's citizens. And we know that none of this is possible without you. Thank you.

**REACHING ACROSS
AMERICA**



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www.PrincipleStudies.org

**IPS
2017
MINISTRY
UPDATE**

**IPS HAS THE
ANSWERS**

AND NOW ...

**WE CAN EXPAND
OUR REACH**



Providing a Biblical Perspective on Government, Economics, and History

BROAD OUTREACH

The wait is over! IPS' flagship educational endeavor, the Biblical Principles of Government course, is now available on DVD! We are so excited about the potential reach of this video series. We know it can be vast. Churches, small groups, Christian schools, homeschool families, and more will be able to use this series to learn the vital truths of family, church and civil government as laid out in the Bible.

A full court press will be made in 2018 to spread the word about this DVD series. To distribute this product, we will partner with many like-minded organizations, vend at homeschool conventions, book radio interviews, submit magazine reviews, and work to be featured in catalogs. Our goal is to transform the country with this teaching.

Currently, we are in the process of enhancing the DVD series by creating a leadership guide to be used in study groups and by updating and revising the current class study guide. Please be in prayer for our promotional efforts as you share the news with your friends and loved ones.

LOCAL OUTREACH

Throughout the year, IPS conducts and participates in many activities from Fresno to the Bay Area and everywhere in between. Whether teaching classes and seminars in person, speaking at luncheon meetings, vending and lecturing at conventions, meeting in homes, networking in weekly and monthly gatherings, or collaborating with other like-minded organizations, IPS is influencing the culture and changing the philosophy within Northern California.

In addition, IPS hosts small, challenging study group sessions for high school and college age students in the Modesto area with the goal of laying and reinforcing sound foundations through proctored discussion. For adults, IPS encourages and organizes book clubs for individuals to meet, mingle, and make their way through our list of recommended books.

Next year, our goal is to create more book reviews for these home study groups as well as establish more books clubs.

STUDENT OUTREACH

IPS places a heavy focus on, "training tomorrow's leaders today." We do this by teaching students and, more importantly, we also do it by teaching teachers who, in turn, will teach hundreds of students.

One of the tools that we use for reaching this next generation is academic debate. IPS has programs for homeschool students and for students in private Christian schools. These programs encourage students to "go deep" into government and economic study while providing them with the research and communication skills to be leaders in their chosen field.

In all settings, students are immersed in education from a principle perspective on various topics through teaching segments, tournaments, webinars, workshops, articles, and other resources. With this hands-on training, IPS is raising up the next generation of leaders with the necessary skills to be knowledgeable and articulate advocates for Christ and liberty.

THE IMPACT

These outreaches change the lives of thousands of individuals each year—all because of you. We frequently hear from people who have been blessed by IPS teaching. Below is just one example.

"This class has opened my eyes and helped me become an informed citizen, and I would like to express my gratitude. My sphere of influence is made up of those who are evolutionists, socialists and non-believers. Now I feel better equipped to ask the right questions and engage in meaningful conversation. My 21 year old son was brought up in a Jesus-loving home where he heard the truth and now he holds an evolutionary world view and does not believe. I feel the public school system had a part in this. I want to see this ministry expand and reach the hearts and minds of our youth, pastors, and educators.... shoot everyone! Thank you, thank you, thank you."