



Midtown Messenger

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Issue 25

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE CLASS TEACHERS

Ronnie Scherffius

When one considers the local church, the greater emphasis is usually placed on the local preacher. Rightly or wrongly, the preacher is often the “face of the congregation.” Then of course there are the elders who serve as the shepherds/overseers of the local congregation, and let us not forget the deacons who labor behind the scenes in the special work assigned to them. The names of everyone of these men (the elders, deacons, and preacher) appear in the weekly bulletin and on the church website. Many congregations are known by who stands in the pulpit or the strength and soundness of its elders. Sadly, the work and the importance of Bible class teachers is often overlooked.

Bible classes are essential building blocks to the spiritual growth, strength, and stamina of the local congregation! Find a local church that is strong and active and you will find a local church that has a well structured and staffed Bible class program! Every man or woman who serves as a Bible class teacher plays a crucial role in the work of the local congregation. Why then do some, even those who are teachers, often remark that they are “*just a Bible class teacher*”? Have we ever stopped to think of the importance of our Bible class teachers?

Bible class teachers are great people. A man or woman who has committed to teaching a Bible class must be prepared. Yes, they must prepare their lessons, but more importantly they must prepare themselves! Ezra is the perfect example of how one must prepare himself to be a teacher: “For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel stat-

utes and judgments” (Ezra 7:10). Two things were necessary for Ezra to be properly prepared as a teacher of God’s word. Ezra had to prepare his heart to *seek* God’s law and Ezra had to be a *doer* of God’s law. No man or woman is fit to teach the Bible if they are not seeking after and doing those things which they are teaching! Such hypocrisy would ever stand as an insurmountable hindrance to their work. A Bible class teacher is one who first prepares herself by living faithfully the Christian life.

Bible class teachers not only prepare themselves to teach, they also prepare the hearts and minds of their students. A teacher prepares the hearts of her students to hear the word of God. Through media, music, the internet, and much that takes place in our public schools children today are overexposed to the world’s philosophy of life! If a child lives in a home where one parent is not a Christian confusion may drown out the truth of God’s word one parent is striving desperately to instill in the heart and mind of their child. How important the role of the Bible class teacher who, in a focused and structured environment, prepares the heart of her students to hear the word of God!

The Bible class teacher not only prepares the hearts and minds of her students to hear the word of God but also to understand accept that word as truth. From the youngest age, children are prepared to seek the words of God, love the words of God, know the words of God, and to live the words of God. This is the work of the “local” Bible class teacher!

Not only do Bible class teachers prepare their students, they also bring them into remembrance of the ways which are in Christ (1

Cor. 4:17); lead them into right paths (Prov. 4:11); guide them to a proper understanding of the Scriptures (Acts 8:31). In fulfilling all these a Bible class teacher shows himself to be a good servant of Christ: "If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ" (1 Tim. 4:6; 2 Tim. 2:24). "Just a Bible class teacher? Hardly! Bible class teachers are great people!

Another thought to demonstrate the importance of Bible class teachers is the fact that a Bible class teacher teaches great things. Consider from the following passages of Scripture the great things Bible class teachers teach us and our children: "Now these are **the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments**, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it" (Dt. 6:1); "Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you **the good and the right way**" (1 Sam. 12:23); "Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you **the fear of the LORD**" (Ps. 34:11); "And they shall teach my people the **difference between** the holy and profane, and cause them to **discern between** the unclean and the clean" (Ezek 44:23); "And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the Levites that taught **the good knowledge of the LORD**" (2 Chron. 30:22); "I have taught thee in **the way of wisdom**; I have led thee in **right paths**" (Prov. 4:11). Such is the work of those who silently labor among us as Bible class teachers! Woe unto us if we ever overlook their work and sacrifice! The men and women who educate us in the Holy Scriptures should be some of the most important people in our lives.

Next week we will consider two more thoughts that highlight the importance of our Bible class teachers.

Parents In The Pews

By: Brett Petrillo

It wasn't just sympathy, it was pure empathy. It was 4 AM as my wife, kids, a friend, and I had been standing in line to check our bags at the airport. For over an hour we had been standing in the Frontier line. This line could have dwarfed even the longest lines at Six

Flags. The sheer magnitude of the line made everyone seriously worried about missing their flight. As we progressed, I had been watching a young couple. The wife was probably 8 months pregnant and they were holding a little girl around 2 years old. In addition to everything they had already endured that morning, the child chose that very moment to let the entire airport know that she had reached her limit. She began an epic wailing that just might have made some nearby seismographs quiver. The parents' consoling wasn't working. They couldn't leave the line since they were moments from the check-in desk. There was very little that this couple could do but hope the crying wouldn't break any nearby glass.

Without a doubt, it was a moment of horror for these parents. I had walked in their shoes, and they were sneakers I never wish to walk in again. I felt very helpless for them, so I just offered what small measure of encouragement I could: "Hang in there guys, you're doing a great job."

I've encountered countless moments like this with my own family. I've encountered them in the airport and at the grocery store. I've encountered them at my friends' homes. But perhaps more than any other, I've encountered them in the pew during worship.

It can be quite the challenge. We have felt embarrassed. We have wondered if judging eyes have fallen upon our family. We've wondered if disapproving eyes are critiquing our parenting. And more than anything else, we've had doubts if we're doing things right as a parent. And then one of the most encouraging things happens — a sweet member will come up and say, "Hang in there, you guys are doing a great job." I know I'm not alone. Nearly every young parent wrestles with these very thoughts. So for all the parents out there, please hang in there. You're doing a great job! Children are a tremendous blessing from the Lord (Psalm 127:3-5), and you're bringing your children to worship the Lord. You're doing what you can to train up your children in the Lord (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4). So keep at it!

And for the rest of the members, please keep doing what you can to encourage us parents (Hebrews 3:13). Keep showing us love and smiles as we try to train up the next generation of leaders in the church. Keep helping us with our children when we've reached those overwhelming moments. Above all, keep praying for us. We need it more than we will ever admit.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of September 2, 2018

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Dylan Herring

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Doug Jobes
Fruit of the Vine: Lupe Escojido
Offering: Bryce Dolan
Assist: Scott DeDear, Isaac Jobes, Don Lynn

Sunday Evening: Doug Jobes, Lupe Escojido

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Robert Powers
P.M. Closing: Mark FitzSimmons

Ushers:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional:

Lupe Escojido

Open/Close Building:

Will Burleson

Sound System:

Michael Page

Greeters:

Will Cleveland
Allen Clifton
Don Lynn

Prepare Communion: Kelly Cannady

Saturday, September 15 is the Youth Summer Series Awards and Fellowship at 5:30pm at the building. There will be a cook out and ice cream social. Everyone in the congregation is invited to attend. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Solution or Problem?

A group of scientists working on an important project got so annoyed with the inefficiency of some of the workers in the lab that they posted this sign: ARE YOU HELPING WITH THE SOLUTION—OR—ARE YOU A PART OF THE PROBLEM?

We in the church of our Lord are working on a great project—the salvation of men's souls. Brother, "Are you helping with the solution, or are you a part of the problem?" (Matt. 5:10-16, Rom. 2:21-24; Titus 1:16, James 5:19-20, Gal. 6:1). "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God..." (Heb. 5:12).

BE A LIGHT...NOT A LOSS!

- Selected-

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

BILL YOUNG, who has medical problems; JEFF LAWS, who is recovering from brain surgery in San Antonio; VIRGINIA ESCOJIDO, who is training out of state for the next three weeks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 2: Forever Young meeting after evening worship
Sept. 4: Salad Luncheon for the Ladies Bible Class @ 11am here are the building
Sept. 9: Jr./Sr. high devo at the Scherffius home
Sept. 11: Ladies/Mens Bible Classes resume
Sept. 15: End of Youth Summer Series Awards and Fellowship @ 5:30pm

IN THE AREA

Sept. 11: Preachers' and Men's Lunch @ Weber Road
Sept. 15: Ladies' Day @ Southwest C of C
Sept. 15: Ladies' Day @ Livingston C of C
Sept. 29: Ladies' Day @ Portland C of C

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Adrian Cannady (5); Brant Jacobs (7)

Happy Anniversary: Will and Connie Cleveland(4)

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS

Jeff Cannady	Della Rampley
Dee Gilpatrick	Clark Withers
Ann Pantel	

SHUT-INS

Lucille Hawkins	Sandy Malone
Faye Henderson	

FRIENDS & FAMILY

Victor Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)	Vikram Gottam (brother-in-law of Archana Verma)
Kim Neel-Farthing (daughter of Joyce)	Antonio Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders:

Will Cleveland
Tom Pitchford

Deacons:

Adrian Cannady
Mark FitzSimmons
Doug Jobs
Bryant Siegel

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius**Secretary:** Nina Siegel**TIMES OF SERVICES**

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of August 26, 2018

Bible Class.....123
A.M. Worship.....143
P.M. Worship.....95
Wednesday Bible Study.....103

Offering \$5,748

QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

God, The Father

A Spirit.....John 4:24
Rom. 8:27; Psm. 139:7-10; James 1:7

**SUPPORTED WORKS**

India - Mani Pagidipalli
New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

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MidTown Church of Christ

5901 N. Main
Victoria, TX 77904
(361) 573-0030
midtowncoc2017@gmail.com

