

Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

July 26, 2020

Issue 30

An Ideal Student

By: Carl Garner

Someone has said that if you put the world's best teacher in a room with the world's worst students, very little learning would take place. I don't know if that is true, but I do know that a willing and capable pupil is necessary to the process of learning. For years we have known that you cannot stop a determined student from learning. The necessity of a capable teacher is not denied, but there is also the need for a capable, motivated pupil.

The Necessity of "Good Soil"

Jesus told a parable about a sower who went out to plant seed. Both sower and seed were good, but some of the soil into which the seed was sown was poor soil. The result: neither harvest nor learning could take place (Luke 8:4-15). Jesus taught that there must be good "seed" and good "soil," good teaching and a good pupil. Subtract either one and learning will be greatly diminished.

The same is true in the classroom. A professor once told a room full of graduate students: "Teaching does not take place until learning takes place." If his statement is true—and to a great degree, I believe it is—both student and teacher must come together for the best learning situation. Who is the ideal student? What qualities does the ideal pupil possess?

Ignorance and Recognition of It

One first has to recognize his lack of knowledge, his need to learn. If he/she does not, learning is very unlikely. Henry David

Thoreau said: "It is only when we forget all our learning that we begin to know." As a boy, I was told, "If you think your bucket's already full, you won't be trying to fill it up." An ideal student is one who is aware of—and willing to admit—how much he/she needs to learn. That is the first step to learning.

Desire, Willingness to Learn

Ancient learners had none of the "essentials" of learning available today, but they had the desire to learn. The great accomplishments of the Greek culture were achieved long before computers and projectors were introduced. We think of Lincoln studying before an open fire. A determined student can learn from anyone under most any circumstance, but he/she will always need a "shovel," one that will be used to help "dig" out the needed information. A motivated pupil will learn, but without that motivation, the finest of teachers cannot succeed.

The Conviction to Test All Information, Then Act Upon It

Most working receptacles need a filter to assure the security of the unit. Just fail to change the filters on your air-conditioner and see what happens. So it is with learning. A pupil who receives information indiscriminately will eventually receive false information. If proper convictions are absent the student is vulnerable to the most dangerous ploys of unethical (not to mention unbiblical) practices.

Even then, there is left a very significant part of this whole procedure. An ideal student

will, when finding accurate information, act upon that information lest it be wasted or lost. If that which is learned is worth achieving, it is valuable enough to continue to learn as much as is your capacity to learn. When a person ceases to learn, he diminishes his value to himself, his family and his community.

Share Knowledge with Others

We would consider a person to be selfish who has that which can be of benefit to others, yet withholds it. Even more so when that knowledge is crucial to the souls of others who desire to have the “hope of eternal life” (Titus 1:2; 3:7). The scriptures tell us, “He who wins souls is wise” (Prov. 11:30), and that “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). A good student cannot be selfish with what he has learned from God’s wonderful Word. Knowing it demands that we share it.

Therefore, the ideal student will:

- realize their need to learn
- possess a strong motive to learn
- be wise enough to put to the test what has been learned, then act upon it accordingly
- be willing to share that information with others who desire and need it

We need more students of God’s Word—students who love the souls of lost men and women, and who will gain the information needed and then impart it to the lost. Are you one of them?

Short-Sightedness

Did you know that most NFL players are broke or financially stressed after two years of retirement? (Sports Illustrated) How does someone go from being a millionaire to being broke in such a short amount of time? There are a multitude of reasons but what stands behind all of them is ignorance and short-sidedness.

We wouldn't be as foolish, would we? We would invest those millions. We wouldn't spend it all on the mansions, cars, clothes, and expensive jewelry. We would prepare for future and retire responsibly and comfortably.

And guess what? If we have done all of that and forgotten God, we are just as ignorant and short-sided as those NFL players. Sure, we will have stretched out our wealth over decades instead of years, but there is no difference once we're dead.

If all we've done is heaped up riches for ourselves and forgotten God, we'll be just like ancient Babylon (ch 13), Assyria (ch 14), Moab (ch 15-16), Syria (ch 17), & Israel (ch 17). Our destruction will be certain and our judgment will be just.

Do not trust in uncertain riches but in God who give us richly all things to enjoy. Brethren, we need to pray that God gives us a mind to be rich in good works, ready to give and willing to share.

Announcement Regarding Logo:

The men are exploring options for a logo for the congregation. This will aid us in having a polished uniform look as we present ourselves to other congregations and to the community. There are two logo designs on the table in the foyer. Please leave any feedback in the envelope by July 29th.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of July 26, 2020

subject to change

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Kirk FitzSimmons

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Lupe Escojido
Fruit of the Vine: Lupe Escojido
Offering: James Cammock

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Doug Jobes
A.M. Closing: Ron White

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Larry Nuckels
Wed. P.M.: Fred Scherffius

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Kevin Sheeran

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Mark FitzSimmons

To Our Visitors: We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

**Sermons are available on our website
www.midtowncoc.org under Resources.**

MidTown's Bible Classes and Worship services can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search MidTown church of Christ Victoria.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please pray for the country during this time of the Corona Virus Pandemic.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Mike Atkinson (26); Izzy, Kaylee and Athena Scherffius (27); Ashton Barton (30), Bryce Dolan (31)

Happy Anniversary: Tam & Pam Archer (28)

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING:

The next Men's Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 2nd at 1pm.

MEMBER INFORMATION UPDATE:

Ben Jamison has a new cell phone number:
361-484-6904.

*****FRIENDLY REMINDER TO CONTINUE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING*****

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Janice FitzSimmons
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
Sandy Malone

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

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class: 9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Wednesday Bible Class— 7:00 PM
(Auditorium only)

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of July 19, 2020

A.M. Bible Class.....46
A.M. Worship.....57
Online views during worship.....46
Wednesday Bible Class.....42

Offering week of July 19, 2020.....\$1,999

Reading for this week:

In that day their strong cities will be like the deserted places of the wooded heights and the hilltops, which they deserted because of the children of Israel, and there will be desolation.

For you have forgotten the God of your salvation and have not remembered the Rock of your refuge...

Isaiah 17:9-10

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

GO PAPERLESS!

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