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"THE BIBLE TEACHER"

By Jimmy Pettigrew

The ideal Christian teacher is one who imparts instructions and communicates knowledge. Teachers are mentioned among divine gifts in Ephesians 4:11. For what reason do we need teachers? "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ," Ephesians 4:12.

Jesus was born to die, but lived to teach. The Lord is the Master Teacher. If we would be like Him, our desire will be to develop our talents in communicating the glorious message of salvation. We need teachers! In the church today we have far too many "Bible teachers" who are not very familiar with the Bible (Hebrews 6:1; Ezra 7:10). Let us notice several things that every good teacher needs. For truly we ought to be teachers (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Imparting the sacred, eternal word of God is such a tremendous responsibility that it cannot be done by a novice. The one absolute requirement for those who labor in the Bible classes of the Lord's church is that they know the Bible and live it! Unless a teacher of the Bible lives the life of a devoted Christian, the lesson will die out in the air. We need teachers who always teach the faithful teaching of the unsearchable riches of Christ. As a parent and a Christian, I had much rather my son would sit at the feet of a teacher who knew the book than one who didn't, who was unprepared.

Let us look at some qualities of capable teachers:

- 1. Deep respect for the word of God (Psalm 119:97).
- 2. A sense of urgency in imparting the gospel. A person who dreads the preparation and presentation of a Bible lesson ought never to stand before a class. If it is unpleasureable instead of a thrill to teach, then by all means, let someone else teach. The Bible teacher ought to express the lesson like Jer. 22:29.
 - 3. Desire to serve God better (2 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 6:1).
 - 4. Never forget the importance of souls (Mark 8:36; Matt. 10:38).
 - 5. Be an example (1 Peter 2:21; 1 Corinthians 11:1). These are just some qualities of capable teachers.

Let us always remember, we as Bible teachers help boys and girls become children of the King of kings. As teachers, we are training souls for the army of the Lord. We are helping to train children in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6). "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation", 2 Timothy 3:15. If public school teachers are praised for helping to develop doctors, nurses, presidents, etc; what will the reward be for those who produce member of the "royal priesthood"?

Bible teachers must know the Bible. There is no short-cut method to successful Bible teaching. It takes time, thought, sweat, tears, and constant work to be able to properly impart God's will unto others (Acts 11:14). It is still impossible to teach that which we do not know. We are reminded in James 3:1 of the serious responsibility

upon every teacher of the scriptures. There is no sweeter experience than that of imparting the word of God to people who are hungering and thirsting for righteousness. There is no richer reward than to see ones students growing in the grace and knowledge of the Savior. And, there is nothing as sobering and awesome as the challenge of breaking unto others the bread of life.

May the Lord help us to so prepare ourselves that our lips will break forth properly the message of redemption.

The Bible is God's window open wide,
To show the glories on the other side;
Where God and Christ the Son forever reign,
And yearn to bring us to our God again!
The Bible is God's window, bright and clear,
That we see heaven's beauty from our sphere;
And longing for its calm and peaceful rest,
May strive to follow him, who loves us best!
The Bible is a showcase from above,
To mirror all God's sweet redeeming love;
That we may cling to his outreaching hand,
And by his grace to enter glory land!

By Bessie Bennett

GOD'S TEN MOST WANTED MEN

- 1. The man who puts God's business above any other business.
- 2. The man who brings his children to church rather than sends them.
- 3. The man who is willing to be the right example to every person whom he meets.
 - 4. The man who thinks more of Sunday school than Sunday sleep.
- 5. The man who gives what he should to the church and lives on what is left.
- 6. The man who goes to church for Christ's sake rather than for himself or someone else.
 - 7. The man who has passion to help others rather than to be helped, himself.
 - 8 The man who has a willing mind, not just a brilliant one.
 - 9 The man who can see his own faults before he sees the faults of others.
- 10. The man who is more concerned about winning persons to Christ than about winning worldly honors.

--borrowed-

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21 **Continue in the Apostles' Teaching -** Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17