

Look Unto Realms Above

A principle that is important to the teaching process is stated clearly by John Milton Gregory in his book, *The Seven Laws of Teaching*. Gregory says: "Since attention follows interest, it is folly to attempt to gain attention without first stimulating interest."

Remembering my high school days in study hall, I must agree with Gregory. I can recall 'reading' page after page in a book and being unable to remember a single idea from the book because my mind was on a basketball game to be played that night. The book didn't occupy my attention because I, at the time, wasn't interested in it.

This gets to the heart of the problem of brethren who don't study the word of God publicly or privately. They simply aren't interested. They are more interested in reading "Good Housekeeping," "Newsweek," "Reader's Digest," or "True Story" than in reading the Bible. They are more interested in seeing what's on TV than seeing what God has said. They are more interested in spending time with a hobby than in spending time with God.

The apostle Paul commended the Bereans for their nobility in studying the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). He told the Ephesians that they could understand the scriptures if they would read. He then exhorted them to be not foolish but understand God's will (Eph. 3:4; 5:17).

It's not likely, though, that we'll stimulate brethren to study God's word until we interest them in going to heaven. It may be that brethren in this country have it so good on earth that they don't think any more about going to heaven than I did about the book I was supposedly reading in study hall. That being true, it's no wonder the Bible doesn't occupy their attention. Brethren, we've simply got to wake to the fact that — 70 years and it's all over here. Then what? Until we set our hope on Christ and our affection on things above (1 John 3:3; Col. 3:1-4), the BOOK describing those things cannot possibly hold our attention.

- by L.A. Stauffer

Wednesday Night Services

- At Wednesday night services, the Bible is taught, the word of God Almighty.
- Wednesday night services increase our faith as we better understand and appreciate the unsearchable riches of God.
- Wednesday night services are a midweek respite from life in a sinful world, a recharge of our spiritual batteries.
- Wednesday night services help prepare us to meet life's challenges.
- Wednesday night services help build stronger character.
- Wednesday night services provide an opportunity to associate with brethren and encourage each other.
- Wednesday night services provide an opportunity to bring others with you to hear the gospel of Christ.
- Wednesday night services enable us to join our hearts in prayer and praising God in song.
- Wednesday night services may be the time when you hear some truth that will change your life forever.

If you don't attend Wednesday night services...

- What do you do with that time?
- How does that activity compare to these blessings?
- Which activity will better help you go to heaven?
- Which is a better use of your time?

- by Whit Sasser

Does Your Service to God Cost Anything?

When King David sinned by taking an unauthorized census of the people, the prophet Gad brought word from God that a punishment was imminent. Three days of horrible pestilence came upon the nation. To stop the plague David was instructed to make an altar and to offer a sacrifice

at the threshingfloor of a man named Araunah.

As David approached the site, Araunah met him and asked why he came. When David explained the purpose of his visit, Araunah offered to give him everything needed to accomplish the sacrifice. David's famous response was: *"Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing"* (2 Samuel 24:24).

This incident raises a serious question for us all: Does our service to God cost anything? As an example, consider the use of our time. Our schedules are usually quite full with the things we need to do and with other things we want to do. When our work and chores are finished, there's an array of recreational activities to pursue. Often it's hard to squeeze everything into a 7 day week with short, 24 hour days. Something has to 'give'. For too many, and too often, it ends up being our time for God. If camping, or golf, or sporting events, etc., conflict with scheduled worship times, many folks will compromise. Oh, yes, they are at worship if nothing else happens to clash in their schedules. But if something else comes up, they yield. In effect, they are saying 'we will worship God, but not if we have to give up something to do it.' Do you see it? Their worship really costs them nothing.

Applications of this principle can be multiplied, but you should be easily able to see the point King David was making. He knew real sacrifice to God required an associated 'cost' of service. Does your service to God cost anything? Think!

- by Greg Gwin