

## ***THE BEACON – Electronic Edition – 5/9/23***

### ***Bible Classes: What Can I Do?***

Perhaps not all of us can teach a class, but there are a number of ways in which we can help those who do teach and make our Bible classes of greater profit. Here is a list of some things you can do:

1. ATTEND EVERY BIBLE STUDY. These periods of study will make both you and the congregation stronger. We all need to continue to grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord (2 Pet. 3:18). Can you think of a better or more important way to spend an hour?
2. BRING YOUR CHILDREN (Don't just send them). With things the way they are in the world today, your children need all the help they can get -- especially spiritual help. There is no better place for them than the Bible classes.
3. BRING/ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO ATTEND. Use your half-empty automobile to bring others (children or adults) to our Bible studies. We cannot expect others to come unless we first invite and encourage them. Remember, we have classes for all ages.
4. PARENTS, HELP YOUR CHILDREN WITH THEIR BIBLE LESSONS. No doubt you are concerned about whether your children complete their school homework assignments. Are you as concerned about their Bible lessons? Do you know what they are studying? Do you ever discuss the Bible with them? Encourage your child to prepare the lesson if one has been assigned.
5. PARENTS, ASK YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER HOW HE/SHE IS DOING IN THE CLASS. Perhaps there are some things you could do to help. Are you as concerned about your children's ~spiritual progress as you are his/her secular education?
6. OFFER A FEW WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOUR TEACHER (or to the teacher of your child). By so doing, you will not only let teachers know that you care, but will bolster their confidence and inspire them to greater efforts.
7. STUDY, STUDY, STUDY! You can attend every class that meets, but unless you study (preferably, both before and after) it will be of little benefit. There are too many who let the teacher do all of the studying. Do you suppose that might be one reason why there are not more who are able to teach?
8. PARTICIPATE IN THE CLASS DISCUSSIONS. When you study your lesson and become enthusiastic about it you will find it difficult not to participate. Participation is a sure sign that the learning process is in motion.
9. VOLUNTEER TO TEACH. Good teachers for Bible classes are always in demand. Let someone know if you desire to be of help.
10. PRAY FOR THE TEACHERS AND THE RECEPTION OF THE LESSONS. Above all, don't let their labor be in vain. Do all that you can as a student of the Word and as a servant of the Lord.

***-by Bob Dickey***

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### ***The Importance of Choosing the Right Mate***

#### **A survey of the church of Christ in Miami, OK (1958-1977):**

79 youth married non-Christians and 57 of them had left the faith (72%).

20 of the 57 who had married non-Christians had divorced (35%).

14 of the 79 who had married non-Christians had helped to convert their mates (17%).

64 youth married Christians, and only 5 of them had left the faith (7%).

2 of the 64 who had married Christians had divorced (3%).

**A survey of the church of Christ in Wynne, AR (1962-1981):**

76 youth married non-Christians and 61 of them had left the faith (80%).  
23 of the 67 who married non-Christians were divorced (34%).  
11 of the 76 who married non-Christians have helped to convert their mates (14%).  
28 youth married Christians and only 4 had left the faith (14%).  
4 of the 28 who married Christians had divorced (14%).

**A survey of the church of Christ in Glasgow, KY (1989-2010):**

76 youth married non-Christians and 57 of them had left the faith (75%).  
24 of the 76 who married non-Christians have divorced (32%).  
4 of the 76 who married non-Christians have helped to convert their mates (5%).  
13 youth married Christians and only 3 have left the faith (23%).  
3 of the 13 who married Christians have divorced (23%).

- via **Steve Higginbotham**

**1 Kings 11:1-4** *“But king Solomon loved many strange women . . . it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God . . .”*

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***Can We/Should We Expect ‘Fruits of Repentance’?***

It is always a sad circumstance when a brother or sister in Christ falls into sin. As concerned and loving brethren we ought to rush to their aid, and do all we can to bring them to repentance. To ‘look the other way’ or ignore their sin is simply not an option. We love them too much. We care for their eternal well-being. We must “pull them out of the fire” (Jude 23).

But, what exactly are we hoping to achieve? Will it be enough to simply get a grudging, half-hearted acknowledgement of their wrong? Can we accept a mere grunt or nod when we address their error? Would we be in error if we expected to see some evidence of their change of heart?

When the multitudes came to John the Baptist, he urged them to “bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance.” When the people asked what these would be, John proceeded to explain: “He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.” (Luke 3:8-14). Do you see it? Their repentance would necessitate some obvious change in conduct. Without that, their words would be shallow and meaningless.

We must be ready and willing to forgive those who sin. But just as God requires repentance (and the associated evidence of repentance) before He forgives, so must we. Jesus taught: “If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and **if** he repent, forgive him” (Luke 17:3).

- by **Greg Gwin**