

# Have Some Class

John M. Buttrey II

We all, to various degrees, recognize the importance of getting a good education. Children go to school to learn to read and write. As they get older, they learn about world history, science, mathematics, and literature. While we might sometimes question or complain about the curriculum, we do acknowledge the essential need to be educated.

When it comes to getting educated about spiritual matters, do we have the same acknowledgement of an essential need? The Bible certainly acknowledges such a need, speaking of it repeatedly:

*These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. **You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.***

Deut. 6:6-7 (Emphasis Mine)

***My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.***

Hosea 4:6 (Emphasis Mine)

*For Ezra had **set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.***

Ezra 7:10 (Emphasis Mine)

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling the word of truth.***

2 Tim. 2:15 (Emphasis Mine)

*You, however, **continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.***

2 Tim. 3:14-15 (Emphasis Mine)

*For though by this time you ought to be teachers, **you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.***

Heb. 5:12 (Emphasis Mine)

It is with the importance of knowing the Scriptures, that elders are to be able to teach (1 Timothy 3:2). Evangelists are to know the Scriptures so they will teach the truth (1 Timothy 1:3-7). Elders and evangelists are to be men who have taken the time to learn the Scriptures (2 Timothy 2:15). However, all Christians should also seek to know the word of God.

Without a good education of the Bible, how can we be equipped to test the things we hear presented from the pulpit, on the radio, or the things which we read in spiritually focused books? (cf. 1 John 4:1). Without a good education of the Bible, how can we contend earnestly for the faith? (Jude 3). Without a good education of the Bible, how can we teach others the truth? (Matt. 28:19). Without a good education of the Bible, how can we know right from wrong? (Heb. 5:14).

As parents, we send our children to school, or as some are doing today, home school them. Such actions demonstrate our acknowledgment of the importance of a secular education. Why then, do some adults deprive themselves (and at times, their children) of the even greater need: an education of the Scriptures?

As adults, generally past a formalized system of education, we still continue to educate ourselves. We learn about history, politics, places, sports, crafts, the arts, and many other worthwhile endeavors. If we all put as much effort into learning the Scriptures, think how well we would know the Bible!

Have I peaked your interest? Do you see the need? Are you saying, "Okay, where do I start?" That's good, but let me warn you, there is no quick and easy way to learn the Bible. There are no shortcuts to getting a good Bible education. The Scriptures contain numerous names of people, significant events, prophecies, promises, laws, poetry, and so on. Paul told Timothy:

All Scripture is inspired by God and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness**; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Tim. 3:16-17 (Emphasis Mine)

Learning the teaching, reproofs, and training in righteousness that the Scriptures offer requires diligent patience and time, lots and lots of time. It is a lifelong, but essential process. Please, don't let that discourage you!

The good news is that there are a variety of Bible classes available to help you learn. However, these classes will do you no good if you do not attend them. One can only learn so much about the Bible by listening to Sunday sermons. Bible classes are an invaluable source of learning and spiritual growth.

In a typical Bible class, questions can be asked, study material of some kind is provided, and the Scriptures are taught and learned little by little.

May I encourage you? Have some class. Avail yourself of some, or all of the classes offered at your local congregation. By doing so, you will be better equipped for dealing with life, temptations, and opportunities to share with others the good news of the Gospel.