

# The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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## Parents - Bring Your Children to Bible Class

by Dempsey Collins

In Ephesians 6:4, Paul gives the parents, especially the father, the responsibility of nurturing and training their children. Some parents have tried to shift this responsibility to the church in hopes that their job could be accomplished by the parents of others willing to teach. But without guidance at home, such hopes usually end up with a teenage nightmare.

The training of children in all things, physical and spiritual, is primarily the duty of the home. God always knows best (Deut. 6:4-7). The local church *can*, however, provide an excellent SUPPLEMENT to the Bible studies being conducted at home. Bible classes are offered for all age groups from toddler to adult. Teachers are well prepared and have excellent lessons to present to the students. Consider a few advantages of this arrangement.

1. **It affords systematic Bible study.** These classes are structured so that each lesson builds upon another. This enables the student to cover a complete topic or book of the Bible systematically. Unfortunately, we seldom study in this manner on our own.
2. **It provides a better understanding.** The wise man said, “Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in abundance of counselors there is victory.” (Prov. 11:14). When studying with others, I hear comments made that enrich my own understanding of the scriptures; or perhaps, as in Acts 18:26, explains more accurately that which I didn’t understand.
3. **It helps us avoid error.** Studying the Bible with others helps me to be aware of various false doctrines and how to expose them. Ephesians 4:11-16 tells us that teachers were among the gifts given to the church in order that we would “No longer be children tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness and deceitful scheming.”
4. **Bible classes help provide a good balance of subject matter.** Bible classes help us to be well rounded in our knowledge and to avoid going off on tangents of some particular doctrine. The importance of keeping all of God’s commandments is stressed.
5. **It allows us the opportunity to offer comments on Biblical subjects to others.**

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6. **Teaching of parents is reinforced by other teachers.** Nine out of ten times new information is given on a subject which parents did not know or had forgotten.
  7. **Students see their peers learning and accepting the same Biblical principals they have been taught at home.**
  8. **It shows love and respect for others.** Your presence and comments will be an encouragement to them as well as to yourself.
  9. **It helps the church grow and be united.** Feeding upon the word can only result in growth and edification (Eph. 4:15). It helps the bond between Christians grow even stronger.
  10. **It will help our children's decision to serve God be much more probable.** The more we are exposed to Biblical teaching, the more we allow that seed to be planted in our hearts. When the word is implanted regularly, it is much more likely that they will obey it (James 1:2; I Peter 1:23). A church in Baton Rouge made a survey and found that when parents *occasionally* attended the Bible classes, only six percent of the children remained faithful. (From the bulletin of the North Miami Avenue church of Christ, Miami, FL)

Whether we have children or not, we all need the nourishment that Bible classes provide. We have provided ten advantages to attending Bible classes, i.e., ten reasons why YOU should be present at each study. For your soul's sake, and for the souls of others, bring those children to Bible class. You are doing them and yourself an eternal favor.

*P.S. – Did you know that those who attend every Bible study have as many children as others, work just as hard, are just as tired, and have as many friends and social obligations as those who do not attend?*

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## Three Golden Gates

If you are tempted to reveal a tale someone has told about another, make it pass before you speak, three narrow gates of gold.

First – is it true?

Then – is it needful?

In your mind give truthful answers and the next is narrowest – is it kind?

And if to reach your lips at last it passes these gateway three, then you may tell the tale nor fear what the result may be.

*Unknown*

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### News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

*“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16*