

THE OLD PATHS

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“Suggestions For Our Bible Class Teachers”

Jarrod Jacobs

Today, we begin a new quarter, and a new year of Bible classes. I want to begin by saying thank you to those teachers who volunteered last year to teach our children. You have done a good job, and we appreciate your work. In addition to this, let me also thank those teachers who have volunteered to teach our children in this quarter, and for the rest of 2017. It is so encouraging to see the positive response you show toward this work (Jas. 3:1)!

Truly, our Bible class teachers have a special responsibility! They are responsible for imparting Bible truths to our children twice a week. Of course, they understand, as we all do, that their work is not a substitute, but a complement, to Bible teaching that is to be done in the home (Deut. 6:6-9; Eph. 6:4; Titus 2:3-5; Prov. 22:6; etc.). What our teachers do in their classes can help bolster and encourage our children as they learn about God and His word.

Those who teach Bible classes are to be held in high respect. They are taking the time to learn the lessons themselves, and then taking the time to teach others what they know. One doesn't know what kind of questions may be asked in a class! Yet, teachers need to be ready to answer the questions their students may have, always directing the students to the Bible for the answers (I Pet. 4:11; II Tim. 3:16-17). We cannot fully measure the good that may come from the time spent in these classes. Therefore, teachers must use their time wisely and efficiently (Eph. 5:16). I have been impressed with how our teachers function and instruct our children, and I hope the rest of this congregation has as well.

In light of this great work, I found the following questions quite interesting. The questions listed on the next page are questions that would be good for all teachers to ask; from those teaching the small children, to

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those teaching the adults in their Bible study. Let us consider these questions carefully, and keep in mind just Who it is that is the author of our “curriculum,” as well as keep in mind just who it is that we are teaching. Before teaching your class, ask yourself....

What do I want my pupils to know?

Why do I want them to know it?

How can I get them to see it?

How can I get them to believe it?

How will I get them to act on this faith?

What will it benefit them if they do?

How will it hurt them if they do not?

Teaching a Bible class is a serious matter. Let us thank our teachers for the hard work that they do. Teachers, you have precious souls in your hands twice a week in our classes. Don't take this privilege for granted!

Did The Devil Win?

Joel Raulerson

I have heard some say that Satan gained a victory when Jesus Christ was crucified. I have even said this myself in a few sermons and before the Lord's Supper. However, with some recent study, I've come to a different conclusion. In this study, let us ask the question, “Did Satan really win a victory when Christ was crucified?”

Satan's Goal

In order to answer this question, let us ask what was Satan trying to accomplish on earth? Throughout the life of Jesus, Satan attempted to have Christ killed. For example, when He was first born, Herod commanded that all children under the age of two be killed (Matt. 2:16). Satan also attempted to lure Jesus away from God's plan by appealing to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 Jn. 2:16; Matt. 4:3-9). Satan attempted to have Christ discredited by the Pharisees and Sadducees on multiple occasions. One example is found in John 8 when

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the scribes and Pharisees attempted to make Christ look like He was contradicting Moses. John 8:3-5 says, *“The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law **Moses commanded us to stone such women.** So **what do you say?**”* There are multiple examples throughout the Gospels when Satan attempted to thwart Christ at every opportunity. We recognize all of these attempts were unsuccessful. However, the question we need to answer is, “Was Satan successful when Christ was crucified?”

Christ’s Goal

Before we answer whether or not Satan gained a victory when Christ was crucified, we need to take a look at Christ’s goal on earth. Why did Christ come to the earth? John 3:16-17 says, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but **in order that the world might be saved through him.**”* Jesus was sent to this earth for a specific purpose. It was not to live out a peaceful life and die of old age and complications. Jesus came to the earth to die on the cross as the sacrifice for our sins and give us the opportunity to come out of darkness and into the light where we belong! This was prophesied long ago. This was all according to the will of God, and was not the victory of Satan! Isaiah 53:10 reads, *“Yet **it was the will of the LORD to crush him;** he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.”*

If it was the will of God to have Christ crucified for our sins, how then could Satan have won a victory when Christ was crucified? Satan would have won if Christ had died in any other way besides the cross. What was prophesied all the way back in Genesis 3 was not a crushing of Christ’s head, but a crushing of Satan’s head (Gen. 3:15). Jesus was dealt an injury that He would recover from, while Satan was dealt a fatal blow at the cross. When Christ was crucified and resurrected, Jesus proved Satan had no power (1 Cor. 15:14-15).

This is not in any way to downplay the suffering that Christ endured on the cross. It was a truly grueling, painful, and humiliating experience that no one should ever experience, especially the innocent Son of God. Christ made that sacrifice so we could have the opportunity to be forgiven of our

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sins and join His kingdom. Though the cross looks like Satan's victory, this was not Satan's victory at all!

There is, however, a victory that Satan can still win. Remember there is a war for your soul. Satan may not have been able to stop Christ, but He will stop at nothing to see your soul destroyed (1 Pet. 5:8). Do not spurn the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Do not give Satan a victory where he does not need one.



Spotlight On A Bible Verse: Acts 5:29

“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.” After having been imprisoned and threatened by the Sanhedrin for preaching the gospel of Christ, the apostles' response was that they would obey God rather than men. What bravery and what boldness! What attitude do we have when facing those who do not want to hear the truth? How will we act when friends, family, and others want us to “tone it down” and not be so “judgmental” in their way of thinking? Regardless of what others say, we need to obey God rather than men. When the day comes that being a Christian is illegal, we must still obey God rather than men, just as the apostles did in the first century! Where is our allegiance?

- Jarrod Jacobs



“I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!”

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Wednesday: 7:00 pm (Bible classes)

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