

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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“Things Bible Class Teachers Should Expect From Parents”

By Heath Rogers via Hebron Lane Bulletin

Our Bible Classes are conducted in an effort to further instruct the word of God. Any parent who is striving to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord should see the value of such classes and desire to have their children participate.

As is the case with secular education in our public schools, the benefit that each child receives from Bible Class will depend, to some extent, upon the participation of the parents. The elders have spent money purchasing materials, members have spend time preparing books, supplements and teaching aids, teachers have spent time preparing their rooms and their lessons. With the investment of this time in the interest of our children, our Bible Class teachers have a right to expect some things from us as parents.

That the child be here for class. You wouldn't dream of allowing your child to routinely miss days of public school. The very least you can do is have your child present for their Bible Classes. How would you feel if you invited people to come to your home for dinner, spent money purchasing the groceries, spent time preparing the meal and cleaning your home, only to have about half of them show up? This is the exact same feeling that a Bible Class teacher has when our children are absent without any explanation.

That the child be here on time. Public schools will not tolerate a child being late for class. What is a Bible Class teacher to do when our child strolls into class half an hour late? Should she start over from the beginning or just expect the late-comer to catch

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up? Routine tardiness is nothing short of laziness and a lack of consideration for others.

That the child have his Bible and lesson book. I think it says something when our young people can show up for services with their cell phones, but they don't have a clue where their Bible or lesson books are at! Again, this behavior would not be tolerated in the public schools.

That the child have his lesson done. Most children's Bible Class lessons take only a few minutes to complete. The teachers (not to mention the elders) are not asking too much of our children to take the time to prepare their lesson. Again, such behavior would not be tolerated in public schools. Having taught the Junior High Class for the past six years, I can tell you that there is a world of difference between a class full of students who have prepared their lesson and those who have not. When students have their lessons prepared the classes go by faster, there is more interest and more participation. The class becomes a time of reinforcing what has already been learned as opposed to a period of first-time instruction. I know that our young people have a lot of homework and activities that keep them busy in the school year, but this does not explain why Bible lessons aren't getting done during the Summer time! As the parents, we need to make sure our children take their lesson books home and spend the needed time preparing for class (You would be surprised at the number of lesson books one can find in the pews during the week. It is safe to assume that these students will not have their lessons done for class!).

As parents, we have a right to expect certain things from our Bible Class teachers. However, turnabout is fair play. Teachers have a right to expect some basic things from the parents of their students. Let's work together to make our Bible Classes the best that they can be.

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“Muddy Waters”

By Steven Deaton

“A righteous man who falters before the wicked is like a murky spring and a polluted well.” Proverbs 25:26

This proverb reveals the true consequences of one who fails to do right before a wicked world—they muddy the water. A righteous man’s mouth is a “well of life,” pure and wholesome (Prov. 10:11). However, when he falters, his well is corrupt and useless. A righteous man may falter for various reasons: fear, favor, weakness, weariness.

1. He may fear the consequences of his stand for truth.

This becomes a trap to him (Prov. 29:25). He is enslaved to the whims of men who hate God and His truth. The fearless man, on the other hand is free. He fears God, not man, and is free to act in a way that pleases God and satisfies his own soul (Heb. 11:5-6).

2. He may have favor for those who are in sin, overlooking because of personal feelings. This will cause him to be an abomination before the Lord (Prov. 17:15). The one, who does not show favor, pleases the Lord (cf. Jas. 2:1-9). He acts in the Lord’s and man’s best interest.

3. He may be weak and give in to sin, returning to the mire from which he came (2 Pet. 2:22). This brings out his true character, showing him to be of little strength (Prov. 24:10). He needs to mature so he is not a slave to his desires and the temptations that come to him (Eph. 4:12-14). A strong man will stand out and be a pure example to others.

4. He may give in because of weariness. Such men give up their reward (cf. Gal. 6:9; Heb. 10:36). This man needs to remember that labor in the Lord is not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58). Also, by considering the trials of Christ, one can gain courage and energy to press on (Heb. 12:1-3).

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men” (Matt. 5:13). Again, the child of God is to be an example, and a preservative, in the world. However, if he loses his influence by becoming like the world—by polluting himself—he will be “good for nothing” and

“thrown out.” In other words, he is not fit to serve God and will lose his soul.

Are you murky and muddy or clear and clean?

“Where I am headed is more important than where I came from”