

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

Church of Christ
371 W. Main Street
Greenwood, IN 46142
(317)888-8288

www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org

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“Just One Moment Please”

By Steve Niemeier

I am sure that we all have been told this at one time or another in our lifetime. One moment does not seem very long does it? However, if you are waiting on the phone, waiting at the drive up window at the bank, waiting at the post office or just waiting when you have so many other things you can do – it seems like a very long time.

Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:16 to redeem the time that we have. It seems that maybe Paul did not have to wait for things like trains, stop lights, road construction, or in the doctor’s waiting room doesn’t it? How can we redeem time when we are at the mercy of all the obstacles that take just a moment of our time?

Have you ever just stopped for a moment and looked at you watch for a whole 60 seconds just to see how fast a moment can go by or how slow a moment can be? It seems that a moment goes by very fast when we are doing something we enjoy and it just drags by when we are not doing something we like very much. “Will this time ever pass?” is a statement that is often heard when we are engaged in an event that we do not want to be engaged in.

Yet, every moment, every 60 seconds we have is a gift from God. It is a precious gift as we will never get that one moment of time in our life on this earth back again. It makes no difference of what event – a good one where the moment passed quickly or an event where the time passed by slowly – we will never get that moment back again.

Redeeming time as instructed by Paul seems to carry with it the thought that every minute we have we should live it for the

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Lord as one that is wise. It would seem that this means we are to let our light shine (Matthew 5:14-16) so others can see Christ in us – regardless of what event we are involved in.

One moment – sixty seconds – a short period of time that makes up a lifetime of years – how are we redeeming each moment?

Who Can Teach A Bible Class?

By Steve Niemeier

We all have heard many pleas from elders, evangelists and those involved in the teaching programs of many congregation almost “beg” for teachers for Bible classes. This does bring up a question of “who can teach a Bible class?” Many times a congregation just looks for a “warm body” to place in a classroom in hoping that they will be able to fill every teaching vacancy for that quarter. Sometimes the ones trying to fill the vacancies even use the thought that if we have them teach a class then maybe they will come to Bible Study either on Sunday morning or Wednesday night.

Is it any wonder that we are losing our young people to the world with thoughts like these whirling around the Bible Class teachers?

Paul told Timothy in I Timothy 4 that Timothy was to be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith and in purity. In other words as Timothy went about teaching the doctrine of Jesus he was to be able to do so as one trying to live according to the doctrine he was teaching.

Today many want to be “involved” in teaching that are questionable examples in the conduct of a Christian as they forsake the assembling of the saints, their conduct is very suspect as they deal with others in the congregation who try to encourage them. They almost take on the air of arrogance as to say who are you to question me when it is very obvious they are not giving attention to the instructions concerning brotherly love from the doctrine they are suppose to be living much less wanting to teach our children.

A Bible class teacher is one who strives to live according to the gospel of Christ and is very much aware of the example they will be setting in the classroom as a teacher. This example for their students carries outside of the classroom as the students will look how the teacher conducts themselves in every aspect of life. Who can teach? One who conducts themselves according to the doctrine in which they are attempting to teach! A faithful Christian!

Is The Bible An Accurate Record?

By David Halbrook

Several best-selling books and movies have cast doubt on the certainty of the integrity of the Bible. Claims like “it has been changed” and “some books have been lost” are regularly made. Do we have a sure answer to these, and similar, claims? Yes.

The most powerful answer is that God is always in control. Often, those who are skeptical about the Bible are skeptical about God’s existence. Having previously addressed that issue, we now ask- would God send Jesus to die, record that message of salvation, and then allow that record to be lost? Since He desires all men “to come to the knowledge of the truth,” He would not allow that truth to disappear (1 Timothy 2:4).

Some will reply “But we don’t have the original documents” or “The Bible has been translated so many times that it has lost its original meaning.”

Consider that when Paul spoke of the “Holy Scriptures” which Timothy knew, Timothy didn’t have the original documents written by Moses. Timothy read from copies of copies of copies of Moses’ original writing. Still Paul said that they would make Timothy “wise for salvation” (2 Timothy 3:15).

Regarding translations, Jesus often quoted from a translation of the Old Testament called the Septuagint, thus showing that translations may accurately communicate the original message.

By these and other means, it is possible to know that the Bible contains an accurate record of the words that have come from God. Next we will consider whether it is possible to understand these words. Agree, disagree, question, comment? (Acts 17:11)