

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

May 21

2023

Bible Classes - What Can I Do?

Perhaps not all of us can teach a class, but there are a number of ways in which we can help those who do teach and make our Bible classes of greater profit. Here is a list of some things you can do:

1. **BRING YOUR CHILDREN** (Don't just send them). With things the way they are in the world today, your children need all the help they can get — especially spiritual help. There is no better place for them than the Bible classes.
2. **BRING/ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO ATTEND.** Use your half-empty automobile to bring others (children or adults) to our Bible studies. We cannot expect others to come unless we first invite and encourage them. Remember, we have classes for all ages.
3. **PARENTS, HELP YOUR CHILDREN WITH THEIR BIBLE LESSONS.** No doubt you are concerned about whether your children complete their school homework assignments. Are you as concerned about their Bible lessons? Do you know what they are studying? Do you ever discuss the Bible with them? Encourage your child to prepare the lesson if one has been assigned.

4. **PARENTS, ASK YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER HOW HE/SHE IS DOING IN THE CLASS.** Perhaps there are some things you could do to help. Are you as concerned about your children's spiritual progress as you are his/her secular education?

5. **OFFER A FEW WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOUR TEACHER** (or to the teacher of your child). By so doing, you will not only let teachers know that you care, but will bolster their confidence and inspire them to greater efforts.

6. **STUDY, STUDY, STUDY!** You can attend every class that meets, but unless you study (preferably, both before and after) it will be of little benefit. There are too many who let the teacher do all of the studying. Do you suppose that might be one reason why there are not more who are able to teach?

7. **PARTICIPATE IN THE CLASS DISCUSSIONS.** When you study your lesson and become enthusiastic about it you will find it difficult not to participate. Participation is a sure sign that the learning process is in motion.

8. **VOLUNTEER TO TEACH.** Good teachers for Bible classes are always in demand. Let someone know if you desire to be of help.

9. **PRAY FOR THE TEACHERS AND THE RECEPTION OF THE LESSONS.**

10. **ATTEND EVERY BIBLE STUDY.** These periods of study will make both you and the congregation stronger. We all need to continue to grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord (2 Pet. 3:18). Can you think of a better or more important way to spend an hour? Above all, don't let their labor be in vain. Do all that you can as a student of the Word and as a servant of the Lord.

Bob Dickey

Take Heed Lest You Fall

Unfortunately, there are some brethren today who think that they are beyond being able to fall from the faith. However, the apostle Paul declared to the saints in Corinth, *“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall”* (1 Corinthians 10:12). So, with those inspired words of Paul in mind, let’s examine what the Bible has to say about falling from the faith.

Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit declared, *“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron...”* (1 Timothy 4:1-2). Here, the inspired apostle informs that some will depart from the faith, meaning that some will reject the truth of the gospel which they once received. Paul, would go on to later write to Timothy about one who did depart from the faith, *“for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica...”* (2 Timothy 4:10). Brethren, beware, and do not be like Demas who loved this present world, but rather take heed lest you fall, and always strive to keep the faith and remain faithful to the Lord unto death (Revelation 2:10).

The Hebrews writer warned, *“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called Today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin”* (Hebrews 3:12-13) In this passage, the inspired writer expresses the importance of encouraging and edifying one another, so that we will be less likely to be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Again, it is not impossible for one who once believed, and was faithful, to depart from the living God. Therefore, take heed to this warning and instruction from the Hebrews writer lest you fall.

The apostle Peter likewise warns Christians about falling from the faith when he penned, *“You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked...”* (2 Peter 3:17). Sadly, there are some who twist the truth of the Scriptures, and therefore deceive many. However, Peter warned about being led away by error, and if we don’t search the Scriptures to see if the things that are being taught are true (Acts 17:11), or if we don’t study to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15), we too can become overcome by error and fall.

Paul wrote, *“For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself”* (Galatians 6:3). My beloved brethren, we all need to humble ourselves and take heed lest we fall, for it is possible that any of us could fall from the faith. Therefore, may we all always strive to encourage one another daily, search the Scriptures daily, and always to seek to put God and His will before all, lest we fall!

✍ Brad Phillips

Belleville church of Christ

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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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