

Why Attend Bible Classes?

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Lesson Text: **James 4:8** – “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”
- One of the greatest avenues available to help us draw closer to God is the Bible school program of our congregation.
- B. Brethren, it is said indeed that so many of our brethren lack a pattern of attending our Bible classes on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening.
1. I value highly the privilege of attending the Bible classes offered by this congregation.
 2. I value highly the pattern of faithful attendance exhibited by a number of our members and their precious children.
 3. I value highly those who are working in cooperation with God in teaching Bible truths to those who would make themselves Bible students.
 4. I value highly the time our teachers put forth in studying and preparing the lessons they teach.
 5. I value highly those who love the Lord enough that they give Him their time in attending the Bible classes.
 6. I value every Biblical truth that is taught in every one of our Bible classes.
 7. I value every ounce of excitement exhibited by our little ones when they step into the foyer and then make a beeline to their classrooms.
 8. I value seeing them showing their lesson materials to their parents when Bible class is over.
 9. I value the power of the Gospel and its potential in every class to shield Bible students from the efforts of the evil one.

C. I am a product of the Sunday school program of the Bridgeport Church of Christ in Bridgeport, Alabama.

1. Not having grown up with my parents nor in a Christian home, it was the kind efforts put forth by Preston and Georgia Cox transporting my sister and I to Bible class and worship services beginning when we were in early elementary school.
2. Had it not been for their efforts and the Bible classes I attended, I do not know what direction my life would have taken.
3. I owe what I am today, in part, to Bible classes and caring Christian teachers.

D. It is hard for me to imagine a Christian not wanting to attend a Bible class on Sunday morning and another one on Wednesday evening. It is difficult for me to imagine one who loves the lord and wants to go to Heaven ever considering not attending Bible class.

1. We need all the study and knowledge of God's Word that we can get.
2. Bible classes, based on age groups, can contribute meaningfully to learning more about God and His will for your life.

THOSE WHO MISS BIBLES CLASSES, DO SO FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS.

A. Some have health reasons for not coming.

1. Some health issues are temporary . . . others more prolonged . . . others are indefinite.
2. Some attend in spite of lingering health issues.
3. For some, to awaken with sleepy matter in their eyes is sufficient enough to keep them home.

4. For people who are not dedicated enough to the Lord to attend will find that any excuse will do to justify their decision to themselves. Yes, but what about to God?

B. Some have vocational reasons for missing.

C. Some simply are not interested in spiritual things.

E. Some believe "the preaching is enough for them."

1. While that may seem flattering to the preacher, preachers know that any one sermon period is not sufficient to cover all aspects of a subject, while at the same time does not provide an immediate format for asking questions in order to receive immediate feedback.
2. Bible classes provide opportunity for discussion and questions that may not be considered in a sermon.

F. Some believe the classes to be dull and irrelevant.

1. I am afraid that sometimes that could be the case.
2. It takes both the students and the teacher to make for a more interesting class.
3. Not all the foods you eat are your favorites. Nonetheless, your body profits from them.
4. Something profitable can be gleaned from every class.

G. Some just get out of the habit and discipline of coming. As long as one has breath in his lungs, it is not too late to begin again.

FIVE REASONS FOR ATTENDING BIBLE CLASS

A. Because we love the Lord and His Word. We want to study the Bible and learn all we can about the One we love and serve.

1. Bible study is a great place to learn more about God. **1 John 2:3-6** – "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar,

and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”

2. The more we know of God the more we will love Him.

Jesus said in **John 17:3** – “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” Bible classes help us to come to know god better.

B. We are interested in improving the spiritual quality of our lives . . . to be able to live the best lives possible.

1. Bible classes open the door to a richer spiritual life.

2. Through Bible study we learn how to improve our spiritual lives.

3. **2 Peter 3:18** – “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”

4. Many rich treasures await every period of Bible study.

C. We are interested in the interaction and fellowship we gain from brothers and sisters.

1. In larger assemblies like this, none of us will get to know everyone here in a close and personal way.

2. Bible classes offer an opportunity to develop close and lasting relationships with people who are our peers.

3. We learn from other in the Bible class. **Proverbs 27:17** – “As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.”

D. We are interested in the example we set before others . . . and before the world.

1. I want our children and grandchildren to know that the church is important.

2. I want our children to know that God and Christ are important.

3. I do not want our children to be lost because we have neglected our faith.

4. I do not want our children to be lost because they could have know better but didn't. **Hosea 4:6** – “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”
5. We want the elders to know that by attending Bible classes we are willing to cooperate with them and do what is best for our souls.
6. Faithful brethren do not want to ever be a “stumbling block” or an “excuse” for some weaker brother or sister to point to as the reason why they quit coming to Bible class.

E. We want to attend Bible classes because we believe it is what God wants us to do.

1. **Titus 3:1** – “...Be ready for every good work.” I believe Bible classes are a good work.
2. Bible classes can help bring us closer to God. Bible classes can help bring God closer to us.

CONCLUSION:

A. Does it really matter whether or not you attend Bible classes?

1. Yes, it matters because the elders, who care for your souls, have made Bible classes available for all age groups . . . but many say not to their efforts.
2. Yes, it matters because it is an opportunity to grow spiritually in ways that you otherwise would not.
3. Yes, it matters because by your absence you are conveying to others that Bible classes are not important.
4. Yes, it matters because one day you will die and then face the judgment with a deliberate history of not trying to learn more about God, and not trying to serve Him better.

B. Brethren, it is not too late to change. It is not too late begin . . . it is not too late to begin again. [The Plan of Salvation](#)

