

## BIBLE STUDY

By Donald Townsley

This is a thing that is sadly neglected among Christians. Ignorance of Bible knowledge is far too prevalent. We, as members of the body of Christ, need to realize that God no longer winks at ignorance (Acts 17:30). The sad thing of it all is that many are willfully ignorant, not taking advantage of the opportunities provided to learn what the Bible teaches. Sunday morning Bible study, Sunday night preaching service, and Wednesday night Bible study is forsaken by many, indicating that they are not "*hungering and thirsting after righteousness*", nor "*desiring the sincere milk of the word*". Neither are they putting the kingdom of heaven first! People who habitually miss these services without a legitimate reason have let the cares of the world "*and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the Word*" (Mark 4:19), causing them to lose interest in the study of God's word.

Some reasons for attending Bible classes: It is a command to study the Bible. Peter said, in 2 Peter 1:5, to add knowledge. It would be impossible to add knowledge without study! Paul said in Eph. 5:17, "*be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is*". An understanding of His will comes only by a study of that will. Paul told Timothy to give "*attendance to reading*", (I Tim. 4:13), also "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*" ( II Tim. 2:15).

The Bible class affords an opportunity to study and learn more of what the will of the Lord is. They also present an opportunity to see ourselves as God sees us. The Bible is the true mirror for the soul (James 1: 23 - 25).

By attending the Bible classes we gain knowledge with which to teach others. The religion of Christ is a taught religion. Jesus told His apostles to "*Go . . . teach all nations, . . . teaching them to observe all things . . .*" (Matt. 28: 19 - 20). The Hebrews were rebuked for their lack of preparation to teach others (Heb. 5:12).

We should attend the Bible classes to better prepare ourselves to give an answer for the hope that is in us ( I Peter 3:15). Also, we can prepare ourselves to defend the faith (Jude 3). Let us all take advantage of these opportunities provided to learn more of God's will concerning us.

(Taken from South End Broadcast, January 1961)