



# Bible STUDY HOUR

"Teaching and admonishing one another." "Give diligence to present thyself approved."  
H. LEO BOLES

## Classrooms

The time was when the teaching was done by the preacher. Three-quarters of a century ago all the teaching in the churches of Christ on Sunday was done by the sermon method. Conditions have changed. At that time one auditorium was sufficient, as only one teacher, the preacher, claimed the attention of the people. It is unfortunate that many of the church buildings have only one room, and that the main auditorium. Since conditions have changed, and since there are many teaching on Sunday morning, classrooms are needed. It is to be regretted that in many towns and villages church houses are built according to the old pattern and are wholly inadequate to meet new conditions. The writer attended a Bible school not long ago in which there was one medium-sized auditorium and ten or eleven classes in that auditorium. There were so many classes that they almost blended into each other. It is impossible to do the most effective teaching under such conditions. No church house is "modern" or adequate for the needs of a community now that does not have its classrooms. There ought to be as many classrooms as there are classes.

Every church house should be constructed with the view of accommodating classes. The building should be designed by some one who thoroughly understands the work of the church through its Bible school. The building should be designed for a definite purpose, with clear ideas as to the usage of its various parts. It should be arranged for actual work; it should be practical in all of its details. Elders of the church and others who have influence should see that arrangements are made for suitable classrooms. The time is past when one auditorium meets the needs of the usual church. Some churches can meet the actual needs of the Bible school with their present building. Some do this by fitting up the basement; others have added rooms to the main auditorium. Many churches which are now struggling along in the single room could with little difficulty erect a plain, well-lighted addition in which the classes could meet. The day has passed when a teacher is able to say truthfully that nothing is needed but the grace of God in their hearts and Bibles in their hands. Favorable circumstances aid much in all kinds of work.

Some attention should be given to the equipment of the classroom. Pictures and maps should be used or displayed so that each member of the class could get the benefit of it. Charts should be used for the smaller children and blackboards for others. The Bible-school teacher should be equipped for the work just as the day-school teacher is equipped in the public school. It is more important to teach the word of God to people than it is to teach them the arts and sciences of the public schools; hence, more attention should be given to the equipment of the classrooms, and all necessary helps should be placed in the hands of the teachers. When those in authority give more attention to the building of church houses and the equipping of classrooms, there will be better results obtained. More emphasis is put on the Bible-school work now than ever before. Different religious bodies are stressing as never before the work of teaching young people the Bible. The Lord's people must place the proper emphasis on this phase of church work if they would please the Lord.

In the classes of children especially the successful teacher must give some attention to the problem of order in the class. Very little teaching can be done where there is confusion. Some teachers find it almost impossible to maintain order in their classes; others, no better equipped mentally, perhaps in some respects inferior, can take a class and without difficulty maintain good order. Why this difference? Why can one have good order in the class and another teacher take the same class and soon it is in confusion? Is it a matter of chance? Is it a mystery that one has learned and the other has not learned? What is the principle by which a teacher can maintain good order in the class?

The question of discipline in a Bible class is always an important question. In the day school the teacher may resort to different methods of punishment when the student does not behave, but in the Bible class the teacher does not have access to any such method of discipline. The students know this, and oftentimes take advantage of the situation. Disorder in the class usually marks the difference between a successful teacher and an unsuccessful one. One or two disorderly students will create confusion in the entire class. The attention and energy of the teacher are consumed in an effort to keep the students quiet. The teacher has no time left to give instruction. Of course, if a teacher must give all the time to keeping order in the room, it would be just as well not to have the class. The teacher has the great task of teaching the lesson to the students, and this must be done or failure is the result.

The keeping of order in the classroom is essentially within the possibilities of every teacher, if only the conditions are observed. What are the conditions? What are the methods that a teacher may use to keep good order in the class? Sometimes the fault is with the teacher. Sometimes the teacher is for some reason nervous and fretful and goes to the class in that condition. One cannot command respect and control others who cannot control himself. The teacher should seek to be in the best possible condition in order to control the class. Every teacher should be well-poised, self-possessed, and dignified in bearing, and should possess an even temper, never appearing before the class in an irritable, fretful, or angry mood. Such conditions will be closely observed by the student. No one can keep order outside when there is disorder within his own heart and mind.

A loving sympathy toward the pupils manifested by the teacher is a guarantee toward good order. A teacher should like the pupils. The pupils will soon learn whether or not this is the fact. They are quick to discern the attitude of the teacher toward them. If his attitude is wrong, he will soon lose the power of discipline over them; if his attitude is right, the students will soon learn this and will yield readily to suggestions and give no trouble by way of disorder. No fussy teacher can keep order in the class. Efforts should be made to keep the students interested. Various methods of instruction will often gain the entire attention of the class. This is the secret of a successful teacher in the matter of discipline. If teachers will do this, they will have solved the difficult problem of discipline.

Some would like to see the bright lights of New York, while others think they would enjoy the scenery at the World's Fair. Still another would like to go abroad and view some of the ancient glories of the old cities. Many of us would like to visit the Holy Land and see many things that the fathers of old looked upon. But we all long to see what John saw while he was exiled on the isle of Patmos. "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven."—J. D. Moss.