

# The Brown Street Beacon

*"...Shine out among them like beacon lights,  
holding out to them the Word of Life" (Phil 2:15-16)*



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## WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND BIBLE STUDY?

It is always disappointing to me that these kind of articles are necessary. It seems to me that every Christian should love to attend Bible study. Our Bible classes should be just as full as our worship services. The truth, however, is that in most local churches some people just do not come out for Bible study. On Sunday morning they feel like the assembling does not get started until the worship service that includes the Lord's supper begins. On Wednesday evenings (or whenever a church has mid-week Bible study) many who attend on Sunday feel it unnecessary to come out for the Bible study. Why is that? I can't say because I do not have the ability to read the hearts of men. It does give an impression, however, of a lack of commitment to Christ and an overall lack of interest in the Word of God and spiritual things. It would be wonderful if, at least on Sunday mornings, we had just as many attending Bible study as we do in the worship service. A little drop off on Wednesday nights is understandable because some are not able to get out at night, but there is no legitimate reason, so far as I can see, for Christians not to come out an hour earlier on Sunday morning to study the Word of God.

Just why should you attend Bible Study anyway? Let's look at several good reasons.

**1. Bible study is profitable.** It is in our own best interest to study the scriptures. It is good for us spiritually to make an effort to come out to Bible study and to have the opportunity to search the scriptures as often as possible. Paul tells us that the scriptures are profitable (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). Five things are mentioned by Paul in this passage. The scriptures are profitable for (1) doctrine, (2) reproof, (3) correction, (4) instruction in righteousness (5), and to furnish unto all good works. These are not five insignificant things. They are all very important to the welfare of our souls. At any given Bible study, we can profit in one of these areas, and many times more than one. This alone is a good reason to attend Bible study.

**2. Bible study causes growth.** Every Christian who is concerned about growing will attend Bible study. Sufficient spiritual growth is impossible without a proper diet of God's Word. There are too many Christians who are not as mature as they should be because they do not spend enough time in the Word of God (Hebrews 5:12-14). Do you study the Word of God like you should? Do you take advantage of opportunities to attend services that might enhance your spiritual knowledge? Most people who avoid making a commitment to attend Bible study usually do not study very much outside of Bible class. They become stagnant and grow weak spiritually. Are you allowing that to happen to you? If so, the only person who can do something about it is you. Make a commitment to Christ. Determine to start coming to all Bible classes so that you can grow in the Lord the way you should.

**3. Bible study produces faith.** It was Paul that told us that faith comes by hearing the

Word of God (Romans 10:17). It is no coincidence that those who attend every service the church offers are those who are strongest and have the most faith. The Word of God makes a person strong in the faith. This is why the devil wants to keep people away from the Bible. He knows that faith leads to a pleasing relationship with God, and he knows that the Word of God is the source of faith. Don't let the devil beat you. Equip yourself with the Word of God so that you can stand against his assaults. Attend every Bible class and build up your faith.

**4. Bible study helps us to distinguish truth from error.** We have a responsibility to know truth and fight against error (Ephesians 4:14; 5:11; 1 John 4:1). Those who can't recognize false doctrine for what it is will be lead astray and will lose favor with God (2 Timothy 2:15-17). Bible study helps Christians in this area. In many Bible study classes, specific false doctrines are exposed and passages that can help combat the error are revealed. One's ability to rightly handle the Word of truth is thus increased. Doesn't that make coming to Bible study worthwhile?

These are all good reasons to come to Bible study. It is profitable; it will help you to be a better Christian; it study will help the local church because everyone else will be edified by your presence and will learn from your own personal thoughts and comments on the subject being taught. And let's not forget that when it is all said and done, attending the assembling of the saints is commanded by God (Hebrews 10:25). Do what is right. Support your local church by being at services every time there is a Bible study going on. You will not regret it.

*Don*

## Choosing to Serve

*Jay Bowman*

**T**here are two kinds of people in the world, those who choose to serve God and those who serve Him anyway. It is true that God does not interfere with man's freedom of choice. Man may decide whether he wants to be pious or sinful. And yet, so totally does God control the universe that those who choose not to serve Him serve Him anyway. The exact way He does this is mysterious and wonderful. Yet, the bible teaches that God enlist the service of men and women who really intend to serve only themselves.

Take Nebuchadnezzar for instance. He thought he was smart enough and powerful enough to do the things he did in the kingdom of Babylon. He built a word empire. The building he constructed, the armies he mustered and the power he wielded were wonderfully, incredible. He congratulated himself on his accomplishments. But, God taught Nebuchadnezzar that God Himself rules in the kingdoms of men and that He gives that power to whomever he chooses.

Nebuchadnezzar thought he was serving Himself, but he was serving God. God used him to discipline His people (and other nations) and to fulfill the threats given when he made His covenant with the Jews, warnings later repeated to them by the prophets.

Both types of person are "set apart" for God. His saints are set apart as His special people. The word saint implies both "made holy" and "set apart." People who choose to serve God have a very special relationship to Him. He takes notice of them

and treats them as His own. They are His special, holy people, His "saints."

But, those who reject God are "set apart" also. The Amalekites, for instance, were set apart, set apart for destruction. The city of Jericho with everything in it (except Rahab and her family) was set apart for God. They were set apart for destruction. They were "cherem" in the Hebrew bible, "anathema" in the Greek.

All things were created by and for God, and all serve Him in one way or another. Some are vessels of honor; some are vessels of dishonor. All are vessels of an irresistible God.

Which are you? Are you a vessel of honor or dishonor? Are you pledged to God as a saint, or are you devoted to destruction? Are you set apart for mercy and favor or for annihilation? Is it for salvation and well-being or for total, horrible, irrevocable destruction? You are set apart for something. There are two possibilities only. The wise will choose the better part.