

BIBLE CLASS ---YOUR EXAMPLE

by Dennis Abernathy

Have you ever given any thought concerning the example you set by being faithful to attend Bible classes? Or, run it by in reverse. Have you ever given any thought concerning the example you set by not being faithful to attend Bible classes? My Christian friend, young eyes are watching you. People in the world are watching you. Paul said in Ephesians 6:4, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." A part of training is example.

When your son or daughter grows up and is lost to the Lord, it will be too late to wring your hands and say, "I just don't know where I went wrong." If you put little importance on Bible classes and Bible teaching, and this is shown by your failure to attend the services of the church, let me tell you NOW--ahead of time---where you are going wrong! You are failing to teach your children, and you are failing to reinforce that teaching with a good example. What do you expect? Your children, more than likely, will grow up to be just like you---unfaithful to the Lord and of little value to the Lord's church. Parents, please listen to me. How much better it will be to set that good example of being in Bible class with your children regularly and see them grow up faithful to the Lord and productive in His service.

Ask those who are faithful to the Lord NOW, but who worry and pray for their children because they are lost to the Lord because of the poor example they set before them earlier in life. They would do better NOW if they had it to do over again. They are sorry and penitent and are doing all they can to repair and restore that life they allowed to go awry. But, sad to say, many times it is too late. On this point I like the following little poem. You read it and ponder the words very seriously.

My dishes went unwashed today:
I didn't make the bed,
I took God's hand and followed
To Bible class instead.

That my house was neglected,
that I didn't sweep the stairs---
On twenty years no one on earth will know,
Or say he even cares.

But that I've helped a son or daughter,
boy or girl, to noble adulthood grow.
In twenty years, the whole wide world,
May look, and see, and know.

God said to Abraham, "For I know him, that he will command his children, and his household after him, and they shall keep the word of the Lord . . . " (Gen. 18:19). Friend, does God know this about you? Think about it NOW and you won't have to be sorry later.