

## *“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”*

Acts 16:30

### **Learn The Gospel**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17;

### **Believe On GOD In CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

### **Confess CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

### **Repent Of Sin**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

### **Be Baptized Into CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

### **Remain Steadfast**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

## *“Let The Word... Dwell In You Richly”*

Colossians 3:16

The new memory assignment is: *“All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left”* (Matthew 25:32-33).

Commit this passage to memory. Read it, write it, hear it, and say it.

## *“The Assembling Of Ourselves Together”*

Hebrews 10:24-25

### **Sunday**

10:15 am.....Worship

Las Vegas Library

833 Las Vegas Boulevard North

### **Tuesday**

7:00 pm.....Ladies' Study

Winstead residence

### **Wednesday**

7:00 pm.....Study & Worship

Jerry & Beverly Dockens residence

**Visitors Welcome.  
Members Expected.**

## *“Give Attention To Reading”*

1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:13

**Sunday**...Psalm 69:22-36; Judges

11:29-13:23; Luke 11:53-12:21

**Monday**...Proverbs 15; Judges 13:24-

15:20; Luke 12:22-40

**Tuesday**...Proverbs 16; Judges 16:1-

17:13; Luke 12:41-59

**Wednesday**...Psalm 70; Judges 18:1-

19:9; Luke 13:1-21

**Thursday**...Psalm 71:1-11; Judges

19:10-20:23; Luke 13:22-14:6

**Friday**...Psalm 71:12-24; Judges

20:24-21:25; Luke 14:7-24

**Saturday**...Proverbs 17; Ruth 1:1-

2:16; Luke 14:25-15:10

# *“Sound Doctrine”*

Titus 2:1

## **“SUNDAY SCHOOL”**

**OR**

## **“BIBLE CLASS”?**

David McPherson

Over the years the phrase "Sunday School" has been coined to refer to a Bible class for young people on the first day of the week. I personally prefer calling it "Bible Class" as that designation emphasizes God's good book as the content to be taught. Sadly, though, calling these 30-45 minute periods "Bible Class" would be inaccurate in some churches. More and more we see and hear of glorified crafts classes where children have very little Bible impressed upon their precious minds.

Can scripture be taught to young ones? Timothy's guardians thought so. Paul wrote, *“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:15). The word "child" from that passage literally means "infancy". From his earliest of days, Timothy was feeding upon the wonderful words of life. I'll guarantee his knowledge of the holy scriptures was not dependant upon the number of bird feeders or wind vanes he constructed.

Let's not insult the intelligence of our little people. Sure, there may be a prop, visual aid, or project that helps reinforce the Bible point we are making. But please let us make sure the Bible point is being made. After all, it is supposed to be a Bible class.

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# “DO NOT JUDGE ACCORDING TO APPEARANCE”

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Jesus taught *“Do not judge according to **appearance**, but judge with righteous judgment”* (John 7:24). Despite the plainness of His instruction, generations of Christians have so misunderstood another scripture as to render these words of the Lord meaningless.

Paul wrote, *“Abstain from all **appearance** of evil”* (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:22 KJV). Some would interpret this verse to mean that it is wrong to engage in any activity that could **appear** to a casual observer to be sinful. This is not the correct understanding of the apostle’s words. Paul intended to convey to his readers that evil must be avoided every single time it **appears**; not that anything which appears to be evil must be avoided. The confusion is cleared away by more straightforward language in nearly every other translation: *“Abstain from every **form** of evil”* (NKJV, NASB, ASV, ESV).

Many examples in scripture disprove the notion that appearance deserves such a premium.

When Joshua dispatched two spies to Jericho, *“they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there”* (Joshua 2:1). The fact that these Israelites immediately entered a brothel upon their arrival in Jericho would certainly appear to be evil to many observers, but they were on a mission from God.

When the Reubenites, Gadites, and Manassites took possession of their tribal territories on the east side of the Jordan, they erected *“a great, impressive altar”* (Joshua 22:10). The immediate reaction of their brethren across the river was to prepare for war (Judges 22:12) since they appeared to be practicing idolatry. However, the purpose of the altar was to serve as a memorial so that their descendants would remember their kinship with those across the river and to remind them of their service to the Lord (Joshua 22:26-29).

When Ruth followed her mother-in-law’s instructions to lie down where Boaz had gone to bed (Ruth 3:3-7), she risked the appearance that she was compromising her chastity, but there was nothing untoward

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about her actions. In fact, her virtue was commended (Ruth 3:11).

When Mary was *“found with child... Joseph her husband... was minded to put her away”* (Matthew 1:18-19). The fact that they had yet to consummate their marriage coupled with the fact that she was pregnant led him to the conclusion that she was guilty of fornication, yet she was innocent, for she was *“with child by the Holy Spirit”*.

Jesus, our Master, was often perceived by the Pharisees to be practicing wickedness. They accused Him of violating the Sabbath (Matthew 12:2-8), of keeping company with sinners (Mark 2:16-17), and of blasphemy (Luke 5:21). Christ, though, was sinless in every way.

The spies might have looked like they were enjoying the services of a prostitute, the eastern tribes may have appeared to practice idol worship, Ruth might have looked as though she was inviting lewdness, Mary was perceived to be guilty of sexual immorality, and Jesus’ behavior stirred the suspicions of His neighbors, yet none were guilty. In every case, the right course was to withhold judgment.

This is not to suggest that a Christian should be totally unconcerned with appearance. Jesus did command, *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”* (Matthew 5:16). Influence is powerful and must be wielded carefully.

In two passages, Paul observed that eating meat offered to idols was not sinful, but the weak may not understand and be thus emboldened to violate their consciences; therefore, in some cases, it might be best to abstain from what is not sin. The apostle penned, *“It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak”* (Romans 14:14), and *“Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 8:13).

Balance is in order. In cases that cause others to assume the worst and falsely accuse, we should proceed to do that which we know to be right, regardless of their evil thinking. However, in cases that embolden others to do what they are otherwise uncomfortable with, causing them to violate their consciences, we should surrender our liberty to prevent them from stumbling.