

Attending Isn't Learning

by Wayne Goff

Educational institutions all around us are pretty much in full swing now and children and young adults alike are beginning the new semester. We must constantly be reminded though that **attending** class is not the same as **learning** in class. I remember well from my school days how creative some kids are in getting around studying! What they don't realize is that they are only robbing themselves. Education is a privilege, a blessing and a wonderful opportunity. The more we learn from various *disciplines*, the more we stretch our minds and the more balanced our thinking and our outlook on life. If only we could impress this upon all students while they are in school!

The sample applies to the church. We have sermons, Bible classes and homework as well. Some sit back during the sermon and "view" everything around them as though the effort were a spectator sport! They do not seriously engage their mind in the study of God's Word nor glean from the hours of study put in by the preacher or Bible class teacher. They are robbing themselves of greater knowledge, understanding and wisdom. In the spiritual realm, the consequences are even more stark than those in secular education!

Jesus invites all disciples to "*take My yoke upon you and **learn** from Me...*" (Matt. 11:29). He did not say let someone else pick up the yoke while you ride on the wagon! He taught the multitudes in parables so that the true seekers could **learn something** while the *indifferent* would miss out! Matt. 24:32; Mk. 13:28. Paul said that even the Old Testament was preserved "*for our **learning***" (Rom. 15:4).

Moreover, Paul reminded Timothy to "*continue in the things which you have **learned** and been assured of, knowing from whom you have **learned** them*" (2 Tim. 3:14). So we must continue in what we have learned in the past. Peter said that his last epistle was written so that he would "*not be negligent to **remind** you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth*" (2 Pet. 1:12). The truth of the matter is that we never stop learning if we are the kind of disciples Jesus expects us to be.

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