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## “Study to Show Thyself Approved Unto God”

Fred Nowell

Christians have a responsibility to accomplish (to the best of our ability) the “Great Commission” of our Lord to “*go and teach all nations,*” “*baptize*” those willing to subject themselves to Christ and continue “*teaching them to observe all things*” to Lord commands so that we might be “*saved, and...come unto the knowledge of the truth*” (Mt 28:19-20; 1 Tim 2:4). The apostle Paul never looked back after becoming a Christian. He considered his life to be the Lord's. Paul said to the saints in Rome, “*For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's*” (Rom 14:8). There is no guessing where Paul's affections or sight was set (Col 3:1ff). In fact, Paul counted “*all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus...for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ*” (Phil 3:8).

As parents, we have the God-given responsibility to bring up or raise our children “*in the discipline and instruction of the Lord*” (Eph 6:4). As Christians, we also have the God-given responsibility to grow or mature continually in the knowledge of Christ. This was the fervent prayer of Paul as well as the minister Epahhras for the saints in Colosse, concerning their great love and spirituality, “*For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God...stand perfect and complete in all the will of God*” (Col 1:9-10; 4:12).

Brother Ira North in his wonderful book titled BALANCE: A Tried & Tested Formula For Church Growth said something like this: “*If you do not offer classes for all ages on Sunday and Wednesday, don't expect all ages to show up!*” In order for us to offer classes for all ages, we must have a good number of teachers that are knowledgable and able to teach. In order for all our teachers to be fed and learn as well, there is a need for teachers to alternate or rotate throughout the year. In a recent article, I read a startling comment that I believe to be very true and worthy of our attention. The writer told of a statistic that said, “*More than eighty percent of those baptized have been taught in Bible*

*classes.*” This was the case for this writer and may just be the way you were taught the Truth. Our Bible classes have been on the rise for a few years. There is a great number of people committed to teaching our young and old alike. There are many that support these teachers by making every effort to bring their children, grandchildren, friends, etc. as well as attending the adult classes. In doing this, you show respect for the teacher and tell them that their efforts, studies, and labor are important to you and that you appreciate them.

We are very appreciative to have those who freely give of their time and talents to teach others the Word of God in the classroom, in the pulpit, and more importantly in the home. There is no substitute for Bible study, so “***Be dilligent to present yourself appreed to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightyly dividing the word of truth***” (2 Time 2:15). “***Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...***” (Heb 10:24-25).

We'll see you in class!