

Sabbath School Work

The Sabbath school work is **important**, and **all who are interested in the truth should endeavor to make it prosperous.** {CSW 9.1}

The Sabbath school is an important branch of the missionary work, not only because it gives to young and old a knowledge of God's word, but because **it awakens in them a love for its sacred truths, and a desire to study them for themselves;** above all, **it teaches them to regulate their lives by its holy teachings.** {CSW 10.4}

1. They Shall all be Taught of God

Independent Religious Thought

It is written in the prophets, And **they shall be all taught of God** **John 6:45**. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto Me." None will ever come to Christ, save those who respond to the drawing of the Father's love. But God is drawing all hearts unto Him, and only those who resist His drawing will refuse to come to Christ. {DA 387.4}

In the words, "They shall be all taught of God," Jesus referred to the prophecy of Isaiah: "**All thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children.**" Isaiah 54:13. This scripture the Jews appropriated to themselves. **It was their boast that God was their teacher.** {DA 387.5}

Hebrews 8:8 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant ... 8:10 For this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 8:11

And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. 8:11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

THEY SHALL KNOW ME

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: "All thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children." Isaiah 54:13. This scripture the Jews appropriated to themselves. It was their boast that God was their teacher. **But Jesus showed how vain is this claim; for He said, "Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto Me." Only through Christ could they receive a knowledge of the Father. {DA 387.5}**

JOB 36:22

Behold, God exalteth by his power: who teacheth like
him?

THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD

Who is the alternative teacher?

Matthew 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, **teaching**
[for] doctrines the commandments of men.

WILLIAM MILLER'S EXAMPLE

Endeavoring to lay aside all preconceived opinions, and dispensing with commentaries, he compared scripture with scripture by the aid of the marginal references and the concordance. He pursued his study in a regular and methodical manner; beginning with Genesis, and reading verse by verse, he proceeded no faster than the meaning of the several passages so unfolded as to leave him free from all embarrassment. {GC 320.1}

THE LESSON'S EXAMPLE

December 15, 1888

(Commit to memory the verses in Peter which form the basis of this lesson.)

THE LESSON'S EXAMPLE

"Seek to know what the book (Ephesians) says and means, not what the lesson writer may mean. His earnest desire is to open the book to all. Therefore study the book." - 1903, Quarter 3.

THE LESSON'S EXAMPLE

"Use the notes and suggestions only as a means of studying the text itself, and **do not allow the mind to be diverted by them from the study of the text.** Otherwise they are a hindrance instead of a help... **There is constant danger of being diverted from the study of God's thought, as expressed to us in His word, to the study of what some man (the lesson writer) has thought about God's thought.**" - 1896, Quarter 3.

THE LESSON'S EXAMPLE

"You do not stand in need of what somebody (the lesson writer) thinks; what you want is knowledge, and "the Lord giveth wisdom; out of His mouth cometh knowledge and **understanding.**" Prov. 2:6. You may question the Lord very often, for He "giveth to all liberally, and upbraideth not."" - 1900, Quater 3.

THE LESSON'S EXAMPLE

"There is no better way to express the thoughts presented in the Scriptures than in the very words of the Scriptures, and teachers are therefore urged to require that **the answers to the questions shall be given in the exact words of the text.** ...Do not consider any lesson properly prepared until any question which will admit of being answered in the words of the text set apart for the lesson, can be readily answered in the exact words of the text without looking at the printed text. This can not be accomplished by a hasty reading of the lesson a short time before the Sabbath school...

THE LESSON'S EXAMPLE

... There is no one who can not profitably read the portion assigned fifty or a hundred times during the week. Read it, question it, meditate upon it, until your brain sees it, and you can read it intelligently in the dark." - Lesson Writers

STILL PEOPLE OF THE BOOK?

Adventist Review, June 17, 2008:

‘Still "People of the Book"?’

...According to the group, “substantial minorities lack even the most basic working knowledge of the Bible. Almost **one out of 10 teens believes that Moses is one of the 12 apostles**. About the same proportion, when asked what Easter commemorates, or to identify Adam and Eve, respond ‘don’t know,’” the Bible Literacy Project report stated.

STILL PEOPLE OF THE BOOK?

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‘Still "People of the Book"?’

... Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, revealed more details in a 2004 commentary: **“Fewer than half of all adults can name the four Gospels. Many Christians cannot identify more than two or three of the disciples.** According to data from the Barna Research Group, 60 percent of Americans can’t name even five of the Ten Commandments. ‘No wonder people break the Ten Commandments all the time. They don’t know what they are,’” Mohler quoted George Barna as saying.

STILL PEOPLE OF THE BOOK?

Adventist Review, June 17, 2008:

‘Still "People of the Book"?’

... All this could be amusing and interesting, but for the fact that within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, pockets of biblical illiteracy exist. In 2003 world church leaders were told the results of a 2001 world survey conducted by Andrews University professor Roger Dudley that revealed less than half of Adventist church members around the world are involved in daily Bible study and prayer.

WHAT IS BIBLE ILLITERACY?

Adventist Review, June 17, 2008:

- lack even the most basic working knowledge of the Bible
- Moses is one of the 12 apostles
- Fewer than half of all adults can name the four Gospels.
- Many Christians cannot identify more than two or three of the disciples.

ARE PASTORS LITERATE?

allow me to introduce you to one of the most ignored commandments of all time. **The third commandment.** The Bible says in Exodus chapter 20 and verse 3 (NKJV), together: **"You shall have no other gods before Me"**

ARE PASTORS LITERATE?

... the third commandment answers the question: “who is your God”?

Why this illiteracy?

WHY THIS ILLITERACY?

The Sabbath school is an important branch of the missionary work, not only because it gives to young and old a knowledge of God's word, but because **it awakens in them a love for its sacred truths, and a desire to study them for themselves**; above all, **it teaches them to regulate their lives by its holy teachings.** {CSW 10.4}

John 6:45 – They shall all be taught of God.

“If I were not a pastor, I would never attend Sabbath School.” So stated a church leader interviewed for this study. Another admitted, “I am really ashamed of my Sabbath School. I would never invite anybody, especially non-Adventists, to attend my Sabbath School class.” A seminary professor said, “I remember the classes in only one Sabbath School that I truly enjoyed in my entire life.” A Sabbath School leader acknowledged, “Sabbath School is dying if it is not already dead...” - Whatever Happened To Adult Sabbath School?, Ministry Magazine, August 2019.

“3. Sabbath School is an educational institution, although not formal, **so Sabbath School attendance is influenced by the quality of its teaching and learning process.** Cultural and technological changes have dramatically impacted teaching and learning strategies over the past century, and these may not always have been reflected in the way Sabbath School classes are conducted. An adequate teaching and learning method, carefully and culturally contextualized, could result in better attendance at Sabbath Schools...” - Whatever Happened To Adult Sabbath School?, Ministry Magazine, August 2019.

“This study reveals that even in a postmodern culture such as twenty-first-century North America, **adult Sabbath School is better attended in those places where the Bible is used as the primary teaching resource.** ^[Quality of its teaching] No other resources, as relevant as they might seem to be, were perceived as a replacement for the study of God’s Word. The Bible was and continues to be the foundation and driving force for a successful Sabbath School...” - *Whatever Happened To Adult Sabbath School?*, Ministry Magazine, August 2019.

SABBATH SCHOOL AT HOME

AS IT SHOULD BE

On the Sabbath **the few friends here assembled in Edson's parlor for a Sabbath-school.** There are **four families--twelve persons in all--**who usually meet for worship. **Edson conducts the Sabbath-school when he is at home.** **After Sabbath-school they either have a Bible-reading or a prayer and social meeting. This is as it should be.** The family altar should be established in every home; and **if in any locality there are no more than two or three of like precious faith, they should meet together.** "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another; and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." {RH, October 14, 1884 par. 2}

It is impossible to tell what may be the result of the small beginnings at Kansas City. If meetings are held regularly, **and those not of our faith are invited to attend, precious seed may be sown which will bear fruit in the kingdom of God. It is not the greatness of the effort, but the unconquerable persistence, that wins.** If each will labor on to the utmost of his capacity, large results will be seen by and by. Success in any enterprise can be gained only through sincere prayer, earnest effort, and stern conflicts. Let none become discouraged because of the feebleness of the impressions they are able to make on the world, and thus become weary in well-doing. It is true that you are few in numbers; but united with the world's Redeemer, you may be mighty through God to the pulling down of the strongholds of the enemy. Go to God for strength; ask him for wisdom, for right words, for opportunities to come close to hearts. God will hear you; angels will be round about you, and will second your efforts. {RH, October 14, 1884 par. 4}