



THE ENCOURAGER

Help for Sunday School Teachers— Dedicated to those who take the Word of Life to Children Everywhere

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WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

We feature Ormer Sprunt's answer to the question.....

2. What is the Sunday School Teacher's Work?

It is to instruct the young in God's Word. Many of the places around us are setting the Bible to one side. Works are introduced, more on social topics with religious tendencies. In this way the child is trained for earth and not for heaven. Methods that are not in accordance with God's ways ought to be very much avoided. Hold fast the form of sound words. Teach from God's Word. Valuable help can be obtained from others who are fundamentally sound. Seek what help you can.

The Bible then being the text book of the teacher, his work is to teach the children in a steady and systematic manner, and from every page of scripture find opportunity to bring the gospel message to the hearts of his young hearers.

Guard against reading favourite parts here and there without order. On the other hand avoid a cold and dry exposition of chapter after chapter—giving a certain amount of useful information—but without an endeavour to lead the children to Christ.

The work of the teacher is different to that of an evangelist or preacher of the gospel. The preacher simply delivers his message from God. He appeals and proclaims salvation to them from the bible. He does not train or catechize his listeners. The work of the teacher is to store the mind with God's Word and ways, thus forming a solid foundation. Again we remind ourselves of young Timothy—"From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation." How important it is NOT to fill the minds with confused ideas of God's Word!

Many in after years have had to lament the way in which they had been taught. Day school teachers of English History would not give a fact from one era, an anecdote from another, and a few incidents from somewhere else. If so, the result would be utter confusion in the mind of the child. The Sunday School teacher should consider well the question, What is my work? It is not reading hither and thither, but carefully and prayerfully reading through the Bible explaining as clearly and connectedly as possible the facts in the portion, laying bare the silver vein that assuredly underlies the whole, and presenting Christ to the young heart. Seek to lay a firm and solid foundation of God's own way, trusting to Him to bless it. If the work is thoroughly done, it will spring up in fruitfulness sooner or later. At any rate, the workman will have no cause for shame.

A teacher should not speak to his class as if they knew the Bible. Treat them as entirely ignorant of it. He is to carefully & systematically make them acquainted with the whole of the Bible, which is no small task.

Never fail to present Christ Himself. In some cases the truth of this lies bright and sparkling on the surface of the passage so that the child is instantly attracted; in other cases deeper down, so that he needs to be sought for, so to speak, by the teacher and shown to his young listeners. Such is the teacher's true work, and on it he can with confidence ask God's blessing.

Indolence is a great barrier to successful work and needs to be constantly fought against. I am convinced that there are hundreds of teachers who are unawares giving way to this besetting sin. Let every teacher watch, because it can easily hide itself under another name.

It is easily seen that if the teacher's work is to be carried out honestly, it needs a large amount of labour, a great acquaintance with the Word of God, and grace to bow to its value! Without a doubt the judgment seat of Christ will have its reward, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Matthew 25:21



The child is trained for earth and not for heaven !

