



# Is Bible Class Biblical?

December 19, 2021 Sunday AM Bible Class  
of the Trilacoochee church of Christ

# There Have Been Bible Classes From The Beginning

- Patriarchal Age
  - Gen. 9:8-9 - “Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: ‘And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you.’”
  - Gen. 18:19 - “For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice...”

# There Have Been Bible Classes From The Beginning

- Early Mosaic Period
  - 2Chron. 15:3 - “For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law.”
  - 2Chron. 17:8-9 - “And with them he sent Levites... the priests. So they taught in Judah, and had the Book of the Law of the LORD with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the people.”

# There Have Been Bible Classes From The Beginning

- Late Mosaic Period
  - Neh. 8:7-8 - “Also Jeshua... and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people stood in their place. So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.”

# There Have Been Bible Classes From The Beginning

- Close of the Mosaic Period
  - Luke 19:47 - “And He was teaching daily in the temple...”
  - John 7:14 - “Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught.”
  - John 8:2, 4 - “Now early in the morning, He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them... they said to Him, ‘Teacher’...”

# There Have Been Bible Classes From The Beginning

- The beginning of the Christian Dispensation
  - Acts 5:42 - “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”
  - Acts 18:24-26 - “Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”

# Can A Local Church Conduct Bible Classes?

- There are no verses that say, “Thou shalt hold Bible classes in local churches.” However, the scriptures authorize and mandate the practice.
- The authorized office of teacher in the church
  - Eph. 4:11-12 - “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”



# Can A Local Church Conduct Bible Classes?

- The authorized office of teacher in the church
  - 1Cor. 12:28-29 - “And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?”
  - Gal. 6:6 - “Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.”
- Local churches are required to have active teachers; this tacitly presupposes the existence of Bible classes



# Can A Local Church Conduct Bible Classes?

- All Christians need to make the effort develop teaching ability
  - 2Tim. 2:24 - “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient”
  - Heb. 5:12 - “For though by this time you ought to be teachers...”
- Not all Christians will become teachers
  - James 3:1

# Can A Local Church Conduct Bible Classes?

- Elders are responsible to feed the flock; part of that is determining how often and to what extent the local flock feeds.
  - 1Peter 5:2 - “Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers...”
  - Acts 20:28 - “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

# Can A Local Church Conduct Bible Classes?

- How classes are conducted is determined by autonomous congregations.
  - By sending individuals out to teach one on one - Acts 5:42
  - By holding studies in homes - Acts 10:24-25, 33
  - In public settings - Acts 16:13-14
  - In facilities rented or owned by the local church - Rom. 16:5

# Can A Local Church Conduct Bible Classes?

- Bible classes are a work of the church, but not the exclusive work of the church.
  - The scriptures speak of individuals who taught apart from the direct oversight of a local congregation - Acts 8:26-40
  - The scriptures speak of families who gather for Bible study - Eph. 6:4

# Can A Local Church Conduct Bible Classes?

- The scriptures speak of schools of prophets who studied the law of Moses and the prophets
  - 2Kings 6:1 - “And the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, See now, the place where we dwell with you is too small for us.”
- The scriptures speak of groups of teachers and preachers traveling about teaching and preaching
  - Acts 21:8 - “On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.”

# Who Is To Be Taught In The Bible Classes?

- Doesn't the Bible say that children are to be taught at home?
  - Fathers are to teach children
    - Eph. 6:4 - "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."
  - Mothers are to teach their children
    - Prov. 1:8 - "My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother"
    - 2Tim 3:15, 1:5

# Who Is To Be Taught In The Bible Classes?

- However, Jesus and John taught children that were not their own offspring.
  - Mark 10:14-16
  - 1John 2:13 - “I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.”



# Can A Sister Teach Bible Classes?

- Yes
  - Titus 2:3-5 - “The older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children”

# Can A Sister Teach Bible Classes?

- However, there are limits on whom, where, and when a woman may teach.
  - A woman may not exercise authority over men in a formal, spiritual setting.
    - 1Cor. 11:3; 1Tim 2:11-15
  - However, she can participate in teaching a man in an informal setting.
    - Acts 18:26

# Can A Sister Teach Bible Classes?

- A woman can participate in a Bible class so long as she does not oversee it -- silence in church notwithstanding.
  - 1Cor. 14:34-37
- Even in the assembly, there are occasions where women must speak.
  - Singing - Eph. 5:19
  - Confession before baptism - Rom. 10:9-10
- Women spoke in spiritual gatherings.
  - Sapphira responded to Peter's question - Acts 5:8
  - Rhoda announced Peter's release - Acts 12:12-15

# Is Bible Class A Part Of Worship?

- The scriptures recognize that there is a difference between a Bible class and a worship assembly; it is based on the intent and purpose for the gathering. To be a part of worship, it must be done when the whole congregation is called together for the purpose of worship
  - 1Cor. 11:18, 20, 33 - “For first of all, when you come together as a church... Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper... Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.”

# Is Bible Class A Part Of Worship?

- In a worship assembly, 1) All, 2) Come together, 3) To worship.
- In a Bible study, 1) All, 2) Separate into different classes, 3) For the purpose of Bible study.

# Is Bible Class A Part Of Worship?

- Not every assembly of brethren is for worship
  - Acts 15:4, 6, 22 - “And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them... Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter... Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas”

# The Bible Emphasizes Bible Study

- We put heavy emphasis on Bible classes in this local congregation, because the word of God puts emphasis on Bible study as a work of the church.
- In view of the fact that God's word requires it, the elders here are diligent to make sure they are quality classes, and the teachers do an exceptional job teaching them, then why are some choosing to wait until after the classes to come on Sunday morning or treating Wednesday night lightly and negligently?



# The Bible Emphasizes Bible Study

- You are required to study the word of God.
  - 2Tim. 2:15 - “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
- If you are convinced that you are getting sufficient Bible study without the teaching you receive in Bible classes, then you know more than the Lord; for, He wills that your Bible study be supplemented by Bible study supplied by the local church.