

The Sterling Herald

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Church of Christ

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Teacher Appreciation by Eric Stauffer

This week will see teachers celebrated across the country. They will be offered special discounts and the like to acknowledge the great job they are doing. The fact that we appreciate our teachers is good. We need to appreciate teachers for the effort they put in to the classes they teach. That said, for teachers to be appreciated there must be students to teach, otherwise there would be no teachers to appreciate. What we do not get in this day and time is appreciation from the world for teachers of the Bible.

The appreciation of Bible teachers may not happen nationally and that is probably a good thing. Why would I say that? If our efforts were the subject of a national campaign to appreciate us by granting us discounts and the like, what would that drive in us? What it would drive in us is the approval of men. What was it that Jesus criticized of the people? Several things, specifically one of them was those who sought the approval of men and in seeking that approval they failed to confess Jesus as Lord(John 12:43).

It is that approval that we do not need. While it may be alright to praise the teachers in the school system, there is another teacher that needs to be appreciated and that is mother and father. Parents are to be the teachers in the home for the next generation. Paul gave this instruction in both the letter to the church in Ephesus and the church in Colossae (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21). We need good parents teaching in the home and encouraging their children just as Paul admonished those in those two churches to. Without them teaching and guiding, what will we have? We will have the same problem Israel did in the days of the kings and judges. We will have people who do not know God and that is a huge problem that we want to avoid.

Another teacher that needs to be appreciated is the preacher and all Bible class teachers. We need to be grateful for those who are making the effort to educate the next generation concerning the word of God as well as firming up the current generation in their faith and knowledge of God's word. These are to be commended for their efforts to bring the light to a lost generation. We need to appreciate the want to teach and encourage by being good students and listeners to the lessons brought from God's word.

The kind of appreciation needed is not a public campaign, rather the local church needs to see to it that constant encouragement is given to teach and live the truth of God's word. We also do not need to take one week out of the year to do so, rather let us take every effort and every opportunity throughout the year to do so. This will help in the effort to teach the gospel in every

environment we are in. God bless us in this and all things that bring glory to His revealed word.

Psalm 124

Had it not been the Lord who was on our side,” Let Israel say, 2 “Had it not been the Lord who was on our side When people rose up against us, 3 Then they would have swallowed us alive, When their anger was kindled against us; 4 Then the waters would have flooded over us, The stream would have swept over our souls; 5 Then the raging waters would have swept over our souls.” 6 Blessed be the Lord, Who has not given us to be torn by their teeth. 7 Our souls have escaped like a bird from the trapper’s snare; The snare is broken and we have escaped. 8 Our help is in the name of the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

Week 18 reading plan:

Monday: 1 Samuel 18-19; 1 Chron. 3; Psalm 59; Acts 13

Tuesday: 1 Sam. 20; 1 Chron. 4; Psalm 56,57,142; Acts 14

Wednesday: 1 Sam. 21-22; 1 Chron. 5; Psalm 52; Acts 15

Thursday: 1 Sam. 23-24; 1 Chron. 6; Psalm 54; Acts 16

Friday: 1 Sam. 25; 1 Chron. 7; Acts 17

Family Matters

Prayer List: *Linda Adams; Roselle Grisham; John Frazier; Donnie Bunch, Howard Whittlesey, Elizabeth Matthews,*

Out of town: *The Cielo's, The Frazier's*

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