

*June 28, 2015*

## **WHEN SHOULD YOU BE A BIBLE CLASS TEACHER?**

*Pat Cowden*

When we consider such a question, it is appropriate to ask some personal questions about our knowledge. After all, you cannot teach what you do not know. Perhaps we would do well to ask ourselves these questions:

- Where do we read about the beginning of the church?
- Where do we find the chapter on faith?
- Where do we find the chapter on love?
- Where do we read about Moses receiving the Ten Commandments?
- Could you point someone to the conversion account of Paul (Saul of Tarsus)?
- Where do we read the letters to the seven churches of Asia?
- What verse is considered the Golden Text of the Bible?

Congregations of the Lord's church (including South Anchorage) need good bible class teachers. We are coming up on the end of a quarter and some who could teach need to. The Hebrew writer wrote in Hebrews 5:12, "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you come to need milk and not solid food." One of the implications of this verse is that at some point a person is expected to be ready to teach. Another implication is that some will not be prepared and will need to be "retaught" elementary things in order to be prepared.

If you are not currently prepared to teach, but want to be a vital part of the growth of this congregation we want to help you become a great teacher. One of the things we can do is allow you to be a co-teacher or assistant for a period of time as you acclimate yourself to the classroom and learn effective techniques for teaching. We have one person who is doing that at this time and would welcome more who are interested. If you have never taught and want to fulfill the expectation the Hebrew writer clearly lays out, please see me and let us help you do so.

Brother Glenn Colley tells the story of a time when he was newly married. He had a "brilliant" idea to buy 20 acres of land, plant walnut saplings on it, and when he was 60-65 years old he would sell the trees and that would be his retirement. He shared his idea with a brother in Christ who was a forester. This brother smiled and laughed and Brother Colley asked him what was so funny. He said, "Glenn, it takes 150 years to grow a marketable walnut tree. You would never live long enough to see the fruit of your labors. God grows walnuts, men grow pines."

The only way this idea would make sense is if the grower was planning on blessing future generations, say great or great-great-grandchildren. That is what we are doing when we prepare ourselves to be the best Bible class teachers we can be. We are blessing future generations of the Lord's kingdom. For those that teach older classes we are blessing the current members of the kingdom as well.

God bless, I love you and want to go to heaven with you.