

Changing the Future

What can possibly change the future? Americans are hearing a lot these days about change. Each presidential candidate promises positive change for America. What can really change the future? There is a group of individuals that week after week in congregations all over this world who are surely changing the future of our world in a very positive way. Who are these individuals? They are Bible class teachers! These, who without laud and noisy fanfare, continually prepare to teach and to share God's Word. What is involved in becoming a faithful Bible class teacher?

Firstly, there is the **consideration to teach**. Before an individual steps foot into a classroom to teach God's Word, he or she must seriously consider the warning, "My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation" (James 3:1). The word "masters" here refers to an instructor or a teacher. James was certainly not discouraging teachers, but rather he was reminding those who would teach that there is great responsibility attached to the teaching of Holy Writ. Bible teachers deal with eternity, and as such, in a very real way, they hold the future of the souls that they teach.

Secondly, there is the **command to teach**. God's directive is clear, "...teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19b-20a). Just think of the thousands of "nameless" individuals each week throughout the Lord's church who are obeying this command. How many faithful missionaries, preachers and elders "got their start" in a Bible class? This is where many begin their biblical education. Talk about changing the future! God's design has always been, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). **God's truth is consistently passed from one generation to another by those who teach.**

Lastly, there is the **compensation to teach**. While there is usually little financial compensation given to those who teach God's Word, there is a greater reward. Paul reminded teacher Timothy, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (1 Timothy 4:16). What greater compensation could be given (cf. Matthew 16:26)?

What can really change the future? God's Word is the only thing that can really bring about positive change in our world today. No president, no government and no political party can change the future. Yet, those who handle aright (2 Timothy 2:15) the Word of God and share it continuously can make positive changes for the future. Become a faithful Bible teacher today and change the future. Our world needs you badly!

By: Rodney Nulph