

“PLAYING HOOKY”
Matthew 28:16-20

Introduction:

- 1. I started the first grade in a one room country school.**
 - a. My older brother and his buddy decided to “play hooky” (not go to school) one day.**
 - b. I followed their example and played hooky too.**
 - c. It was the only “whuppin” I ever received in school.**

- 2. The USA has always placed great emphasis on public education.**
 - a. Public schools were started so children could learn to read the Bible (Massachusetts’ “Old Deluder Law” of 1647).**
 - b. We spend more money on education than any other nation.**
 - c. At least ten years of education is mandatory in every state.**
 - d. The law requires every student under 16 to be in school.**
 - e. Students come from all over the world to attend American schools of higher education.**

- 3. There are thousands of classrooms that are hardly ever used.**
 - a. They are comfortable, lighted, heated and air-conditioned.**
 - b. They are well furnished with the finest educational aids.**
 - c. They are occupied only two days a week for about 45 minutes each time.**
 - d. They are the classrooms in our church buildings!**

- 4. Christian parents will not permit their children “to play hooky” from school, but see no need to educate them for eternity!**

- 5. The children of Israel were sent into captivity because they were not taught God’s law:**

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest

for Me. Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children” (Hosea 4:6).

Discussion:

I. OUR NATION IS PERISHING FOR LACK OF BIBLE KNOWLEDGE.

A. The Bible was once held in high esteem in America.

- 1. Many of the earliest settlers came in order to have religious freedom.**
- 2. Scripture quotations are found on our oldest public buildings and monuments.**
- 3. Our national motto is still “In God we trust!”**
- 4. The speeches and writings of our founding fathers are filled with references to God and the Bible.**
- 5. For 180 years, the Bible was in the public schools.**
- 6. Prayers in the name of Jesus were offered at graduations, football games and school assemblies.**
- 7. Today, the Bible and prayer in Jesus’ name are banned from our taxpayer supported public schools.**
- 8. Sunday school attendance was once the norm.**

B. With the neglect of the Bible, our nation has lost its way!

- 1. Divorce is rampant; many live together (Heb. 13:4)!**
- 2. One half of all children are born to unmarried parents.**
- 3. 1.5 million babies are murdered in their mother’s wombs every year - 3,000 every day (Prov. 6:16,17)!**
- 4. We are lied to by politicians, the media, businesses, and we lie to one another (Colossians 3:9).**
- 5. Homosexual “marriages” are legal throughout the land (Leviticus 20:13; Romans 1:26,27; 1 Cor. 6:9,10).**
- 6. Millions are addicted to alcohol and drugs (Eph. 5:18).**
- 7. Acceptance of euthanasia is growing (Genesis 9:6; Revelation 21:8).**
- 8. Good and evil are reversed by many (Isaiah 5:20).**

9. **Clay Christensen, professor at Harvard Business School, asked a visiting economist from Communist China what he had learned about America that he did not know before he came. He replied: “I had not realized the importance of religion in a democracy. Democracy works because people voluntarily obey the law. IF YOU TAKE AWAY RELIGION, YOU CAN NOT HIRE ENOUGH POLICE!!”**

II. THE HOME IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TEACHING GOD’S WORD!

- A. **Under the Law of Moses, parents were commanded to use every opportunity to teach their children:**

“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:6-9).

- B. **Under the Law of Christ, parents are also commanded to teach their children:**

“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

III. THE CHURCH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TEACHING GOD’S WORD TO ALL AGES!

- A. **Under the Old Covenant, the child of Hebrew parents was born in a covenant relationship with God.**

1. **As he grew older, he had to be taught about God.**

2. Under the New Covenant, we must first be taught before we can be in covenant relationship with God.

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: ‘I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD;’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them” (Hebrews 8:10,11).

- B. The Great Commission requires teaching both before and after conversion (Matthew 28:19,20):

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations. . . teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.”

- C. One cannot become a Christian without first hearing the Gospel and that requires a teacher:

“For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent” (Romans 10:13-15)?

Conclusion:

1. Only about one half of those who attend worship assemblies also attend Bible classes on Sunday and Wednesday.
2. I estimate that fewer than 10% of Christians read the Bible daily.
3. The number who teach their children in the home would be less than five percent!
4. We must be taught before we can obey the Gospel (John 6:45).

