

Take God To School

Introduction. Back to school means buying school supplies: pencils, pencil boxes, crayons, protractors, backpacks, etc. It also means doing homework, keeping appointments, and remembering to practice. But let's not forget about God!

God (1 John 4:12) and Christ (Galatians 2:20) lives in us when we do His will in every place. Our government is pushing God out of public life, but Christians reflect God in every aspect of life — even at school. So what should the young Christian do?

I. Arm Yourself With God's Word

- A. Only the Bible reveals God's will (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- B. God's word gives strength and protection (Ephesians 6:10-18).
- C. God is wiser than human teachers (Psalm 119:97-100).
- D. Prepare your heart to seek God's law like Ezra (Ezra 7:10).

II. Put God First In All Activities Of Life

- A. Put spiritual concerns and commitments first in your life (Luke 4:8). There are several wonderful examples of people who put God first:
 - 1. Enoch (Genesis 5:22, 24).
 - 2. Noah (Genesis 6:9).
 - 3. Abraham (Genesis 12:4).
 - 4. Joshua (Joshua 24:15).
 - 5. Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:3).
 - 6. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:16, 18).
 - 7. Daniel (Daniel 6:10).
 - 8. John the Baptist (John 3:29-30).
- B. Put God first by obeying the gospel (Acts 22:16; Philippians 3:7-11).
- C. Put God first by pressing forward to grow as a Christian (Philippians 3:12-14).
- D. Put God first by making time to worship Him in private and public (Matthew 6:5-13; Hebrews 10:23-25).

III. Let Your Light Shine For Truth And Righteousness

- A. Our life is a light to people lost in darkness (1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Peter 2:11-12).
- B. Choose friends carefully and be a leader not a follower (Psalm 1:1; 119:63; Proverbs 1:10; 13:20).
- C. Be filled with truth and right, not intoxicated with alcohol and drugs (Ephesians 5:17-20).
- D. Be a light by sexual purity — do not play with fire (Proverbs 6:23-28).
- E. Set an example in dress, language, and other habits — do not conform to the world (James 1:27).

IV. Be Honest And Diligent In All You Do

- A. Tell the truth to parents, teachers, friends, and everyone else (Matthew 5:33-37). Job's attitude is commendable in this area (Job 27:4).
- B. Be honest in all school work, part-time jobs, or any task entrusted to you (Ephesians 4:25-28).

- C. Be diligent in all activities as unto the Lord — not lazy, complaining, or making excuses (Colossians 3:22-25).

V. Practice The Golden Rule

- A. The “golden rule” summarizes all duties to mankind (Matthew 7:12).
- B. Stand for truth and right, but do not become arrogant, self-righteous, and hypercritical (Matthew 7:1-5).
- C. Apologize and correct wrongs against others (Matthew 5:23-24).
- D. Be considerate — do not bully, hound, ridicule, or torment the less fortunate (Romans 12:16).

Conclusion. Wherever God’s people go, God is present in their lives. So we need to take this to school, but there’s a lot of people in this room who need to take these five principles everywhere. People all around us are lost in sin and need our help to find the way of salvation — we must teach them (Acts 5:42). We cannot help others if we ourselves do not obey the gospel. Why do you tarry (Acts 22:16)?