

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Teaching The Bible In Public Schools

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**S**chools are huddling to find ways to teach the Bible as they anticipate permission to add the Bible to their curriculum. One poll shows that eighty percent of parents want their child to take the course if offered in their school. Religious people are excited, anticipating the teaching of the Bible in schools where God and prayer have had to exit due to decades of humanists' protests and judicial rulings.

Recent legislation allowing the phrase “under God” to be added to the pledge to the Texas flag along with teaching the Bible, if a school district so desires, may give some hope that the pendulum is swinging back from extreme antagonism towards God having any place in public schools. However, please note the restriction placed on the Bible being taught in the schools: it cannot be taught “religiously” or as promoting a particular faith. The Bible will be taught as a piece of literature, pointing out its historical place in society.

The purpose of the Scriptures is not to be a noble addition to world literature, standing alongside the writings of Aristotle

and Shakespeare. It claims to be “*God-breathed*” or “*given by inspiration of God*” and profitable for “*teaching for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness that the man of God may be complete furnished completely unto every good work*” (2 Timothy 3:16). The self-proclaimed purpose of the Bible does not allow it to be taught without distinct application. How do you teach the Bible without driving home the point that the Bible is the very word of God and still claim that you have taught the Bible? How do you claim you have taught the Bible when you cannot reprove or correct the ways many are living while instructing the student in the way of righteousness as revealed in the Bible?

The purpose of the Bible is to show man the way of salvation in light of sin entering into the world from the beginning of man's creation. Man taken from “*the tree of life*” in the first book of the Bible—Genesis, sees himself united with it and eternal life in the last book of the Bible—Revelation (Genesis 3:24, Revelation 22:14). The Bible clearly points out Jesus as “*the way, the truth and the life*” (John 14:6), and the one whom God, through

Moses and the prophets, pointed to throughout the history of man (Gen. 3:15, Gal. 4:4, Lk. 24:44-45). Pointing out this distinct unifying message of the Bible will probably not be taught when the Bible is taught in school.

The purpose of the Bible is not to be merely valued as historical literature, but to be followed or obeyed. Jesus' distinction between the “foolish” and the “wise” was that the foolish heard the word but did not do it, while the wise not only heard but did the word of the Lord (Matthew 7:24-27). Even more narrowing is the words to be heard and put into practice were Jesus' - “*words of mine*” (Matthew 7:24, 26). To teach the Bible is not to guide one into appreciating its literature, but to emphasize God's demand that one follow its distinctive way.

The New Testament clearly teaches “*one faith*” which is the saving faith in Christ (Ephesians 4:4, John 3:16). To not teach that there is only one faith that saves is to ignore the purpose of God revealing his mind to us in the Bible. Parents, you will still have to teach your child the Bible, even when they are “taught” it in school!