



Jeff Sweeten

# *Thus Saith the Lord*

## **LEARNING**

By Jeff Sweeten

A new school year is in motion, wherein parents seem to sigh in relief and children bow their heads as they trudge back to the mines of mental wealth. Perhaps this is too bleak a picture since I discovered, to my shock and pleasure, that a young lady at the church of Christ said she was looking forward to heading back into the classroom. There are the missed friends and the “fun” activities that begin in earnest (sports, band, etc.). Frankly, young people actually like to learn! For what other reason is “why” the most frequently used word in their vocabulary? The greater issue might be with what they learn, how quickly they learn, or how much they learn, which has to do with the environment and methodology connected with the learning. It is silly to expect someone to learn right while being taught wrong.

If children are placed in an environment that encourages and rewards learning, they will not only learn, they will learn that learning is intrinsically rewarding. The true teacher will impress upon the student that learning is a way of life, not just x-number of years of grueling punishment, a mental initiation or rite of passage into John Mayer’s “real world.” If children are given every opportunity to understand principles that foster right thinking, as opposed to regurgitating meaningless facts in order to pass a test, they will be able to assimilate new information without fear, trepidation, or hesitancy. Life will become a challenge in exercising their gray-matter instead of another day to dig a deeper rut. “New” is only scary for those who no longer have the capacity to think. Further, the quantity of information available to young minds is endless and constitutes a challenge to live learning. Bright minds tend to see positive opportunities as opposed to the negative obstacles on the road of life.

This challenge is even more challenging for the Bible Class teacher. We face a variety of distractions, from mind-dulling media to mind-bending drugs. Entertainment has created couch spuds and the brain-numbing impact of these activities (and calling them “activities” is a misnomer) has produced a society of non-thinkers. To encourage a Bible student to read his or her Bible may be stifled by the fact that they do not even read. Incredible events with vivid exposition that leap from the pages of the Good Book constitute a challenge for young people who are used to having their imaginations tube fed through a green screen.

Teaching the Bible must be an innovative and committed endeavor, beginning with the boundaries of Bible authority. Bible teachers must use all the resources at our disposal in this battle for the mind of Bible students, teaching them that leaning, particularly from God’s Word, has no end. To fail the Bible student is to fail our society. Ungodly, unscriptural innovations are an immediate consequence of not knowing God; someone failed to teach and/or someone failed to learn. As a fact, ignorance is not bliss.

*Thus Saith the Lord*  
is presented by the

## **Park Heights Church of Christ**

1300 E. Boynton St.  
Hamilton  
254-386-3953

### **Schedule of Services**

#### **SUNDAY**

9:30 a.m. Bible Class  
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship  
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

#### **WEDNESDAY**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Please call or email if you  
have a question or comment  
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