

WHAT I HAVE SEEN IN SIXTY EIGHT YEARS # 23

While living in Lufkin, 1966 – 1972, I befriended a person that was very interested in the Bible and it's teaching. He came to me one day and asked if I would help him become acquainted with the New Testament. This presented an opportunity that I was greatly pleased to help him with.

I had talked with him many times and had formulated a concept of his knowledge of the Bible. I also knew him well enough to know he was an able speaker and could handle himself quite well before and audience. So, I suggested to him, *"You need to ask the Elders for a class to teach,"* – I had in mind a teen class; or, something like that. About two weeks later he informed me, he had been appointed a class and was looking forward to teaching. I ask him, *"What class will you be teaching?"* He responded by saying, ***"The Auditorium Class on Sunday morning!"*** I thought, *"O brother!"*

I thought of which book of the New Testament he needed to teach; so, I suggested the book of I Corinthians. The reason for this was the many different subjects discussed in the book and that there would be a moving along real quickly, which will be good. Also, there would be many different subjects that he would have opportunity to study and present. He had about four weeks to prepare for the first class. Often, we would have coffee together, in the morning, which would last about an hour; so, we took opportunity, at this time, to discuss his class. We studied about Paul, his conversion, his preaching and his abode in his homeland. Careful consideration was given to Paul's work with the church at Antioch of Assyria. Paul's first journey and the second journey, where the brethren in Corinth were converted, was considered.

I introduced him to Young's Analytical Concordance, W. E. Vine's dictionary of New Testament Words, helped him to see the need of a good "Dictionary of the Bible, this would help him with mountains, rivers, streams, peoples, places and things – this brother was catching on real fast, **he had a mind to learn** and was using it to the fullest. Certain commentaries were suggested, and he purchased them. It seemed as though, whatever was presented, he quickly could comprehend and understand the subject, circumstances and how important such was in bible study. **He had a good memory.**

When he started teaching his Sunday morning class, we had a plan for that. Monday, for coffee, we would go over the lesson for the next Sunday morning. On Thursday morning we would consider all the possibilities, of the lesson and clear up any misunderstanding. Friday was trouble shooting day and considering what subject might arise – he was always ready and anxious for the class on Sunday morning. This plan continued from week to week, and soon, I began to get reports concerning him doing a wonderful job in his Sunday morning class.

Sometime later, this brother was so respected by the brethren, he was appointed as one of the Elders of the Lord's Church! There were many times he was instrumental in directing the Eldership in the right direction, for truth. He was respected, by the other elders, for his bible knowledge. A study of the Word of God served him and others well.

Many were the times he would call and ask a question, after I left that congregation, and I would ask him, *"What has your study taught you about this subject?"* For the most part he was always right on the subject being asked about. His study served him well.

This brother has *"gone the way of all the earth."* He came out of the Baptist Church – often, he would comment, ***"I just did not learn anything about the bible from the Baptist Church!"*** How could I disagree with his statement!

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