

## **LEADERSHIP LESSON # 72: WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO IN SUNDAY SCHOOL** **COLOSSIANS 2:1-4**

OUTLINE BY GARY HARVEY

In our Sunday School meetings, many times we focus on the WHAT of Sunday School. In other words, we focus on how we can better REACH, TEACH, and CARE for people. The focus of this lesson is on the WHY. Why do we do what we do in Sunday School? If we ever lose sight of the WHY, we then become merely mechanical and we lose sight of the reality that we are dealing with the lives of people.

**1. We do what we do in order to bring encouragement to the lives of those in our classes. (2:2a)**

The word used here for encouragement is the word *parakaleo*, which means to come alongside of. Paul challenges us to come alongside of one another and bring encouragement to one another as we live life and face all the challenges that come our way. There is no doubt that as Sunday School classes meet each week, that there are going to be people in your classes that are in need of encouragement. The best place and way to insure that this encouragement is being offered is in a Sunday School class that is organized through care groups to make those contacts, track down those that fall by the wayside and to provide ministry to those that are struggling.

**2. We do what we do in order that our people would be unified in love. (2:2b)**

We share our common thread of love as the basis for our unity. It is not our own love, but it is the love of Christ that flows through us. Practically speaking, when we are unified in love – it brings glory to God; it serves as a great witness to the world; and it enables us to bring new people into the life of the church and Sunday School.

**3. We do what we do in order to see our classes encounter life with a firm understanding of the Word of God. (2:2c-4)**

Paul's desire was to see the believers experience the full riches that come from the full assurance of understanding the truth of the Word of God. The word understanding implies that process of applying the Word of God to our everyday lives. When we understand the Word and apply it to the point of it affecting the way we live, it truly gives us full assurance of our place in Christ and gives us the ability to face whatever comes our way. The Bible is always right and always true.

At the heart of understanding the Word and applying it to our lives, is the centrality of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of all. If we miss it with Jesus, we miss it everywhere else.

In case you didn't realize it, we live in a scary world that is constantly challenging what you believe and why you believe it. In Sunday School, we have the opportunity to answer the questions that people are asking and help them develop a firm ground to stand on as they learn day by day to trust the Lord and His Word.

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