

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

John Edwards

It's back to school time! Each year before school, children are provided a list of school supplies. From a spiritual standpoint, here are some things to take with you to school.

A PURPOSED HEART.

Daniel remained faithful to God because he *“purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself”* (Dan. 1:8). One reason many do evil is they are lacking purpose of heart (2 Chr. 12:14). Make up your mind now, before you go to school, that you will not do anything that will corrupt you.

YOUR LIGHT. Most schools today are filled with darkness. You will need to *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”* (Mt. 5:16). As you go back to school, don't forget to take your light.

SOUND SPEECH. A lot of speech that can be heard at school is not sound. Be sure to take to school *“Sound speech that cannot be condemned”* (Titus 2:8). Remember you will be judged by your words (Mt. 12:37). Use your mouth to do good (Col. 4:6).

VIRTUE. Peter said, *“And*

beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue...” (2 Pet. 1:5). Virtue is courage to stand up for what is right. Many will not stand up for what they believe in. There is always pressure to be like others. Be courageous and take a stand!

As you round up supplies for this school year, don't forget the most important ones.

LET NO MAN

John Edwards

The words *“let no man”* are found 25 times in the word of God. We make appeal to this Biblical expression as we try to make application to our lives.

LET NO MAN STRIVE. The prophet Hosea said, *“Yet let no man strive...”* (Hosea 4:4). To strive is to struggle or fight forcefully. Paul told Timothy, *“charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit”* (2 Tim. 2:14). Again it is written, *“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men...”* (2 Tim. 2:24). These words when applied will bring about peace and unity within the Lord's body.

LET NO MAN DECEIVE HIMSELF. The Corinthians were admonished, *“Let no man deceive himself...”* (1 Cor.

3:18). A man deceives himself when: He thinks he is something when he is not (Gal. 6:3). He believes God may be mocked (Gal. 6:7). He says he has no sin (1 Jn. 1:8). He seems to be religious but does not control his tongue (Jas. 1:26). Let's not cause ourselves to believe what is not true!

LET NO MAN SAY, “I AM TEMPTED OF GOD.”

Discussing temptation James stated, *“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man”* (Jas. 1:13). God does not tempt man to sin. A man is tempted *“when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin...”* (Jas. 1:14-15). There is a real need for us to endure temptation (Jas. 1:12).

THE CHRISTIAN AS A TEACHER

John Edwards

There are many different aspects to the life of the Christian. This writing calls to our attention the Christian as a teacher of the word of God.

THE CHRISTIAN IS EXPECTED TO TEACH. The Lord expects His people to be

teachers of the word of God. Jesus commanded, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...” (Mt. 28:19). Paul wrote Timothy, “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2). The Hebrew writer penned, “...ye ought to be teachers...” (Heb. 5:12). Early Christians understood they were expected to teach as they, “... went every where preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). Thus, the Christian is responsible to teach God’s word to others.

THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD WANT TO TEACH. There are many reasons why the Christian should want to teach the word of God. We consider four reasons why the Christian should want to teach others: (1) To be like Christ. Jesus was a teacher (Mk. 6:34), and we are admonished to “follow his steps” (1 Pet. 2:21). (2) To fulfill responsibility before the Lord. Christians have the God ordained duty of teaching others

(2 Tim. 2:2). (3) To save self. Paul said, “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee” (1 Tim. 4:16). (4) To share with others the blessings of being in Christ. Don’t you want others to receive the same blessings you have come to enjoy in Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:3)? There should be a burning desire within us to speak the word of God. Jeremiah uttered, “But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones...” (Jer. 20:9).

THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD WANT TO BE A BETTER TEACHER. We must recognize the importance of developing and improving our ability to teach God’s word. The Lord requires Christians to develop skill in teaching His word. 2 Timothy 2:24 records, “And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach...” This is also one of the qualifications of elders (1 Tim. 3:2). The expression “apt to teach” means to be skilled in teaching. Paul instructed the Colossian

Christians, “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Col. 4:6). Teaching the Bible effectively is a skill that can be learned with sincere desire, proper training, and hard work. Let’s dedicate ourselves to becoming the best teachers possible.

May we devote ourselves diligently to teaching the word of God and improving ourselves as Bible teachers.

“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to **teach** in Israel statutes and judgments” (Ezra 7:10).

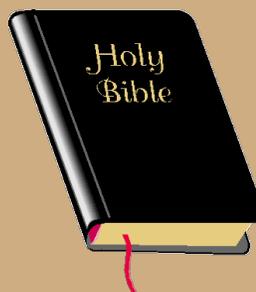
“It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all **taught** of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me” (Jn. 6:45).

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