



**HOW EARLY IS
"TOO EARLY?"**

Wayne's Weekly Words

Is 9:45 AM too early for you to get up and come to our morning Bible Class? I can not speak for any of you, but I can say this is a problem in most churches today.

Some churches have "solved" the problem by having one or more services on Saturday night?

There is an old but true saying that goes like this:

- The attendance on Sunday Morning shows how popular that church is.
- The attendance on Sunday Evening shows how popular the preacher is.
- The attendance on Wednesday evening shows how popular the Lord is!

We have no way of judging how popular Pastor Jim or the Lord are since we only have the Sunday Morning Service. I guess you could add one other item to this.

- The attendance on Saturday night shows how little the people esteem the Lord!

There is an interesting Hebrew term you ought to become familiar with. It is the word שָׁמַר: vb. Hiph. denom. start, **rise, early** (prop. load backs of beasts for day's journey)¹ It is what you need to do when something important is to be done.

So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

Genesis 22:3 (NASB)

When God told Abraham to go to Mount Moriah and offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice, what did he do? I think most people would have lingered around hoping to avoid the inevitable. Not

¹Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew-English Lexicon

Abraham, he rose up early in the morning to obey the Lord's command.

There are those who are described by Solomon,

"A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest," Then your poverty will come as a robber And your want like an armed man.

Proverbs 24:33-34 (NASB)

How well do you **really** know your Bible? Most of you are rather old and may have read through it a number of times. Some may be on a program to read through the Bible in a year. This is a good thing to do but it is not enough. I have been teaching Bible classes for about 45 years now and I still find things, some very important, that I didn't know before.

If Sunday morning is too early for you, there are Bible study groups that meet during the week. You can go to

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/>

To obtain materials for a Bible Class. I am sure there are others but I would not want to recommend one without knowing the background (beliefs).

For the women, there is an excellent way of learning the Bible. That is to have a "Good News Club" in your home or, better yet, teach one! Here are the closest chapters:

CEF of San Luis Obispo County
7755 Atascadero Ave.,
Atascadero, CALIFORNIA
Email: cefslo@yahoo.com
Contact Person: Darren Johnson
Phone: (805) 461-1146

CEF of North Santa Barbara
c/o Bruce Mulcahy, 1229 Barnette Rd,
Santa Maria, CALIFORNIA
Email: ORCTRD2@hotmail.com
Contact Person: Bruce Mulcahy
Phone: (805) 937-7041

So, "rise up early in the morning!"

