

\$100.00 For A Bible Study

By Casey Head

I'm sure the title of this article grabbed your attention. Let me say now before you get too excited that I am not offering \$100.00 to those who agree to have a home Bible study, but what if I did? Most people reject my request for a personal home Bible study, saying that they are too busy or that they already go to church somewhere (as if studying the Bible is reserved for those who are lost), but perhaps if I offered money to people in exchange for their attention to a few Bible lessons I would gain more studies. Isn't that sad?

Decades ago when tent meetings were common, dozens of people would go forward during the invitation to be baptized. Nowadays, you're lucky to have a *half*-dozen visitors show up for a gospel meeting...and rarely does someone go forward to be saved. It is almost as if people today don't have the time to study the Bible. In fact, many are offended when you ask them for a Bible study. But maybe if I offered \$100.00 to people who agreed to study I would be having more Bible studies during the week. Of course, I will never offer money for Bible studies because the gospel is not for sale. I'd rather have five sincere, spiritually-minded people a year agree to home Bible studies than pay fifty uninterested people to study. If someone has to be paid then they are not interested in the truth.

I might expect someone who is non-religious to reject an offer for a Bible study, but most of the people I talk to are "church-going" people. Why would anyone who claims to serve Christ reject an opportunity to study the Bible? After all, the gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16), and it is able to purify one's soul (1 Pet. 1:22-23). Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God," and again in 1 Timothy 4:16, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself, and them that hear thee." Clearly, it is important for Christians to study the Bible...but it really feels like you have to pay people, even religious people, to open the word of God for thirty minutes a week. Why is it that so many denominations advertise banquets and recreational leagues? Because people today aren't interested in the gospel alone. Or is it the other way around? Are people not interested in the gospel alone because denominations have spoiled people with food and frolic?

Again I ask you the question- were you drawn to this article immediately because of the title? If this offer were legitimate, would you be tempted to accept it? Let me make another proposal to you: let's get together for a Bible study, not because either of us is being paid to do it, but because we WANT to know more about the will of God. How about it?