

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

200 A

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



© 2004

MY NAME

DATE

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES are written by Fred D. Whitelaw. They may be downloaded free of charge from our website: www.tpbs.org Make as many copies as you desire. Use them freely. These lessons are designed to promote independent thought in classroom and individual studies. Hole punch and store in 3 Ring Binders. Copyright is to preserve integrity. *Each lesson must be reproduced in its entirety. Changes or partial reproductions prohibited.* For consistency, all quotes are from the KJV, unless otherwise noted.

ACCOUNTABILITY – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. **A Dictionary Definition** Merriam-Webster: an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions. Modern language dictionaries are fine but this definition is quite limited and somewhat inaccurate in light of Bible teaching. Can we always rely on our modern dictionaries when we are seeking scripturally reliable definitions of words? _____
2. **How Account Is Used In Matthew 12** The word *accountability* is not found in the KJV. The word *account* is found 11X in 11V in the NT. In (Mt 12:36) Jesus said, "*That every _____ word that men shall _____, they shall give _____ thereof in the day of judgment.*" Give what? _____ Can one "give account" if he is not mentally accountable? _____ If not, then who is included in this statement? _____.
3. **An Illustration** In Mark's account of The Great Commission (16:15-16), Jesus said, in part, "*Go ye into _____ the world, and preach the gospel to _____ creature.*" What kind of creatures? _____ The Bible speaks of various creatures in the animal kingdom. Is this limited to humans? _____ Infants are human. Did Jesus mean preach to babies? _____ Will infants have to give account on judgment day? _____ It is obviously inferred that these are accountable humans.
4. **The Bible Teaches Man Must Eventually Give An Account** (Rom 14:12) "*So then _____ shall give account of himself to God.*" Does Paul mean those who have never been mentally competent? _____ (2 Cor 5:10) "*For we must all _____ before the _____ seat of Christ.*" Why? _____ (1 Pet 4:5) "*Who shall _____ to him that is ready _____ the quick and the dead.*"
5. **Biblically – What Is Accountability?** (a) It is when the light (of understanding) is available and one has the capacity to receive it. (b) It is whether one could have known, regardless of whether he chooses to know or not. (c) The accountable are responsible. (d) It is not a thing of choice. (e) Only God can determine the degree of it at any given time. (f) Like love, it is not always stationary. (g) One's accountability will decrease or increase depending on external and internal conditions. (h) The final judgment will be based on one's accountability (ie: how hard one tried with what he had available to use). (i) It is possible to reach accountability then lose it (ie: loss of cognitive function).
6. **Some Things That Determine Accountability** (a) The capacity for rational and intelligent thought (cognition). (b) Access, availability, exposure, and opportunity (ie: environment).
7. **Conditions That Affect Accountability** (a) Cognitive ability, heredity, moral, religious and social environmental forces. (b) Time and circumstance. Conditions when one lives, bad or good luck. (c) Stress, health condition, preoccupation with emergency situations, unexpected intrusion by outside forces. James says (4:17), "*therefore to him _____ to do good.*" It is both logical and obvious that you can't do something you don't know to do, and couldn't have known to do. That's why it is so important to inquire, study, and (Eph 5:17) understand the will of God.

[RETURN TO NUMERICAL INDEX](#)

[GO TO PAGE 2](#)