

**Leadership Training**

*Preparing God's People to be*

***TEACHERS  
&  
PREACHERS***

*13 Lessons*



*Prepared by Paul E. Cantrell*

*2009*



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**12 Lessons**

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*"Preparing God's People to be  
Teachers and Preachers."*



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Lesson One

**"The Place of Teachers"**

"So, you want to be a Teacher!" So have many others in the past. But God gives a strong warning to such people—"My brethren, let not many of you become teachers!" (Jas. 3:1). Why would God warn against such when there is such a need for teachers of His Word? He gives the reason: "knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment!" Brother J. T. Wheeler stated it very clearly in the following words:

**Q** *"You are holding a Bible in your hands. You are holding the communication of the*  
**O** *Creator of this existence to you. You are holding the answers to all your questions*  
**U** *relating to life and godliness. You are holding the revelation of the Son of God.*  
**T** *You are holding the Holy Spirit's work. You are holding that which is eternal. You*  
**E** *are holding the righteous standard applicable to all people everywhere. You are holding*  
*the true hope of all humanity. You are holding real knowledge holding the very mind of God*  
*himself! You are holding the truth."*

**Teachers in the Old Testament**

God gave the Israelites the Law through Moses and made arrangements for the people to be taught that Law, knowledge, ordinances, statutes, judgments, the good and the right (Deut. 4:5; Exo. 18:20; 1 Sam. 12:23).

1. Who were to teach all Israel? (2 Chron. 35:3) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who were to teach the children? (Deut. 4:9) \_\_\_\_\_
3. What primary thing was to be taught? (2 Kgs. 17:28) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who will be taught? (Ps. 25:9) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Ps. 27:11) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Prov. 9:9) \_\_\_\_\_
5. What teachers are condemned? (Jer. 28:16) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Isa. 9:15) \_\_\_\_\_

It is easy to see how important proper teachers and teaching was done to the Israelites. When they failed in their job of teaching—disaster came!

**Teachers in the New Testament**

The same emphasis is given in the New Testament for a strong teaching program for God's people. The following Scriptures show that TEACHERS have a place in God's work today also.

**Eph. 4:11-16** \_\_\_\_\_

**Matt. 28:20** \_\_\_\_\_

Titus 2:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_

Rom. 12:7 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Tim. 2:2 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Cor. 12:28-29 \_\_\_\_\_

There is one restriction that is given—that women are not to teach over the man nor assume authority over him (1 Tim. 2:12). She can teach children or other women (Tit. 2:3-4). But she would not be a preacher in a mixed assembly (1 Cor. 14:34).

**Kinds of Teachers?** There are strong admonitions given against those who teach contrary to the Word of God and who are hypocritical in their teaching.

1 Tim. 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Tim. 6:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_

Rom. 2:21 \_\_\_\_\_

Matt. 23:3 \_\_\_\_\_

**What to teach?** The answer to this question is easy to answer. There are several references that show clearly what to teach!

Matt. 28:20 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 18:25 \_\_\_\_\_

Col. 2:7 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Thess. 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Titus 2:12 \_\_\_\_\_

Titus 2:3 \_\_\_\_\_

The Apostles were good examples of this kind of teaching. They were taken before the Jewish council and warned not to teach or preach in the name of Jesus. They did not stop, but spoke the word of God with boldness (Acts 4:31). They filled Jerusalem with their teaching (Acts 5:28) and did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ (Acts 5:42). But.....the Apostles had a good example to follow after—for Jesus constantly taught the people (Mk. 6:30). He taught "***The way of God***" to them (Mk. 12:14; Lk. 19:47; Acts 1:1).

### **Why do you want to Teach?**

We should all want to teach others the "**the way of salvation!**" We all can and should teach our children, loved ones, and friends.....and even strangers! We need to be sure our motive for teaching others is a pure motive or a right motive. Do we ever ask the question—"*what am I doing up before these people? Entertaining them? Impressing folks with my wisdom and knowledge? Proving myself right in all things?*" Our answer should be that we are up there to expose and proclaim the very heart of God, making clear to those who hear who God is, what the Lord likes and doesn't like, what he does and does not do, what he requires, and what he is looking

for in them! (Lev. 10:8-11; Jer. 23:21-31; Acts 5:20). And our teaching will be with diligence (Deut. 6:7).

### **Concluding Thoughts**

There seems to be a distinction between "teaching" and "preaching." Both terms are used in the Scriptures that leads to this conclusion (Matt. 9:35; 11:1; Acts 15:35; 14:21; Eph. 4:11). Teaching often occurs with a smaller group involved—possibly, even one person; while Preaching would seem to be more to the larger group without having questions or a discussion over the topic. It is possible that all of us can be teachers, but a limited number among us would be preachers. There may be other distinction that should be shown, but these should be sufficient to show that both words are used—indicating a distinction. The writer of Hebrews seems to indicate that all should be able to teach at that time, but many were not ready (Heb. 5:12).

### **Questions to challenge us!**

- 1. Why is teaching so important in God's plan for human redemption?**
- 2. At what level does teaching children become a soul-saving project?**
- 3. Would you advise "specialization" for Bible Class teachers?**
- 4. How can we develop more and better teachers?**
- 5. Does placing people as teachers help them to mature and be better teachers?**

Lesson Two

# "Desirable Qualities for Teachers"

**"So, you think you are prepared to Teach?"** *"Yes! I am ready, willing, and able!"* But are you? Even though you may think you are ready, how do the Elders feel about your readiness? *"Should I ask them; or, should I wait for them to ask me?"* Teachers of classes should be chosen by those who are mature enough to properly evaluate each person that wants to or are willing to teach. While it is desirable to have several well-qualified and fully committed Christians to ask to do the teaching of the classes, there may not be sufficient ideal teachers available in the congregation. It would be wonderful if each congregation had many "ideal teachers" to call upon to do the teaching of the church, but that is generally NOT THE CASE! Often, it is necessary to choose someone that has quite a bit of growing to do in order to handle the teaching responsibilities. The Lord has evidently placed the responsibility upon the church to develop teachers. But, if we were looking for well-qualified teachers, what **"qualities"** would we be looking for?

## "Qualities of the Ideal Teacher"

Effective teaching depends upon several factors! Those who want to teach need to be aware of these factors and be willing to be trained to do their job well. We need to be aware that souls are at stake in this matter—and our students deserve the best they can have as teachers of the Word of God!

Is it true that just anyone, whether he has had training or not, is sufficient for impartation of knowledge of the Bible while only the highly trained are permitted to teach secular subjects?

Should not our children, as well as adults, have the right to have efficient teachers of the Bible? If a Bible teacher goes into the classroom unprepared to do the best he can, who suffers? We suggest the following "qualities" that Bible teachers should strive to have in their lives and efforts.

**1. He keenly feels his obligation to God, first and foremost!** This is God's work that we are willing to do—we need to serve Him well!

**2 Tim. 2:15** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2. He keenly feels his obligation to his students!** He definitely has the responsibility to teach God's Word to them.....and it only! The spiritual and eternal welfare of those soul is at stake!

**2 Tim. 4:2** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3. He has faith in the Power of God's Word!** He is not delivering the message of some man or men, but the powerful message of God. He is only the messenger that points the way to an eternal reward.

**Rom. 1:16** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rom. 12:1-2** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Cor. 3:18** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Ps. 19:7** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. He has a concern for the saving of souls!** He does not have the power to save, but God does. He shows his concern by feeding his students this powerful Word.

**2 Tim. 2:10** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Rom. 10:1** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. He has and still is accumulating a knowledge of God's Truth!** He first allows God to teach him, so that he in turn can teach others. He cannot effectively teach what he does not know.

**1 Tim. 4:13, 15-16** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2 Tim. 2:2** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Ps. 119:10** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Ps. 119:11** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Ps. 119:15** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**6. He has the ability to communicate effectively.** He not only has accumulated sufficient knowledge, but he also is developing his ability to communicate it effectively to his students. He can make the message clear and understandable for them.

**2 Tim. 2:24-26** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 18:24** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. He understands the needs and characteristics of his students!** There is not only a need for knowledge of the Word of God, but also the needs of those he is to teach. He has gained understanding of their nature and needs at each period of life, their interests, their attitudes, their problems and difficulties. This can be gained by additional association outside of the classroom.

**1 Cor. 3:2** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Heb. 5:12** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**1 Pet. 2:2** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**8. He is a willing worker!** True teaching requires not only time, but hard work for the teacher and the student. Learning can be a challenge. To be an effective teacher requires constant reading, studying, and seeking greater understanding of truth and life.

**Titus 2:7-8** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phil. 2:12** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**9. He is a growing personality!** God's truth not only comes from his mouth, but through his life. It comes through his character, his affections, and his whole intellectual and moral being.

**1 Tim. 4:12** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Tim. 4:16** \_\_\_\_\_

**"The Greatest single factor in success of any teacher is himself, his personality."**

**10. He is willing to constantly evaluate himself!** And it doesn't hurt to listen to the evaluation of others who hear you teach.

**2 Cor. 13:5** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Concluding Thoughts**

We believe that the above things are basic to good teaching; but, all of them probably need a lot more time and thought given to them. Additional things could be added, but class time prohibits too much detail at this time. Let's strive to be the "ideal teacher!"

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1. Who should have a "millstone" hung about his neck and caste into the sea? (Matt. 18:6)**
- 2. What causes people to look upon a person as a hypocrite? (Matt. 23:13)**
- 3. Why do you like some teachers better than others?**
- 4. Should inexperienced teachers be given an opportunity to teach?**

Lesson Three

**"Things to Avoid in Teaching"**

**"Look at me, look at my gift, look what I can do!"** This seems to have been one of the problems in the church at Corinth. They had many people who possessed "spiritual gifts" (miraculous) that could teach the church. But the church had all kinds of problems in their midst. One of the problems was their inability to make proper use of the gifts that were given. They were causing division and confusion in their assemblies because they were not using the gifts correctly. Chapter thirteen of 1 Corinthians showed them that "Love" was the answer to their problems! Evidently, their motives for teaching were not what they should have been. To be an effective teacher of God's Word requires that we avoid things that would hinder or make ineffective our teaching of others. Following are several factors that need to be dealt with if we want to be effective teachers.

**Over-Projection of Self**

My motive for teaching should not be an "ego trip!" My reason for wanting to teach is to show my concern for others—not to get the praise of men.

**Matt. 6:5** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rom. 16:17-18** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Pet. 2:1-3** \_\_\_\_\_

**3 John 9** \_\_\_\_\_

The "ego problem" is definitely showing when a person is unwilling to be guided only by the Word of God and pushes his own "agenda."

There are many good reasons for wanting to teach the Word of God to others:

1. **The Gospel needs to be preached or taught to all mankind (Mark. 16:15).**
2. **To help people in their lives here and to prepare them for eternity with God (Phil. 4:17, 1 Tim. 4:16; Jas. 5:19-20).**
3. **It is what God has a right to expect of me (Heb. 5:12; Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Pet. 3:15; 1 Cor. 9:15-16; 2 Tim. 2:2, etc.).**

**Showing Partiality or Favoritism**

The term that we used to use in my younger days was....*"the teacher's pet."* Some people need more attention or help with their learning. A good teacher will recognize this and give that additional help and attention to such a person. However, to play favorites in class can end up alienating most of the students. It helps to get God's message across when all the students know you care about them. There is a saying that is used often: *"They don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care!"*

**Rom. 2:11** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Acts 10:34** \_\_\_\_\_

The teacher belongs to all—not to just a special few! He must never forget this!

**Expecting too much of Students**

There are a few things that can rightfully be expected of students: (1) To be present and on time; (2) To come prepared to be taught and to learn; and (3) To become involved in the learning process. There are some situations where the students are not this good to a teacher. Thus, they make teaching and learning an even harder job for the teacher. To illustrate—It is probably harder to teach the Jr. High or Sr. High than to teach the pre-school group or even an adult group. It all depends upon how much the students do on their part to make learning easier. If a teacher expects too much from the students, he may be greatly disappointed.

**2 Tim. 3:7** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Heb. 5:11** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Matt. 13:3** \_\_\_\_\_

Some suggest to teachers—*"Come prepared for the worse, and be happy if it isn't."* The teaching and learning process is not only complicated, but a real challenge to both teacher and student. If you will go back to 2 Timothy 2:15, you will see that the teacher is to be a ***"worker who does not need to be ashamed."*** Expecting more out of the student than he is willing to give can end the learning process pretty quickly. The teacher needs to figuratively "take the student by the hand and lead him gently through the learning process."

**2 Tim 2:24-26** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Gal. 6:1** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Unwise Choice of Material for Study**

The Word of God is definitely not an unwise choice for study! However, some things in the Word of God are more pertinent than other parts may be at the particular time. A study on the genealogies in the Bible may not be as practical for Sr. High students as it might be for some adults. The sermon Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost may not have been what many wanted to hear, but it was the right thing for 3,000 that responded to his message (Acts 2:17-42). They all needed to hear this message, but not all profited or learned by it. The sermon that Paul preached on Mars Hill in Athens was received by only a few, but it was an appropriate study for them all (Acts 17:22-34).

Some material may be too advanced for some students and too great a challenge for them at that time; while, on the other-hand, some material may be too simple and no challenge for the students—causing them to lose interest. Some material may not be the most needed for a particular

age group or situation. These are judgment matters that require the teacher to think seriously about what he wants to present to the students.

Then, on the other hand, there is material that should not even be brought up for teaching.

**1 Tim. 1:3-4** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**1 Tim. 1:5-9** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The preaching of Philip illustrates appropriateness of the material (Acts 8:26-40). The student asked a question that was pertinent to him and in regards to what he was reading. Philip began at the same Scripture the man was reading and preached Jesus to him. This brought about his conversion to Jesus, as the Christ.

**Personal Discouragement**

I have witnessed teenagers that actually caused the teacher to leave the room in the middle of the class period—completely discouraged with the situation. Some teachers, who have taught for years, quit because they did not feel they were effective in their situation. Teaching does not come easy for some people and they are easily discouraged when things do not go well. In some cases, it may be wise for them to quit teaching for a while in order to get refreshed for another effort at teaching. As bad as the church needs Teachers, it is better that we find ways to help those who do get discouraged and quit. We need to find solutions to the situation that brings on the discouragement. The following Scriptures may be appropriate for starters:

**1 Cor. 9:26-27** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phil. 3:12-14** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Thess. 3:13** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gal. 6:9** \_\_\_\_\_

Hopefully, we can help our teachers to continue to grow and be effective in the building up and stabilizing the church in the truth. It is wonderful that both men and women are willing to give of themselves to this good work in preparing souls for eternity!

**Concluding Thoughts**

I know that most of us realize that teaching others is a God-given responsibility that all of us have. The important thing is to find our place where we can do the teaching that we are capable of. We can teach our children, our mates, our family members, our friends, etc. But can we prepare ourselves for teaching larger groups that need good teachers. We know that God has ordained that

there be "teachers" in the church! The problem is—**how do we prepare them so they can be useful?**

**Questions for Discussion**

- 1. What are some things that turn you off from wanting to listen to some teachers?**
  
- 2. If you were a teachers of a class, would you show favoritism to some in the class that were happy to have you as a teacher?**
  
- 3. Should we have to put up with some teachers who are not fully developed and prepared to be effective?**
  
- 4. If you were evaluating people to be teachers, what are some things that you think are important to ask about?**
  
  
- 5. How would you rate yourself as a teacher?**  
 Fair  
 Average  
 Good  
 Excellent
  
- 6. Do you know anyone who would agree with your evaluation above?**

## Lesson Four

**"A Teacher Everyone Likes"**

**How should teachers be characterized?** In some instances, plain common sense will help us to see the answer to this question. But we have the Word of God to give us an answer that is beyond doubt. But sometimes it is good to see the negative characteristics that teachers should not have in order to enhance the positive characteristics that they should have. So, in this lesson we will be looking at both from a Biblical viewpoint.

**Negative Characteristics**

In Jesus' day teachers didn't have the best image before God based on how Jesus viewed them. Matthew 23 is one of the best sources to see so many negative things of which these teachers were guilty. Jesus began His thoughts with: ***The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works.*** Following is how He characterized them:

1. They teach people what to do, but they do not do it themselves (23:3)
2. They bind heavy burdens on the people that are hard to bear, but they will not move them with one of their fingers (23:4).
3. All they do is to be seen of men (and praised) (23:5).
4. They wear special garments to set them apart from others (23:5).
5. They love the best seats at the feast and in the Synagogue (23:6).
6. They love to be called "Rabbi" by men (23:7).
7. They shut up the kingdom of heaven by not going in themselves and you try to keep those out that want to go in (23:13).
8. They devour widows' houses (23:14).
9. They have long prayers pretending to be holy (23:14).
10. They make proselytes and when they are through with them, they are worse than their teachers (23:15).
11. They were leaving undone the weightier matters of the Law: Justice, Mercy, and Faith (23:23).
12. They were straining out a gnat, but swallowing a camel (23:24).
13. They looked righteous outwardly, but inwardly they were full of hypocrisy and lawlessness (23:25-28).
14. They had built tombs for the prophets who had been slain by their forefathers, but they have the same spirit as their forefathers (23:29-30)

Jesus ended these statements by asking them, ***"How can you escape the condemnation of hell?"*** (23:33). Jesus was constantly being confronted by these teachers, but generally not for the good, but to try to undermine and destroy His efforts. John's Gospel records a very strong statement that Jesus expressed towards these teachers: ***"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."*** (8:44)

## **Positive Characteristics of Effective Teachers**

The following characteristics will be in stark contrast to the ones on the previous page. And while each of the following is very important to teachers, these are not all that could be given.

**Consecration.** The teacher must not only be consecrated to the task of teaching, but also to the Christian life. He must be able to say with the Apostle Paul: *"It is not longer I that live, but Christ that lives in me."* (Galatians 2:20).

**Love.** A faithful teacher will have a full measure of love for God, His Word, and the students he teaches. *"Love is the fulfilling of the Law."* (Romans 13:8). All that God's Word teaches us to do, we will be willing to be obedient in all things because we love God and our fellow-man. This love is not only expressed in word, but in deed and in truth (1 John 3:18).

**Devotion.** To be devoted to someone or something is to give ourselves to them. A teacher needs to be devoted to the task of teaching and to be known as such (Matthew 6:33).

**Prayer.** He needs to be known as a person who believes and practices prayer. He prays not only for his own life and needs, but for others as well—especially his students (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

**Faith.** The teacher should be known as a person of faith—abiding faith and trust in God and His promises. But the teacher needs to have faith in men that their lives can be changed for the better and can become the children of God. God showed that faith in us when He sent His Son to die in our stead (John 3:16). He believed in us...and so should the teacher!

**Purpose.** No one can faithfully discharge the responsibility of teaching without having the right purpose for teaching. Teaching is not an aimless gathering of souls, but it is the attempt to teach God's Will to God's children or to those we strive to lead to become God's children.

**Faithfulness.** The teacher needs to be faithful, dependable, and always there to be counted on. It is unto the faithful that God will give the crown of life (Revelation 2:10).

**Vision.** The teacher needs to have a vision of what his teaching can accomplish in the lives of others. Great numbers can eventually go to heaven if we can stay busy teaching. The Apostle Paul expressed this vision on different occasions, but primarily to the Christians at Rome (Romans 1:13-16).

**Patience.** The teacher that thinks in terms of quick-fix may be in for great disappointment. It usually takes time to accomplish anything worthwhile. This certainly is true in teaching and training people. A good definition of patience is "waiting on God." We must patiently sow the seed and water it with hope of a harvest to come (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

**Cheerfulness.** *"Rejoice in the Lord always."* (Philippians 4:4). Be cheerful when things are going good or bad because we are the Lord's people with a purpose and a promise! Even when manifold trials come, we are to count it all joy (James 1:2-3). A teacher needs to maintain an atmosphere of joy and peace—a happy, contented Christian.

**Energy.** The task of the teacher is not easy. It requires time and effort in addition to our regular duties or responsibilities. We need to care for ourselves well so that we will have the energy level needed to do the work well (3 John 2-3; Ephesians 5:28-29).

**Cooperation.** The teacher should not be a “loner,” but one who loves and wants to be with people. He wants to be a partner that cooperates with others to bring the greatest good. We are not only laborers with God (1 Corinthians 3:9) but with our fellow-Christians as well (1 Corinthians 12:25).

**Perfection.** A teacher should not be satisfied with the past or present, but always striving for improvement in every phase of the work of teaching (Matthew 5:48).

**Enthusiasm.** Teacher can be dull or it can be exciting. The teaching of the Word of God should by all means be taught with enthusiasm (2 Peter 1:10-11).

### **Questions for Discussion**

#### **True or False**

- 1. Teachers who will not cooperate with the Bible School program should not be allowed to teach.**
- 2. A person can teach enthusiastically even if he feels that his teaching falls on deaf ears.**
- 3. A teacher who does not believe God answers prayer will not have any problem teaching about prayer.**
- 4. Teachers who are more concerned about themselves will probably find little time to show concern for their students.**
- 5. It is wrong for a teacher to wear something different from other people.**
- 6. It is definitely wrong to be called “Rabbi” (or teacher).**
- 7. A teacher cannot teach another how to win souls to Christ if he has never done so.**
- 8. The teacher that puts on a “front” will sooner or later be seen for what he really is.**
- 9. I characterize other teachers that I hear.**
- 10. I characterize myself as a teacher.**

Lesson Five

***"When is a Person Taught?"***

**The church is an educational institution!** Yes! God has depended upon education to accomplish His purposes among us. The supreme purpose of the church is to develop and give guidance to Christians to produce men and women to be like Christ in all ways—to the fullest of our ability (Eph. 4:11-16). Full-grown Christians are not the results of accident, but of education! God's Word is not only the power to draw men and women to God, but also to grow them to be like Christ. The Bible Class set-up that we have on Sundays and Wednesday are one of the most effective means the church can use in carrying out its mission—if it functions properly and has good teachers who know why they are teaching!

- Rom 12:1-2** \_\_\_\_\_
- Eph. 4:12** \_\_\_\_\_
- Eph. 4:13** \_\_\_\_\_
- Eph. 4:14** \_\_\_\_\_
- Eph. 4:15** \_\_\_\_\_
- Eph. 4:16** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is Teaching?**

Teaching is defined as *"To show how to do something or learn about something."* Teaching can be used as a tool to "brainwash" people, but it should be used to encourage people to think, reason, and make decisions about things for themselves. An effective teacher in the church needs to master the following four things:

- 1. The basic Beliefs or Doctrines of Christ** (2 John 9).
- 2. An understanding of the students they teach.**
- 3. How to work up a lesson plan for teaching.**
- 4. How to use the many helps to teach a lesson.**

Teaching involves the passing on of information necessary to be right with God and our fellowman and hopefully the motivation to put such into practice. Success in teaching is measured by the growth of the person being taught.

All teaching makes use of two things:

- 1. A method of presentation.** It is important to know how to choose the proper method for the one or ones being taught.
- 2. Principles of good teaching.**
  - a) There is no teaching without learning—the pupil, as well as the teacher, must learn.
  - b) The motivation presented by the teacher will determine what he will learn.
  - c) The mental state of the student at the time of the teaching will determine his learning response.
  - d) Various ways of learning make variety in teaching necessary.

No one can develop his skills in teaching without the opportunity to practice teaching—we learn to do by doing.

**What Teaching will involve**

Christianity is a religion that needs to be taught, understood (reasoned out), and put into practice. The processes involved will affect our mind, our feelings or emotions, and our will.

**Matt. 13:13-15** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 13:46** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rom. 12:1-2** \_\_\_\_\_

Students of the Bible need to be challenged to think, ask questions, clarify, make decisions, and to put into practice what is learned.

**Acts 17:11** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 17:17** \_\_\_\_\_

**Matt. 7:21** \_\_\_\_\_

**The Learning Process**

**OPENNESS TO BE TAUGHT.** To effectively teach others, we need to “know” our subject and to show ourselves as assured, poised, and in self-control. Teaching is a leading process. But no teaching takes place without the student’s willingness to listen, think, accept, and act upon what is taught. We learn when we have the urged to learn. Jesus emphasized the concept very strongly in talking to the Jewish people. He said that He talked to them in Parables because of their unwillingness to be taught. Their hearts were dull, their ears hard of hearing, and their eyes were closed—thus, they could not understand nor turn so Jesus could heal them (Matthew 13:13-15). One of the big jobs of teaching is to motivate students to want to learn. An appeal has to be made to curiosity, imagination, desire to achieve, or some other need in their lives. All people have needs—needs that are calling to be satisfied. A teacher would do well to know of these needs and make his appeal to one or more of these to help motivate students to learn. Teach God’s Word and relate it to the student’s life. Forced attention is better than no attention—but very little better! The attitude that Cornelius had in Acts 10 made for a beautiful teaching situation—“*we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God.*” (Acts 10:33).

**A WILLINGNESS TO USE OUR MINDS.** Christianity is a teaching religion! It is intended to challenge the hearts and lives of mankind to turn them to God and righteous living. The Apostle Paul stated that changing or transforming a person into the image of Christ has to be done by the renewing of one’s mind (Romans 12:2). An appeal has to be made to the mind or heart to accept basic truths that will affect one’s life for good. It needs to be desirable information that we are hearing. It has to have something to offer to us that is good and has meaning for us. Without this, there is little reason for the student to pay attention or exert some effort to learn. We grow or learn when we can see that felt needs can be satisfied. We are willing to put out the efforts that are necessary to capture the ideas and understand them.

**A WILLINGNESS TO PUT INTO PRACTICE.** All the learning in the world won't change us if we are unwilling to exercise our WILL to put these things into practice. James stated it very clearly and concisely: *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."* (James 1:22) Jesus made this very clear when he said: *"Why do you call me Lord, but are unwilling to do what I teach you."* (Luke 6:46). Teaching requires change—and the more we are willing to change, the greater the learning processes. We learn the value of these teachings as we see the outcome of our practices. Someone has observed: *"The best way to learn something is to do it."* Participation definitely enhances the learning process. The teacher needs to help the student to envision the outcome of believing and practicing the teachings of Christ.

### **Concluding Thoughts**

Teachers of the Bible must realize that their teaching is for eternity—not only for this life. Our task is to lead, direct, and guide people in the learning of:

1. Facts of the Bible;
2. Understanding of its great principles;
3. Proper attitudes toward the Bible, God, Christ, the church;
4. And an appreciation for Christian living.

We learn these things only if we are open to be taught, willing to exercise our minds, and make a decision to put them into practice. One's growth should be a steady, continuous process. However, individuals are different and will probably experience different rates of growth.

### **Questions for Discussion**

#### **True or False**

- \_\_\_ 1. Even Jesus could not force people to open their minds and hearts to be taught.
- \_\_\_ 2. A willingness to listen and be taught is a necessity to the learning process.
- \_\_\_ 3. Everyone should grow at the same rate since they are receiving the same teaching.
- \_\_\_ 4. Cornelius illustrates the wrong kind of attitude if one wants to learn.
- \_\_\_ 5. A student cannot be taught more on a topic if the teacher knows only what the student knows.
- \_\_\_ 6. A self-deceived person is one who thinks he doesn't have to do what God says in order to be saved.
- \_\_\_ 7. One of the hardest jobs of a teacher is the motivation of the student.
- \_\_\_ 8. Forced attention is better than no attention.
- \_\_\_ 9. Judgment has to be involved in every learning situation.
- \_\_\_ 10. One's emotions must be stirred up in order for learning to take place.

#### **When is a person taught or when does he learn?**

Lesson Six

**"The Remembered Teacher"**

**"I can't improve on my teaching!"** Wrong! A person can improve if he so desires and works at the job! In this lesson we want to challenge all of us who teach to grow in our ability to teach others effectively. We have the "master teacher" for an example—Jesus! When Jesus turned thirty years of age, He began His public ministry among the Hebrew people. We know very little about Jesus from age twelve up to thirty. We do know that He **"increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."** (Lk. 2:51-52). He was **"subject to them"** (His parents). But when He began His public teaching among the people, we have several insights about Him. The following passages indicate His ability as a teacher:

- Matt. 7:28** \_\_\_\_\_
- Matt. 7:29** \_\_\_\_\_
- Jn. 20:16** \_\_\_\_\_
- Matt. 12:16** \_\_\_\_\_
- Jn. 3:2** \_\_\_\_\_
- Luke 12:1** \_\_\_\_\_
- Mark 4:2** \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus was truly "The Teacher" of teachers! (Jn. 20:16). But he didn't let it "go to His head!" He took time to teach in a "one-on-one" situation, as well as, in houses, by sea shore, in synagogues, and in the temple. His Apostles were trained, not only by His words, but by His actions—how He taught, the way He taught, and the attitude with which He taught! The challenge is laid before us—**"follow in the footsteps of Jesus!"** Be a "true" disciple—follow and imitate Him!

**How Can We Improve?**

There are basic factors that will help our growth as a Teacher of God's Word. But, first and foremost, we must want to improve! Without the desire, there is little chance of improving on our ability to teach God's Word.

**1. We must grow in our knowledge of God's Word (2 Pet. 3:18).** It is an obvious fact that you cannot teach what you do not know. In fact, you will usually wind up teaching the wrong things. The Prophet Hosea stated it clearly: **"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..."** (Hosea 4:6). When we turn our back on God and His Word, we are asking for destruction or at least being satisfied with "mediocrity." We must find ways to increase our understanding of God's Word in the time that we can give to such.

- a) Reading the Word. (1 Pet. 2:1-2)
- b) Take time to Meditate on the Word (Ps. 1:2).
- c) Learn how to use resources (reference works) that helps us in our understanding of the Word of God.
- d) Read good and reliable material by others who have proven their faithfulness to God's Word. (2 Tim. 2:2).
- e) Get into discussions that will challenge our beliefs and sharpen our understanding.

- f) Find ways to challenge people's beliefs to generate a study together.
- g) Take advantage of opportunities to teach and do the best job you can do.

**2. We need to learn how people learn!** I ran across an article in the Gospel Advocate (August/1990) that was entitled "**Levels of Learning.**" The writer had good insight into how we humans learn. Below is a summary of his article.

**1st Level—Acquaintance level.** A teacher brings new matter to the mind of the person or persons. The Apostle Paul, in Acts 17, acquainted the Athenian philosophers with the concept on one true God. What was their reaction? Some mocked, but some wanted to go to the next level.... "***We will hear you again on this matter.***" (Acts 17:32).

**2nd Level—Understanding level.** We do our best to help people understand what God is saying to us, or the meaning of a passage. The Apostle John records a statement about some people who had heard and evidently understood what was being taught about Jesus. "***They believed (understood) about Jesus***" but their learning went no further. Fear and wanting the approval of men stymied their learning process!

**3rd Level—Insight or Conviction level.** The message is not only understood, but they grasp how it applies to their lives. There is conviction and belief of what has been spoken. The Apostle Peter preached to thousands of devout Jews on the Day of Pentecost. His message was clearly understood and brought conviction to the hearts of 3,000. (Acts 2:36-40).

**4th Level—Decision level.** Some people may understand and be convicted, but are unwilling to decide or commit their lives to following Jesus. Fortunately, the 3,000 on the Day of Pentecost made the decision or commitment and asked what they needed to do. They were told to "***repent and let everyone of you be baptized for the remission of sins....***" (Acts 2:37-38, 41). They gladly received Peter's teaching and were baptized.

**5th Level—Living level.** We learn by doing, by experiencing. We put into practice what we have learned and see the value of such. In the Parable of the Soils (Sower), the 3rd soil (heart) did not go beyond level 4, but allowed the "***cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches***" to choke out the word and he becomes unfruitful. (Matt. 13:22). We cannot be fruitful Christians unless we abide in Jesus (the teaching of Jesus). (John 15:4-6). If we abide in Him, we go to the next level of learning.

**6th Level—Empowered level.** (Col. 1:9-11). One who is being filled with the knowledge of God's will and is gaining greater spiritual understanding and wisdom that will help him walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, and fruitful in every good work.

Teachers of God's Word need to help God's people travel through all six of these levels of learning.

### **The Teacher that will be Remembered!**

All of us will have many teachers of various things in our lifetime. It would probably be impossible for us to remember them all. But no matter how many we have had, they all will fall into three possible categories: (1) Forgotten; (2) Forgiven; or (3) Remembered!

**The Forgotten!** Forgetting them happened because they did not make lasting impressions upon us. Some teachers are unwilling to pay the price in preparation and commitment to grow as teachers. They had little enthusiasm, no real dedication to the task, and perhaps little love for the students or the topics.

**The Forgiven!** At least you are able to remember them, but probably because of their "badness" not their "goodness" as a teacher. They may have tried, but just didn't have what it took. Kindness and the passing of years let us look back on them with charity. They may have become a better teacher later, but not for the time that I had them as a teacher.

**The Remembered!** All teachers would like to be in this third category. Brother Robert Oglesby tells about such a teacher that taught in the pre-school classes. He was so enthusiastic and so loving in class that the children would invite him to their birthday parties. There are certain things about different teachers that cause us to remember them. But it really isn't the teacher that we elevate, but the effort he puts forth to help teach us and motivate us to live for God.

It probably wouldn't hurt for each teacher to ask the question: *"What will I be to these kids or adults when I become nothing but a memory? Will I be forgotten, forgiven, or forever remembered?"* Which teacher will you be for those you have in class?

### **Concluding Thoughts**

We should effectively teach the Word of God so that people can be:

1—Established in the faith (Col. 2:7).

2—Able to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts (Tit. 2:12).

3—Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58).

And we teachers can be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work (2 Tim. 2:21).

### **Questions for Discussion**

- 1. What are some things that you would help to make you a better teacher of God's Word?**
- 2. What are some rewards of good teaching?**
- 3. Are the best teachers those that are gifted to be teachers?**
- 4. How can I adapt my teaching to fit the 6 levels of learning?**

Lesson Seven

# "God's Plan for Leadership"

"Why should I or anyone else want to be a leader in the church?" It has its headaches and heartaches. They have to deal with a lot of trouble, divisiveness, and strife. It takes a lot of extra time. We believe the answer is simple:

- a) God has planned for there to be proper leadership in the church.
- b) If good, spiritual men do not offer to lead, then those unqualified will take the position of leadership and cause problems.

Therefore, before any one takes on a demanding, sacrificing, and often unappreciated leadership role; he really ought to see the vital need for such proper leadership and have some very valid reasons for wanting to serve. In this study we want to look at God's Plan for Leadership in the to the Preacher.

**God's Leadership**

**Christ**  
*as Supreme Head*

**Elders**  
*Who Oversee Congregation*

**Deacons**  
*Who Have Special Job Assignment*

**Evangelists**  
*Who Proclaim the Word of God to Both Sinner & Saint*

**Teachers**  
*Who Teach, Exhort, Rebuke, and Encourage God's People*

## Leadership Roles in the Church: Christ

Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God is the supreme head of the church as designed by God (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18).

1. What does this mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How does He exert His Headship?

a) The Means:  
(Matt. 28:18-19) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Matt. 4:4) \_\_\_\_\_

b) The Attitude:  
(Matt. 20:20-28) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Phil. 2:5-8) \_\_\_\_\_

c) The Motivation:  
(Lk. 19:10) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Lk. 6:46) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Those who reject Jesus' headship give up a Redeemer (John 8:21), reject the love of God (John 3:16), and condemn themselves unto everlasting destruction (Matt. 25:46).

### Leadership Roles in the Church

God has designed leadership roles for the church that are specifically mentioned. The following are those people:

- a) Eph. 4:11 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Phil. 1:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Acts 14:23 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) 1 Tim. 3:1, 3:8 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Rom. 16:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- f) James 3:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- g) 1 Tim. 5:9, 10 \_\_\_\_\_
- h) Titus 2:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- i) 1 Cor. 12:1-11 \_\_\_\_\_

Leadership in the early church was somewhat different than after the first century. The miraculous element made a big difference in what was done and by whom. These gifts did not last, but the benefits of the miraculous still helps us today to have complete faith in the Inspired and Revealed Word of God that has been confirmed by miracles, wonders, and signs (Mark 16:19-20; Heb. 2:1-4; 1 Cor. 13:8-13). The Work of Apostles and Prophets have given us the Word of God by which our lives are to be governed just the same as when first spoken and written down by these miraculously endowed people.

- a) There was the role of the **Apostles & Prophets** (Eph. 3:1-7).
- b) There was the role of the **miraculously endowed people** in the church (1 Cor. 14).
- c) There were the **7 men appointed** to a special task (Acts 6:1-8).

Permanent leadership in the church would be the following:

- a) Elders (also called Overseers or Shepherds)—These are older men with experience to see after the church as a whole.
- b) Deacons (also called Servants)—They were given special tasks to see after under the Elders' Oversight.
- c) Preachers (also called Evangelists or Ministers)—They would preach to both sinners and saints.
- d) Teachers (also called Masters or Encouragers)—they would teach and strive to help mature the saints. Women were forbidden to teach over the man, but were encouraged to teach younger women (1 Tim. 2:11-14; Tit. 2:3-5).

Thus far, our study on leadership has looked at Elders, Deacons, and Teachers. The rest of this quarter, we will be look at the leadership of Preachers.

### Leadership Without Elders

But what do you do when you do not have Elders and Deacons? In some instances a church may go for years without appointing elders. In some cases, this may be true because they do not have anyone qualified to be appointed—and in other cases, there are men running the church who would not qualify to be an elder and they do not want Elders. Elders should be appointed, but only when they are sufficiently qualified **according to God's standard!**

When a new congregation is established, there has to be some kind of leadership in the group until Elders can be appointed. It is obvious that the Evangelist (Preacher) will be the one to help the church to become organized in order to function as a group. The Preacher is not the "head of the church" nor is he "over" the church. Their job is to help the church to develop to the point where elders and deacons can be appointed. In some instances this was done within a year's time or less—in the early church (Acts 14:23). However, it usually takes longer in our society today. Please notice and keep well in mind that there was to be no "**one man rule**" in the church! While an Evangelist or a Preacher may help to get the church started, they should immediately do two things:

- a) Start teaching the need for "God-Ordained Leadership!"
- b) Help the church to get organized into some kind of committee structure so that the business of the church can get done quickly and correctly! The "**Authority**" for the group should be handled by a "business meeting" of all the men.

The closest thing in Scripture that could give credence to the above concept is as following:

- a) There is no indication that the church at Corinth had Elders and Deacons.
- b) Paul rebukes them for their carnal divisiveness (1 Cor. 3:1-9). They needed to work together!
- c) The church was to come together "*to deliver such a one unto Satan*" because he would not repent (1 Cor. 5:1-5). This shows "group action!"
- d) Their worship was disorderly and needed to be planned out so it could be beneficial to all (1 Cor. 14). Someone was needed in order to help keep things orderly.
- e) They were to function as a body together—which requires some kind of orderly appointments (1 Cor. 12:14-26).

It would also seem obvious that some kind of orderly arrangements have to be made (plain common sense) in order to get things done, but someone has to keep things in check. In the absence of Elders, the men's business meeting seems to be the obvious approach—which helps to keep down the "one man rule!" The group can ask different men to feel responsible for separate areas of responsibility, with others helping them to see that the work is done. They carry out their responsibilities according to the instructions of the "business meeting."

### **Concluding Thoughts**

There is no question that "leadership" is needed for any group to work together effectively. Until a congregation is blessed to have spiritually qualified Elders and Deacons, it is important that they function as a group with whatever leadership they have—and strive to keep down the desire on the part of one or more men to want to be "lords" over the church (3 John 9-10). As the men work together, it should become obvious which ones are the possible future Elders and Deacons within the congregation.

**Questions for Discussion**

True or False

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Every one should want to be a "leader" in the church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Unqualified men get into leadership roles because the "better qualified" are unwilling to serve.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. There are no leadership roles "spelled out" in the New Testament.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Jesus is the "supreme authority" in the church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Rejecting Jesus' authority can bring on disastrous results.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Leadership in the early church was somewhat different than after the first century.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The miraculously endowed people in the "early church" were a necessity in order to get the church started correctly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Elders, Deacons, Preachers, Teachers are the only permanent "spelled-out" leaders in the church for today.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. A church cannot be acceptable to God without having Elders and Deacons.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The "Men's Business Meeting" is a good way to keep down a "one-man-rule" in the church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. There is no Bible Authority for the "Men's Business Meeting" approach to leadership.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. "Common Sense" demands some kind of leadership in the church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. "Leadership" is needed in order for any group to work together effectively.

## Lesson Eight

***"The Place of Preachers"*****Terms**

***1 Tim. 2:7***—"for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle..."

***2 Tim. 4:5***—"do the work of an evangelist..."

***1 Tim. 4:6***—"If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ..."

***2 Tim. 1:11***—"to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles."

In comparing appointed leaders in the Old Testament to those in the New Testament—it seems obvious that "Prophets" and "Priest" were the ones in the Old Testament; while the New Testament has "Preachers" and "Elders." Preachers proclaim or herald the divine word to mankind and the Elders oversee the flock of God. One who chooses to become a Proclaimer of God's Word should have certain "personal responsibilities" as well as specifically defined "public responsibilities." These responsibilities are set forth mostly in the Timothy and Titus Letters. The selecting of a Preacher is very important to the congregation since he will be up before the group on a constant basis. As long as he proclaims God's Word accurately and lives a righteous life before the church, his work should be very effective and productive of much fruit to the glory and honor of God. But the wrong man, unchecked, can do great damage to the Lord's Cause and Kingdom.

**Personal Responsibilities**

The Scriptures give admonitions that apply to what helps to prepare a person to be a good preacher of the Gospel.

***1 Tim. 4:13***—"Give attention to reading." It is obvious that if you are going to be exhorting and teaching people, you need to know the Scriptures. He is to hold to the pattern of sound (spiritually healthy) words (2 Tim. 1:13; Tit. 2:7-8). The teaching that Christ gave to the Apostles by the Holy Spirit must be used, upheld (Jn. 16:13-15). The Preacher is seeking to please God, not man! (Gal. 1:10). He is not to seek the applause of men (Matt. 6:1-6).

***1 Tim. 4:15***—"Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them." A lot of time must be spent in studying and learning the Truth not only in preparing himself to preach, but to also help him be effective in his work as a preacher. He should be as well informed as possible—not being satisfied with a mere "smattering" just to get by. He should want to be approved of God in his efforts (2 Tim. 2:15).

***1 Tim. 1:19***—"having faith and a good conscience." He is to put his faith in God and preach what is written so that he can live with himself. The Apostle Paul said that he had lived in all good conscience (Acts 23:1). It is important that preachers can say the same. While he is to preach to correct the "faults" of others, he should never forget to turn the searchlight inwardly, less after he has preached to others, he himself would be lost (2 Cor. 13:5; 1 Cor. 9:27; 1 Tim. 4:16). He is to proclaim the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:20, 26-27).

**1 Tim. 6:11**—*"Follow after righteousness."* He is to flee from the love of money and greediness. His goal is to attain *"faith, love, patience, and gentleness."* He is to:

- a) *"Keep himself pure."* (1 Tim. 5:22)
- b) *"Flee youthful lust."* (2 Tim. 2:22)
- c) *"Test all things; hold fast what is good."* (1 Thess. 5:21)
- d) *"Abstain from every form of evil."* (1 Thess. 5:22)

**1 Tim. 6:20**—*"Guard what has been committed to your trust."* This is done by avoiding profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge. To guard is to protect, be watchful over such. Do not let it be changed or diluted (Gal. 1:6-9).

**1 Tim. 6:12**—*"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life."* Be a good soldier of Christ (2 Tim. 2:4). Finish the race, keep the faith, and look for your reward from God (2 Tim. 4:7). Fight evil in this world is not an easy job, nor is it safe at times. Soldiers go into battle with the hope of surviving it, but they may also die doing their job!

**Titus 2:7-8**—*"In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you."*

### **Problem Areas for Preachers**

**Money!** This involves two areas primarily. He is not to be perceived as one who is preaching for money, but at the same time it is necessary to receive enough support to take care of one's family (1 Tim. 5:8). Covetousness will gradually undermine his ability to help people. He also must learn to handle his money wisely—not to live above his means! (Rom. 13:7-8).

**He should be happily married!** The admonition to flee youthful lusts (2 Tim. 2:2) shows where the problem is that must be avoided. Because the sexual urge is so strong, it is important to have your own spouse to handle this urge correctly (Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 7:1-5). Many a preacher has lost the battle because they were not properly prepared to flee youthful lusts!

**Failure to respect God's Authority arrangement!** Since the preacher is before the church most of the time, and usually has more training and studying in the Scriptures than others, it is easy for him to think of himself as the authority to look to for answers and what to do. He is to openly state and realize that he is under the oversight of elders. And when there are no elders, he is not to take over as the "one man rule" over the church. It should be his desire and effort to help the church to become scripturally organized and working as God has decreed. He is to consider himself a "servant" just like every other member of the body of Christ (Rom. 1:1). He is not to be like Diotrephes, who loved to have the preeminence in the church (3 Jn. 9). He is to be an example to the believers in his words, his conduct, his love for others, in the kind of spirit he manifest, in his faith and in his purity. (1 Time. 4:12).

### **Concluding Thoughts**

Preaching is no "bed of roses!" It certainly has its good times and rewards constantly. But at times it may require a fierce spiritual battle with the ruler of this world. His life must not be unprotected by the armor of the child of God (Eph. 6:11-18). To go into battle unprepared is to invite disaster for himself and the church.

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1. How important is the "life" of the Preacher in regards to his effectiveness?**
- 2. How important is the "wife" of the Preacher in regards to his effectiveness?**
- 3. How important is his "Bible knowledge" in regards to his effectiveness?**
- 4. Do you have any suggestions to make to those who would like to become a preacher?**

Lesson Nine

## ***"The Work of Preachers"***

**In order to do his work effectively**, a Preacher must be an example for others to follow (1 Cor. 11:1). He must be concerned about his speech, his behavior, how he feels about others, his faith, his purity, and his dedication. His life needs to be above reproach—he is honest, has integrity and is trustworthy.

1. **Spiritually**—He needs to be close to God, sincere, conscience free, realizing that Jesus is the means of his relationship with God (1 Jn. 1:7).
2. **Emotionally**—He should be stable, not easily moved, does not jump from one thing to another, and dependable (Col. 2:6-7).
3. **Physically**—He needs to guard his health so that he is able to carry out his duties (1 Tim. 5:23). A long life to him means much service to God and man (1 Tim. 4:8).
4. **Socially**—He needs to love people and want to be involved with them in this great race for eternal life (2 Tim. 2:24-26). He should be able to get along well with others.
5. **Family**—His own family needs to set an example. His children are in control and his wife is happy with the decisions he has made to preach.

### **His Abilities**

A person can become a preacher by hard work on his part, but if he doesn't have certain abilities he will not be very successful in his work. The following thoughts need to be evaluated carefully by the person that plans on becoming a Preacher of the Word of God.

**1. He needs to know the Bible and be dedicated to understanding it correctly.** (2 Tim. 2:15). He is striving to tell people how to become a Christian, how to live the Christian life, and how to be faithful unto death to receive our reward from God. He needs to stay ahead of those whom he teaches. He should form good "study habits!" He needs to know the Bible from front to back, to know its contents well, so that he can use it effectually in his preaching and teaching. But he also needs to study people—observe them carefully to see their actions and reactions. To learn to analyze why they do what they do. In our society, it seems to be necessary to get special training and schooling in order to be effective as a Preacher.

**2. He needs to have the ability to influence others.** (1 Tim. 4:12, 16). He needs to be able to influence others not only by the way he lives, and by his work ethic (2 Tim. 4:1-5); but also, by the way in which he teaches the Word of God—out of love, concern, and kindness (2 Tim. 2:25-26). He must be able to properly represent the church in his community (1 Pet. 3:15). He probably has more influence to be exerting than any other member of the church.

**3. He needs to have the ability to "stick with it!"** (Eph. 4:11-16). He needs to see his task all the way through so the church can be built up, edified, and matured (Tit. 3:8). Dependability and stickability are abilities that have to be mastered in order to be an effective leader among men.

**4. He needs to show a burning desire to preach.** (2 Tim. 4:1-2). His love and concern for others needs to come through in his preaching. This also helps to show if he is preaching for the money or

is really concerned for those he strives to teach. He must be able to truthfully say with the Apostle Paul: **"I desire you, not yours!"** (2 Cor. 12:14). The Preacher should also set the example of liberal giving before he can effectively teach others to do so (2 Cor. 9:6-7). Live it, obey it, and then preach it! (Matt. 23:3).

### **The Work of the Preacher**

There are quite a few passages of Scripture that not only tell the kind of life that the Preacher is to live, but clear statements as to his work among the brethren and sinners.

**2 Tim. 4:1-2**—**"Preach the Word."** The preacher must adhere strictly to Apostolic teaching (2 Tim. 2:2). He is to teach all that Jesus has commanded (Matt. 28:20). He is to preach a **"thus sayeth the Lord!"** He is to unfold the Scriptures and help make an application in every day life.

**2 Tim. 4:1-2**—**"Reprove, rebuke, exhort."** He is not told to speak softly or tread lightly, but to:

a) **Reprove**—Convince, refute, confute, convict, bring to light, expose, find fault with, correct, reprehend severely, chide, admonish, to call to account, show one his wrongs, chasten, and threaten punishment.

b) **Rebuke**—To chide, to censure, to admonish, or charge sharply.

c) **Exhort**—to excite by words or advice, to advise or warn earnestly.

If you will notice that 2/3rds of this command is negative (Jer. 1:10). There needs to be strong denunciation of error and sin. There also needs to be a strong entreaty for the souls of men to turn to God. Warn against the dangers of digression and apostasy (1 Tim. 4:1-6).

**1 Tim. 1:3**—**"To Teach no other doctrine!"** He is to hold to the pattern of sound words (2 Tim. 1:13; Tit. 2:7-8). The warnings are clear in this regard (2 Jn. 9-10; 2 Tim. 2:16). Help the church to know the truth so that they can recognize error when it is taught. Seek to please God not man! (Rom. 15:3; Matt. 6:1-6).

**1 Tim. 5:20-21**—**"Doing nothing with partiality."** Expose sin without partiality. (1 Tim.5:20-21). God is not a respecter of persons (Rom. 2:11). A Preacher needs to be impartial in his dealings with other. The church needs to be purged of evil, sin. We cannot honor God and wink at sin or evil.

**Titus 1:5**—**"Set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city."** Show by the Scriptures the things that need to be changed and corrected and to help see that the church is properly organized with Elders and Deacons. He not only needs to Teach the Gospel but help those who come to faith to be obedient to what God commands.

**1 Tim. 4:16**—**"Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine."** If he is to effectively seek to correct the faults in others, the church, or the community—he must first know the Word of God and correct himself.

### **The Authority of Preachers**

Do preachers have any authority? Before you answer, what about Elders? Do they have any authority? One answer that should be obvious to all—both Preachers and Elders who have been appointed to do their jobs in the church have authority to do their work! The Elders, as a group, are

to "oversee" or "shepherd" the flock of God. Do they have a right to change the teaching of God's Word—obviously not. Then, what kind of authority do they have? They have authority to do what God has commanded of them. And so it is with the Preacher; he has the authority to preach and teach the Word of God and all the other things that God commands of him. But he has no authority to change the teachings of God's Word!

**Titus 2:16**—"*These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority.*" The Greek word **Exousia** is translated "Authority" but never used in connection with Preaching. Titus used a different Greek word....**Epitages**. A possible better translation of the above would be thus—"*Encourage and rebuke with all impressiveness.*" This Greek word can be translated as "*A command,*" or "*An injunction.*" The preacher is not giving his own message, but he is giving the message of God that carries God's authority with it. People need to be impressed with the importance of listening to God. The Apostle Paul spoke of his authority (epitages)...it was not to be used for their destruction, but to edify or build them up (2 Cor. 10:8). The power or authority is in the message that the Preacher preaches—not in himself! However, there is a certain "power" that comes to the efforts of a Preacher when he is humble, has integrity, works hard, preaches well, helps to meet the needs of people, and influences the lives of people.

### **Concluding Thoughts**

Men are too caught up in striving for "position" and "power!" But Jesus rebukes such and lets us know that we should be striving to be a "servant" unto God and our fellowman (Matt. 20:25-28). If a preacher has any "authority" it has to be in the message that he presents unto needed men.

### **Questions for Discussion**

- 1. How can Jesus have "all authority in heaven and on earth" and still call Himself a "slave" or a "servant?"**
- 2. Why should preachers need the ability to do the work of a Preacher?**
- 3. What is the primary work of a Preacher?**

## Lesson Ten

## "Kinds of Preaching"

**Correct or "healthy" preaching** of the Bible can be approached by different methods of preaching. *"Variety is the spice of life!"* Whether you agree or not, it is quite obvious that a change in the kind of preaching done can help to keep interest in what is being preached week after week. One of the main factors involved in effective preaching is improving our speaking. Whether we lead in prayer, teach a class, make announcements, or deliver a sermon—a deliberate attempt should be made to make our speech as effective as possible. *The point of our speaking is to be understood!"* If people cannot hear or comprehend what we are saying—the speaking is in vain. Public speaking is a two-way street; and, unless a speaker is heard, the street is a dead-end! (Rom. 10:14).

### Preaching through the Bible

One man took 18 years to preach through the entire Bible. He used both AM worship and PM worship assemblies to accomplish this. He was able to get people to bring their Bibles, study together, and mark up favorite passages to be used later. This probably would not work well in some situations, but it evidently did where this brother preached. One of the main objectives of this kind of preaching is to take an historical approach to the books of the Bible. It would be important to use the **three charts** that are at the end of this lesson to help people keep everything in an historical sequence. Chart #1 re-arranges the Old Testament Books in an historical sequence. The books of Poetry will fit back up into the historical books, as well as the "writing" Prophets. Knowing the historical background of these books make it easier to understand what is in the Books of Prophecy. Chart #2 re-arranges the New Testament Books in a similar historical sequence. The Gospel and Acts furnish the background to the Letters that were sent to individuals or churches. Chart #3 shows that the world was under a Patriarchal system until the Jews were given the Law of Moses. The Gentiles evidently continued under the Patriarchal system. Both Jew and Gentiles are to come under the New Testament System to be acceptable to God.

### Preaching the Books of the Bible

This kind of preaching will require some knowledge of the historical background of each book. To take this approach usually requires a more detail study of the individual books, where the approach above is trying to give an over-view of the Bible. This approach usually takes a section at a time to cover. The theme of the Book should be carried all the way through, if possible. This kind of preaching can develop a good knowledge of the Bible—but it will take a lot of time if done well. Many different lessons can be gained in this approach. This approach is referred to as **Expository preaching**. It covers the text in its setting. It is possible to take passages out of their context and mis-use or mis-apply them to try to prove a point. Expository preaching helps to guard against the false use of Scriptures.

### Textual Preaching

This approach chooses a "Text" that is made up of one or more verses of Scripture. The key points of the sermon are often determined by the text itself. To illustrate:

Sermon Title—"***The Power of the Gospel***" (Rom. 1:16)

Main Points—1) The Gospel is the Power of God!

2) The Gospel is the Power of God unto salvation!

3) The Gospel is the Power of God unto salvation to those who believe it.

The value of this approach is that it stays with the Scripture verse(s). It comes to grip with the teaching that is in the verse(s). The hearer can follow it better. This kind of preaching will possibly involve a lot of "word" study. The following suggestions can help to illustrate the textual approach::

1 Cor. 1:10-17-----"**Division verses Unity.**"

1 Cor. 2:9-13-----"**God's revelation to man**"

1 Cor. 3:1-10-----"**Need to serve together**"

1 Cor. 4:6-8-----"**Not to exalt men above what is written**"

1 Cor. 5:1-13-----"**Withdrawing Fellowship**"

### **Topical Preaching**

This approach tries to figure out what topics to choose that will help the church to grow and be more useful. Once a topic is chosen, an effort is made to pull all the passages together and use them in developing the concept of the topic. This approach can use a wide range of Scripture passages. Many topics are not complete from the use of one verse. It is critical to a proper understanding that all of the Scriptures on the subject be used. To illustrate:

1. Baptism is necessary to salvation—Mk. 16:16

2. But this verse does not tell us how baptism is performed (Rom. 6:3-4).

3. Prayer is a most important topic that requires more than one Scripture for proper understanding (Matt. 7:7)

4. But who does God hear? (1 Jn. 3:22)

Topical preaching may require much more detail study. It will require the use of several reference books in order to do a good job in covering the topic. Sometimes the topic is too large to cover in one sermon—thus, the need for "series" preaching.

### **Concluding Thoughts**

We believe that preaching involves more than just learning some facts from the Bible and standing before a congregation of people and stating these facts. The facts are important, but how you apply these facts and the energy with which one presents these facts is also important. There needs to be persuasion, motivation, and even rebuking in order to get a response to what is preached. It is calling on people to not only understand the factual information, but to apply them properly in their lives. But the message must be preached out of concern for God's people.

**OLD TESTAMENT TIME LINE**

**Books of History**

Genesis..	4004—1635
Exodus.....	1706—1490
Leviticus.....	1490
Numbers.....	1490—1451
Deuteronomy.....	1451
Joshua.....	1451—1427
Judges.....	1425—1120
Ruth.....	1322—1312
I Samuel.....	1171—1056
2 Samuel.....	1056—1017
I Kings.....	1015—898
2 Kings.....	896—562
I Chronicles..	4004-----1015
2 Chronicles.....	1015-----536
Ezra.....	536—456
Esther.....	521—495
Nehemiah.....	446--434

**Books of Poetry**

Job.....	1500??
Psalms.....	1000
Proverbs.....	950
Ecclesiastes.....	950
Song of Solomon.....	950

**Books of Prophecy**

<b>9<sup>th</sup> Century Prophets:</b>	Joel.....	800
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Century Prophets:</b>	Jonah.....	750
	Amos.....	760
	Hosea.....	760
	Isaiah.....	740
	Micah.....	700
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Century Prophets:</b>	Nahum.....	630
	Zephaniah.....	630
	Jeremiah.....	627
	Lamentations.....	586
	Habakkuk.....	620
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Century Prophets:</b>	Obadiah.....	586
	Ezekiel.....	593
	Daniel.....	605
	Haggai.....	520
	Zechariah.....	520
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Century Prophet:</b>	Malachi.....	430

NEW TESTAMENT TIME LINE

Books of History

Matt...BC 4.....AD 26—AD 33  
 Mark.....AD 26—AD 33  
 Luke...BC 4..AD 8...AD 26—AD 33  
 John.....AD 26—AD 33  
 Acts.....AD 33-----63-----96

Letters to Christians

	48	52	53	56	57	58	63	64	65	66	68	75	85	96
James														
I & 2 Thessalonians														
Galatians														
I Corinthians														
2 Corinthians														
Romans														
Ephesians														
Philippians														
Colossians														
Philemon														
Hebrews														
Titus														
I Timothy														
I Peter														
2 Timothy														
2 Peter														
Jude														
I John														
2 John														
3 John														
Revelation														

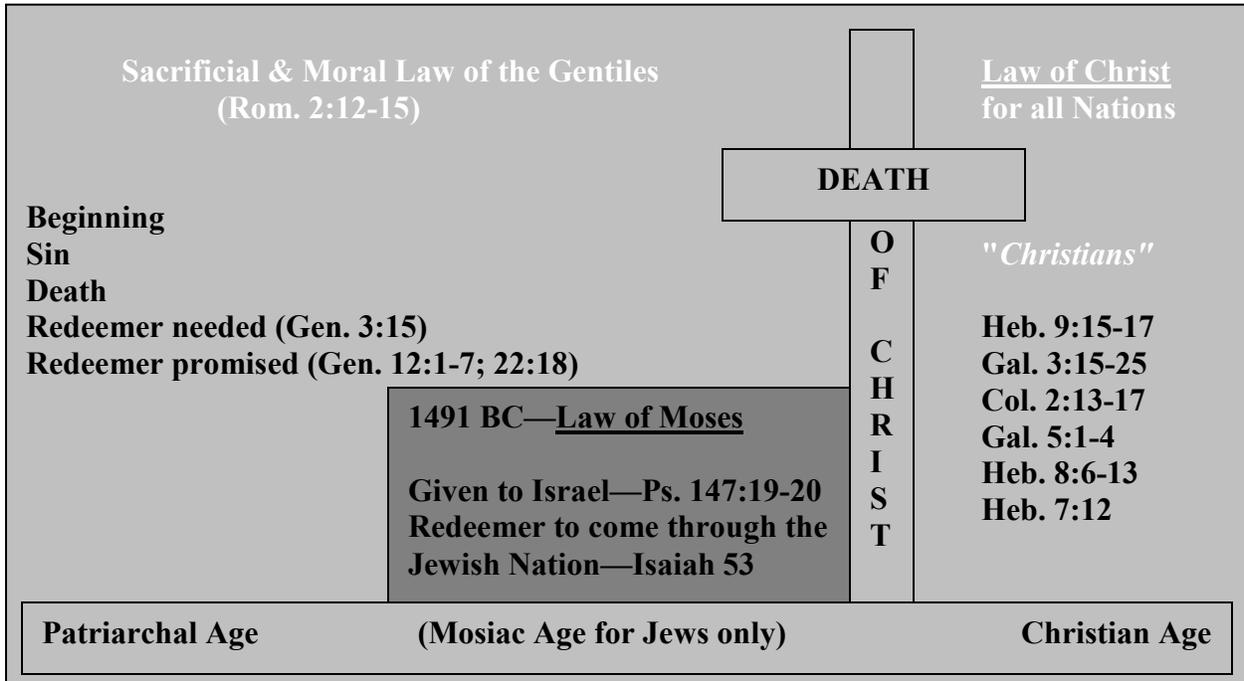
**Please Note:** The above books have been re-arranged in their chronological order to be read with the historical background in mind.

**Special Reading Assignment:** As soon as possible, please read quickly through the **Gospel of Luke** and then directly into and through the **Acts of Apostles**. This will give you the basic overview of the history of the New Testament. Many of the above **Letters to Christians** will fit into the historical background.

The material in this lesson should be of help from a historical standpoint.

## "Two Great Covenants & Three Conditions"

God has dealt with mankind in different ways from the beginning. The chart below helps to visualize this fact. All mankind were under the "Sacrificial & Moral Law" of God from man's beginning. However, in 1491, a special Law was given to the Israelite (Jewish) Nation that separated them off from the rest of mankind. Man was in need of a Redeemer and God promised a Redeemer to come—but He was to come through the Israelite Nation. Once the Redeemer had come and offered Himself as our sacrifice for sin, we are placed under a "New Covenant."



Lesson Eleven

**"Challenges for the Preacher"**

**Not everyone can nor should be a Preacher!** We can all be a Teacher to some degree, but not a Preacher. Preachers face many challenges—not only in preparing and proclaiming a message from God; but, also challenges that are personal in nature. In this lesson, we want to look briefly at both of these areas, but spend more time on the personal challenges. Good and proper preaching does not happen by accident! Faithful Teachers and Preachers must be developed over a period of time. The church will only be as strong as its leadership (Elders, Deacons, Teachers, and Preachers). We want to look first at three factors that pose a challenge to Preachers.

**Three basic Challenges**

**1. The need to Preach the Whole Counsel of God!** Preparing lessons to be preached probably should be planned far into the future. If they do not plan, they will become one-sided in their contents that they feed to the Church. Some Preachers become too negative in their lessons and the Church will reflect that negativism. Some Preachers put too much emphasis upon grace, long-suffering, and forgiveness and the Church becomes too lenient and loose. Some Preachers preach mostly first-principled sermons and the Church does not mature as it should with stronger "meat."

- Prov. 15:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- Prov. 11:14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Prov. 24:6 \_\_\_\_\_
- Heb. 5:12 \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 20:27 \_\_\_\_\_

**2. The need to Preach Christ and Him crucified.** This has to be the center and purpose of all preaching—to exalt Christ! Without Christ, man is forever lost. However, this concept can be taken to an extreme position—that is.....a Preacher can only preach about Christ and His crucifixion. **Statements** like this must be understood in an over-all view of the Scriptures. Even the Apostles' Letters show that there is a world of knowledge from the Word of God that can be a great help to all of us. But Christ and Him crucified has to be the central theme and purpose of all preaching. A Preacher's message should bring people to faith and obedience to the Gospel of Christ.

- 1 Cor. 15:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Cor. 2:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 8:35 \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Preaching to please men!** Certainly, we want men and women to be happy over our preaching of God's Word. Such preaching can be of great benefit if believed and followed. But this concept of preaching to please men must be understood as purposefully changing one's lessons to seek to

please mankind—carnal mankind in particular. Make it easier to believe! Leave out the hard "sayings" and preach about "good" things, and stay away from controversial things.

**Gal. 1:10-12** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Tim. 4:2-4** \_\_\_\_\_

**Miscellaneous Challenges**

**1. Avoid neglecting family!** God obviously comes before all! However, we also have a responsibility to our family. To neglect our family will not only cause us grief later on in life, but it can also affect our efforts in preaching to a congregation of people. It would possibly be hypocritical to teach on the husband's responsibility to his family when he, himself, is neglecting his.

**Prov. 19:18** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prov. 29:17** \_\_\_\_\_

**Eph. 6:4** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Tim. 5:8** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Avoid the Debt-trap!** Nothing hurts a Preacher's efforts more than to have his financial matters in disarray. Just like the members of the Church—Preachers have financial emergencies at times also. But if he or his wife cannot keep their spending in check, he will not stay long in any place.

**Rom. 12:8** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Tim. 6:6-8** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Avoid the Sexual-trap!** Many a Preacher has paid a "dear" price for not being watchful and avoiding the Sexual-trap! He is human just like everyone else. He may even be more vulnerable than others because of his work.

**Heb. 13:4** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Thess. 4:3-5** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Avoid misuse of time!** Preachers are generally not supervised like the work-place does. It is very easy to misuse the time that he has and not be very effective in his work. If a person has the "gift of gab," and wants to spend his time doing what he likes....he can put on a good front for a period of time. But "Judgment Day" comes sooner or later. Preachers should not need a super-visor if his heart is committed to serving his Master! We labor or work *"as unto the Lord!"*

**Eph. 5:15-16** \_\_\_\_\_

**Eph. 4:28** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Avoid speculative Preaching!** The wisdom or foolishness of men cannot save the soul—only the Gospel of Christ! (Rom. 1:16). Speculative preaching has no value and will not mature the child of God.

**Titus 3:9** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Tim. 2:23** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Concluding Thoughts**

*"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"* (Rom. 10:15). There is no greater needed work than that of preaching the gospel of peace to a world in conflict. It needs to be done by a person who is striving to live a life of righteousness. What a privilege to share the message of hope to all the world. Challenges to the Preacher is great, but most rewarding.

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1. Do you know of a person who had to quit preaching because of some problem that he failed to avoid?**
- 2. How would you define "good" preaching?**
- 3. What one thing helps to make a "good" preacher?**
- 4. What would you say is "profitable" preaching?**

Lesson Twelve

***"Self-Evaluation of the Preacher"***

It is normal for a person to examine to see if he is doing his job well and correctly. Everyone likes to be praised and bragged on—if he perceives that it is sincere! But because human's can so deceive themselves, it seems to be a hard thing to do to examine or evaluate one's self. Proper evaluation can be the means of future growth of a Preacher. However, if a preacher is void of some critical abilities or talents, evaluation might help him make the decision to find another way to serve in the Kingdom of God. It is also good to pass on positive evaluations—along with a few good suggestions. God's encouragement to this end is listed below:

**Rom. 12:3** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Cor. 10:12** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Cor. 13:5** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gal. 6:7-8** \_\_\_\_\_

Common sense would teach us to evaluate our thinking, our desires, and our actions. And...we are also encouraged to help one another also. With proper motivation we can all reach a greater level of usefulness in the kingdom. And the Preacher especially needs to do a self-evaluation all along so that he can grow in his usefulness.

**Dangers in Self-Evaluation**

There is a tendency on the part of Preachers to think of themselves too highly and do not want to face up to their true character. Without true honesty there will be very little improvement on the part of Leadership in general. The following things will help to illustrate the problems with self-evaluation:

**1. A feeling of Self-Satisfaction**—*"I have arrived; I don't need improvement!"* Preachers can feel that they have all the answers and become haughty and lifted up with pride. They can convince themselves that they are doing great and on top of things—when it is not!

**Gal. 6:3** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Tim. 6:3-5** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Being too hard on Self**—Preachers can be taken for granted and not hearing good "words" from the members and draw some wrong conclusions about his work as a Preacher. It is too easy to be too critical of self and put ourselves down. We need to be reminded that this work is designed by God for the good of His people. We are blessed to play a part in the saving of souls for eternity. We need to be reminded that our job is to study, learn, and do the best job that we can to get God's message out to people.

1 Tim. 4:2 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Tim. 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Fail to have a proper view of what a Preacher should be like.** Every Preacher should read the Letters to Timothy and Titus over and over. Here can be found the qualities that a Preacher should have, the kind of life he is to live, and what to expect from the churches. Preachers should constantly be trying to measure up to the standards that God has given for them. They need to realize the need for a well-organized leadership, dedicated leadership, concern for the Lord's people, and a well-qualified leadership. He needs to learn how to deal with unbelief, complacency, lack of love, and a lack of being spiritually-minded.

1 Tim. 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Tim. 2:2 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Tim. 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Tim. 6:11 \_\_\_\_\_

### **Concluding Thoughts**

Some Eldershops will try to give an evaluation of the Preacher's work. But he will also have some people in the congregation that will give their evaluation. If he will read the Letters to Timothy and Titus often, he can have God's evaluation of him. But in addition to all of the above, the Preacher needs to honestly evaluate himself—not for condemning purposes, necessarily, but to help himself be a better person and a better Preacher.

### **Questions for Discussion**

- 1. What happens if a Preacher does not want to be evaluated?**
- 2. What happens if a Preacher is evaluated, but it is not what he wanted to hear?**
- 3. What should happen if the Elders or the Church asks him to resign?**
- 4. What are some additional reasons for an evaluation of the Preacher?**

