

Home Bible Study Series

The Teaching Of God's Word

6 Lessons

- 1. The Importance of Teaching**
- 2. The Importance of Good Teachers**
- 3. The Importance of Proper Techniques**
- 4. The Importance of a Good Curriculum**
- 5. The Importance of Teacher Credibility**
- 6. The Importance of Teaching the Word of God**

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"The Importance of Teaching"

"As the Bible School goes, so goes the congregation." Do you agree with this statement? Do you see a connection? If you disagree, why do you believe that there is a decline in Bible Class attendance in recent years?

True Faith originates from a study of the Word of God ((Rom. 10:17). A healthy, growing congregation is made up of healthy growing Christians—ones thoroughly taught the Word of God. See what God says about this matter:

1 Pet. 2:1-2 _____

2 Pet. 3:18 _____

Why were the Christians, to whom the Hebrew writer wrote, rebuked so strongly?

Heb. 5:11-14 _____

If we are to grow as Christians, we have to have food (spiritual food). Christians cannot be forced-fed, but they must "desire" to feed on the Word of God (1 Pet. 2:2). Whose fault is it that a child of God does not desire to feed on the Word of God? If I miss going to Heaven, whose fault is it? If I willingly spend time on gaining worldly knowledge and understanding, but I choose not to spend sufficient time to feed on the wisdom of God—what does that say about me and my priorities? Following are words of encouragement to learn God's great truths:

Ps. 119:11 _____

Ps. 119:72 _____

Ps. 119:104 _____

Ps. 119:127 _____

WHO ARE TO TEACH?

Educating people, in the early years of mankind, seems to have been the responsibility of the family. And even when God gave a written Law to the Israelite Nation, a strong emphasis was also given to parents to teach their children.

Deut. 6:4-9 _____

If parents are to teach, they need to first be taught themselves. It is true that we learn a lot by experiences in life; but, when God gives us a Revelation, we will have to be taught it!

1 Cor. 2:10-13 _____

For parents to teach effectively, they need to:

1. Love God fully (Matt. 22:37);
2. Put His Word into their hearts (Ps. 119:11);
3. Then, put it into practice (Matt. 7:21; Jas. 1:22-25).

Children can see through "put on" or hypocrisy. They need to be taught by sincere parents. They need to be taught "at home," "walking by the way," "when you lie down," and "when you rise up." (Deut. 6:7).

For the Jews, God provided additional help from **priests, judges, and prophets**. For the Christian, he has provided additional help from **faithful men and women, elders, deacons, teachers, preachers**. Our children need to have the same experience that Jesus had as a child:

Luke 2:51-52 _____

PURPOSE OF TEACHING

Jesus showed us the **importance** and the **purpose** of teaching when He gave the **Great Commission**:

1. **Go Teach (make disciples);**
2. **Baptize them;**
3. **Continue to teach all Jesus has commanded!** (Matt. 28:18-20)

In order for a person to come to Christ, he must be taught clearly, plainly the Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16; Jn. 6:44-45). In order for a person to live the Christian Life faithfully, he must be taught clearly, plainly the Word of God (Eph. 4:11-16; Col. 2:6-7). Teaching and learning is a necessity for continued growth to maturity. God has given us this New Testament that tells how to faithfully live for Him so we can live with Him eternally. Teaching is **IMPORTANT!**

The following reasons show why we need to be taught continually:

1. To come to know and love God (Jn. 17:3).
2. To become a disciple of Jesus (Matt. 16:24-25).
3. To live soberly, godly, and righteously (Tit. 2:12).
4. To be stable and steadfast as a Christian (Col. 1:6-7; 1 Cor. 15:58)
5. To mature and equip the church for serving (Eph. 4:11-16).
6. To be able to discern between good and evil (Heb. 5:11-14)
7. To be able to face up to suffering & persecution with the right spirit and actions (1 Pet. 3:15-16).
8. To be able to confront the false and uphold the true (Heb. 6:1-8).
9. To be able to pass on to my children and others the great truths of God (1 Pet. 3:15).
10. Teaching can be a fundamental key to successful Christian living.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

1. Jesus expects us to be knowledgeable (2 Pet. 3:18)
2. His own life shows this (Lk. 2:52)

3. He expects us to know "*what is written.*" (Lk. 4:17).
 4. But one of the most obvious things that show the great importance of teaching is the following passage:
1 Cor. 1:21 _____
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QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- ____ 1. The Bible Classes are more important than the worship service.
- ____ 2. We have to have faith in God before we can study and understand the world of God.
- ____ 3. God openly rebukes us when we do not study His Word.

- ____ 4. Children, like Adults, have a hard time seeing hypocrisy in those who teach.
- ____ 5. Parents usually shun teaching their children because they do not feel capable.
- ____ 6. Parents need to be willing to be taught if they expect their children to listen to them.
- ____ 7. God provided Priests, Prophets, and Judges to teach His Will to His people.
- ____ 8. The Great Commission helps to show us the importance of teaching the Word of God.
- ____ 9. A person cannot grow unless he continues to learn.

- ____ 10. God has chosen to save mankind through the process of teaching.

"The Importance of Good Teachers"

We have looked briefly at the importance of teaching! We don't believe this can be over-stressed. In this lesson, we want to see the importance of "good" teaching. It is assumed that the students are willing to be taught and that the teacher is willing to teach. Upon this basis, what makes a good teacher?

Others Involved

We believe that "good teachers" are not one-sided! That is, others have to be involved. Three things are important!

1. The **Leadership** needs to encourage good teaching. Indifference on their part can help undermine the efforts put forth. Both teacher and students need to hear "verbal" encouragement from church leaders.
2. **Students** (both children and adults) need to be willing to say good words to their teachers. They also express such by their willing participation.
3. **Parents** need to encourage. Several things can be suggested here:
 - ◇ Show an interest in their child's class.
 - ◇ Be understanding of the teacher. No one is perfect.
 - ◇ Be cooperative with the teacher by helping their child carry out plans of the teacher.
 - ◇ Be supportive and re-enforce the teaching done. Do not undermine teacher.
 - ◇ See that child attends faithfully and on time!
 - ◇ Set example for your child about Bible Classes.
 - ◇ Taught up the class—have good things to say. Treat it as something special.

If we want good teachers, we must encourage them. If we do not see the benefit of good teachers....just ignore them.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD TEACHER

1. Keenly feels his obligation to God. (2 Tim. 2:15)
2. Keenly feels his obligation to his students. (2 Tim. 4:2)
3. He has faith in the Power of God's Word. (Rom. 1:16)
4. He has a desire to continue to know and grow. (1 Tim. 4:15-16)
5. He has developed his ability to speak clearly. (Acts 18:24)
6. He is willing to examine himself. (Jas. 1:24-25; 2 Cor. 13:5)
7. He is consecrated to God and His kingdom. (Gal. 2:20)
8. He is learning to love as God loves. (Rom. 13:8)
9. He is and shows his devotion to teaching. (Phil. 1:8)
10. He sees the value of prayer. (1 Tim. 2:1-2)
11. He has a strong faith. (Lk. 17:5)
12. He has a high purpose. (Phil. 2:3-4)
13. He is faithful (dependable). (Rev. 2:10)
14. He has a high vision. (Rom. 1:13-16)
15. He is patient. (1 Cor. 3:6-7)
16. He is cheerful. (Phil. 4:4)
17. He is cooperative. (1 Cor. 3:9)
18. He is enthusiasm. (2 Pet. 1:10-11)

This list could probably go on and on...and could be discouraging!
The above things are certainly desirable in everyone's life...and especially those who want to be an effective teacher.

Good teachers will enlighten people to the real message of God. And they will give that message in a fair way according to the context and let the chips fall where they may. In the process, time-honored tradition may be challenged. A good teacher is not so concerned about traditions as he is about what the Word of God says. Because changes can be a real challenge to the student, a good teacher will help the student work through changes that need to be made. Sin has to be confronted and erroneous beliefs must be exposed in the process. Kindness on the part of the teacher is therefore called for toward the student that is trying to accept and make changes in their lives.

BROAD CONCEPTS

The following six things we believe should be self-evident to the student:

1. A good teacher makes every effort to identify with his students.
2. A good teacher will have a good knowledge of his subject.
3. A good teacher will become acquainted with good teaching techniques. (we will discuss this in Lesson Three.
4. A good teacher will show a sincere interest in the student's learning of the Word of God.
5. A good teacher realizes the significance of what he is teaching.
6. A good teacher will make every effort to be Biblically correct in his teaching. (False teaching, no matter how well done, is bad and can cause a person to be lost eternally).

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

1. A good teacher will avoid the negative characteristics that most of us can easily pick up on.
2. A good teacher will study the Word of God and the lives of good teachers so that he can learn how to be a good teacher.
3. A good teacher will need to make use of just good common sense.
4. A good teacher will not show partiality among his students, but will try to show genuine concern for all.
5. A good teacher will not expect too much from his students that leads to discouragement; yet, he will want to challenge them to the best of their ability.
6. A good teacher will have to learn how to deal with discouragement and failure.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- ___ 1. A teacher can be good even if the leadership is not encouraging.
- ___ 2. Parents are usually the worse offenders in not encouraging good teachers.
- ___ 3. A good teacher must have faith in the power of the Word of God to change people's lives.
- ___ 4. Stagnation is a good sign of a teaching going bad.

- ___ 5. A cheerful person is always a good teacher.

- ___ 6. Fairness is a must in order to be a good teacher.

- ___ 7. A good teacher teaches the truth even if it hurts.

- ___ 8. Some good teachers are not able to identify with their students.
- ___ 9. A good teacher can be deceived into teaching something false.
- ___ 10. A good teacher does not expect too much of his students.

"The Importance of Proper Techniques"

A mediocre teacher may be able by using proper techniques to be more effective; but, we believe that a "good" teacher with proper "techniques" can be an excellent teacher. Using proper techniques is a creative way of getting our message across. A good illustration of this fact became known to me many years ago. A young man ran up to a Greek Philosopher and asked the question—*"How can I become a good teacher like you?"* The Philosopher told him to follow him. They came to a body of water and he went down into the way with the young man. He reached over to the young man and help his head under the water for a period of time until the young man came up fighting and gasping for breath. The Philosopher then told the young man, *"When you want to become a good teacher like you were fighting and gasping for breath, then you will be a good teacher."* I can guarantee you that that young man will never forget what the Philosopher told him. What drove the message home was his technique that he used.

JESUS THE MASTER TEACHER

Jesus made lasting impressions upon His hearers because of the techniques that He used to get His messages across. Notice some of the things He used to teach:

1. He used common, everyday things.
2. He taught in Parables constantly.
3. He used fig trees, vineyards, sheep, goats, salt, light, etc., to teach effectively.
4. He used visual aids and word pictures to stir up the mind and to engage the student in learning.
5. His illustrations clarified His messages.
6. But, his emphasis was continually upon the Word of God.

Matt. 4:4, 7, 10 _____

Lk. 24:32 _____

AN ILLUSTRATION

(1 Cor. 10:1-14)

The actual event:

1. Israel crossing the Red Sea.
2. Moses is their leader.
3. They ate manna and drank from the rock.
4. They were saved from destruction.
5. However, they displeased God and perished in the wilderness.
6. Their sins: **Craving evil things, practicing idolatry, sexual immoralities, trying the Lord, grumbling, etc..**

The understanding of its use:

1. They were baptized unto Moses, we are baptized unto Christ.
2. Moses was a type of Christ and the promised land is heaven.
3. They did not reach it because they were unfaithful.
4. Neither will we if we are not faithful and believing.

The Application:

1. We should not crave these evil things or engage in such activities (vs. 6-10)
2. Take heed lest you fall (v. 12)
3. Flee these things (v. 14).
4. God's assurance (v. 13).

Questions for discussion:

1. What things are evil?
2. Why do people crave them?
3. Can we be guilty and not know it?
4. How can we provoke or test God?
5. What is the difference between the Christian who stands and one who falls?

An effective teacher will observe the teaching techniques of others and find a way to make good use of such.

SOME OBSERVATIONS

Probably, the most favorite technique so often used is "group discussion." The teacher is able to encourage independent thinking and reasoning. It encourages the students to also ask question as well. However, in the midst of such discussion, the teacher will insist that the Bible must always be the true and final answer to our questions.

Using Bible techniques of teaching help to show that the Bible is relevant to life. It helps the student to know why and how the Bible applies to them. It can cause us to be aware of the social and emotional interests of others as we discuss things. It helps us to come to know the hurts, needs, and desires of others about us.

Good techniques will cause us to realize that people are different and have their own special needs to be dealt with. Thus, the need for varied types of classes; such as: **Singles, Married, Divorced, Widow(er), Parents with/without children, highly educated vs. High School educated vs. others, Different personality traits, and different levels of spiritual development.** To put everyone in the same classroom fails to realize these many differences. It makes it harder on the teacher to deal with the many differences in some instances.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Much more needs to be said about techniques, but hopefully this lesson will help to create a greater desire to make good use of proper techniques in teaching the Word of God.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- ___ 1. Techniques put too much emphasis on the illustration rather than the Truth of God.
- ___ 2. Learning to use good techniques is as easy as observing life around us.
- ___ 3. Jesus constantly used various techniques to get His message across.
- ___ 4. Even salt and light can be used to teach great spiritual truths.
- ___ 5. The illustration in 1 Cor. 10:1-14 stresses that a person can be saved, but later lost!
- ___ 6. People crave evil things because they are disappointed in life.
- ___ 7. A Christian is no longer a Christian if he falls away.

- ___ 8. A favorite technique of teaching is seen in learning how to lecture effectively.
- ___ 9. Techniques in teaching help to show that the Bible stories are relevant to life.
- ___ 10. To put everyone into the same class shows that the teacher hasn't learn a vital technique—the differences in people.

"Importance of a Good Curriculum"

In order to obtain long-term results, we must have Biblical objectives (goals) and then work up a Curriculum to help reach those goals. The Curriculum must be built on the Bible and should encourage a real desire to learn and know the Bible teachings. It must also encourage a reverence and love for God; and at the same time give help with spiritual decisions that must be made. Jesus should be the centerpiece of our Curriculum. Our Curriculum must overcome Biblical illiteracy. There needs to be the constant realization that we are preparing people for Eternity.

A good Curriculum will be designed to help people learn certain things at different levels. It will help to take people through the Bible more than once. It will deal with historical facts, but basic and fundamental lessons to be learned from such.

1. To learn OT books
2. To learn NT books
3. Explain why Jesus had to come.
4. Explain how a person can be saved today.
5. Explain what the two greatest commands are.
6. The significance of the Day of Pentecost.
7. To learn the names of the 12 Apostles.
8. To learn something about the great persons of the Bible
9. To learn of the significance of the Great Flood.
10. To learn the Basic Fundamentals of Christianity. **Etc.**

LEVELS OF LEARNING

Ages 1-5:

1. They learn by repetition.
2. Learn 3 key things:
 - ◇ God made me;
 - ◇ God loves me;
 - ◇ Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

3. Learn 3 basic truths:
 - ◇ I need to make wise choices;
 - ◇ I can trust God—no matter what
 - ◇ I should treat others the way I want to be treated.
4. Help to understand about worship by activities.
5. Learn Bible stories to help drive home truths to learn.
6. Learn books of the Bible.
7. Learn days of Creation, 12 sons of Jacob, 10 Plagues, 15 Judges, 9 fruits of the Spirit, 10 Commandments, and memorize key verses.

Grades 1-5

1. Get an over-view of the Bible
2. Learn basic facts and their application.
3. Memorization of special passages.
4. Help them with tools for Bible study.
5. Teach plan of salvation, respect, and our relationship to God.

Grades 6-8

1. Learning of facts—time for Bible Bowl exercises.
2. How the Bible relates to them.
3. How to deal with physical changes in their bodies.
4. Spiritual decisions to be made.
5. Use of the Bible is important to them.
6. To understand their condition before God.
7. Christian Evidences, peer pressure, issues, deepen study.
8. Importance of Prayer.
9. Involvement in spiritual activities.
10. Spiritual decisions to be made.

Grades 9-12

1. Full of questions.
2. Systematic study of the Bible.
3. First principles, Peer pressure issues, spiritual qualities, overcoming temptations.
4. Relationships.
5. Directions for them and their friends.
6. Know that God cares.
7. Special memorization.
8. Location of important Scriptures.

9. Challenges to think about.
10. Analyze, evaluate, harmonize Scriptures.
11. God should be involved in all of their decisions in life.

Adults

1. Continue more indepth with all the above.
2. Break down into special groupings to deal with special issues that each group would face.
3. Special teachings of Basics for new Christians and more mature teachings for more advanced Christians.
4. Give strong emphasis upon motivation to learn and to apply the Scriptures to their lives.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Bible Study has been described as a process which has three stages of development for older teens and adults:

1. The state when it is hard to learn and sometimes harder to put into practice.
2. The state when it is the same "old thing" but needed to stabilize us.
3. The state when it is understanding the great truths of God and it causes us to say with the Psalmist: "***I delight in your commandments because I love them.***" (Ps. 119:47).

Teachers are not asked to teach in our Bible Classes simply to take up time or to entertain the class. But, rather, to challenge us to learn, grow, and develop into mature and godly people before God.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- ___ 1. A Bible Curriculum is simply goals put down on paper.
- ___ 2. An unplanned Curriculum can lead to one-sided learning.
- ___ 3. A Curriculum should be planned to challenge people at whatever level in which they are capable of learning.
- ___ 4. Learning the Books of the Bible should not be a priority for children.
- ___ 5. A teacher has to learn by experience what certain ages of children are capable of learning.
- ___ 6. Pre-school children should be challenged to memorize a lot.
- ___ 7. Lower Grades children should be taught what to do to be saved.
- ___ 8. Higher Grades children should be taught how to evaluate the evidences for believing in God and the Bible.
- ___ 9. All adults should be taught the deeper truths of God.
- ___ 10. All people should delight in the study and understanding of the Word of God.

"The Importance of Teacher Credibility"

Every teacher should strive to be a **credible** teacher! How does one get to be credible, believable, reliable, and trustworthy? I don't think that any of us would say that this is accomplished through sloppy study, trying to "wing it" without proper study, or by not taking teaching the Bible seriously. To state one's opinion loudly and emotionally, but not clearly proven from Scripture, only detracts from a teacher's credibility. In fact, such will tend to build distrust and resentment. It is also obvious that any one who teaches will probably be criticized—justly or unjustly! It seems that all of the Old Testament Prophets were criticized and rejected—especially when their message was challenging or confronting. We may not be able to avoid some criticism, but we can do something about our credibility or trustworthiness!

BUILDING CREDIBILITY!

- 1. Learn how to study the Bible effectively** (2 Tim. 2:15). A teacher's progress will be evident to all (1 Tim. 4:13-15).
- 2. Spend time in applying the Bible's teaching to our lives** (Matt. 7:21). *"Practice what you preach."* Or, better still: *"Teach what you have practiced!"*
- 3. Build a reputation of being truthful, honest, and dependable** (2 Thess. 2:10).
- 4. Develop a pure heart, good conscience, and a sincere faith** (1 Tim. 1:5).
- 5. Plainly teach what is clearly stated in Scripture and teach it with conviction and assurance** (1 Tim. 4:11; Tit. 1:9).
- 6. Where there is not a clear statement of Scripture, but your convictions are based on a general study that you feel strongly infers something—state it as such and challenge others to do their own study. Be open and honest with people.**

- 7. When something is pure speculation—state it as such. Ask if anyone knows of Scripture on the topic of discussion. Put no stock in speculation. This gives credibility to the teacher who is being open, honest, and above board!**

AN EXAMPLE

There may be times when one's credibility needs to be clarified and shown clearly. One of the statements of Jesus can help to illustrate this need for clarification. He stated: "***The Publicans and Harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.***" (Matt. 21:31). This was a true and trustworthy statement, but it needed clarification. **Publicans** were Jews who collected taxes for the Romans who ruled Palestine in Jesus' day. They were hated by the Jews because they assisted the Romans. **Harlots** were despised by religious leaders and they sought opportunities to stone them. They did not profess to be religious. Then, why did Jesus make such a statement? Notice the following:

1. They were conscious of their sins.
2. They realized their need for forgiveness and spiritual healing.
3. But the Religious leaders (generally) were arrogant in their claims of goodness and seemingly unconscious of their sins.
4. The Publicans and Harlots drew near to hear Jesus, but the religious leaders were too proud and self-sufficient to listen.
5. The Publicans and Harlots believed Jesus, repented, and were baptized with John's baptism; but the religious leaders saw no need of either (Matt. 21:32; Lk. 7:29-30).
6. Jesus was not tolerate of sin; but He gave recognition to those who were willing to hear, believe, repent and obey the will of God. All of the vaunted righteousness of these religious leaders could not save them while they remained in rebellion against the Lord. The same is true today!

IDENTIFYING CREDIBLE TEACHERS

1. They will teach with a sense of responsibility because of the stricter judgment stated by James. (3:1)
2. They will teach with a sense of privilege and joy because they share the greatest message on earth. (1 Tim. 4:16; 3 Jn. 4)
3. They will teach with a desire to honor God. (Col. 3:17)
4. They will teach holding up holy hands and without wrath and doubting. (1 Tim. 2:8)
5. They will live up to their teaching—serving as an example to others in word, conduct, love, spirit, faith, purity (1 Tim. 4:12)
6. They will teach without showing prejudice or partiality (1 Tim. 5:21)

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Building credibility will take some time, but it is worth the effort! Sometimes it is a matter of rebuilding credibility because of a slip of the tongue or some impure actions. But credibility is attainable and desirable. It is also necessary because we are dealing with eternal realities!

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- 1. A trustworthy teacher and a credible teacher are two different things.
- 2. The person who does not take teaching the Bible seriously will find it hard to be a credible teacher.
- 3. Most of the Old Testament Prophets were not credible teachers in the eyes of the Jewish people.
- 4. Dishonest teachers can appear to be credible because they hide their dishonesty well.
- 5. It is not always easy to know when someone is a credible teachers.
- 6. Teaching speculations as truth is dishonest.

- 7. Jesus' statement about the Publicans and Harlots needed to be clarified in order for Him to keep His credibility.
- 8. Teaching the Word of God to people should always be looked upon as a privilege.
- 9. Pure teaching and pure living go together to build a strong credibility with people.
- 10. There should never be a time when a teacher needs to rebuild his credibility.

"The Importance of Teaching God's Word"

The Bible must be the centerpiece of our Bible Classes, Worship assemblies, or our teaching of others. It is easy to stress entertainment, being popular, and being politically correct. It is also easy to get caught up in our classes discussing our opinions and social issues rather than the Bible. God's admonition to us is to ***"preach the word!"*** (2 Tim. 4:2). The teaching in our Bible Classes and Assemblies is not to teach **ourselves, our thinking, or the thinking of others**. We are not to play **"fast and loose"** with God's Truth (2 Pet. 3:16). We must not be guilty of making **subtle changes** in the Bible's meaning and application. We are not to lift Scriptures out of their **context** and **twist them** to fit our own thinking. And especially, we are not to **"tone down"** the "hard sayings" of Jesus to make them more pleasing to people's ears. (2 Tim. 4:3-4). It should be like we say in a court of Law: *"Tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth!"* The Scriptures is our standard by which we live and worship.(2 Tim. 3:16-17)

EMPHASIS ON TEACHING THE BIBLE

There are a great deal of Scriptures that stress this concept in one way or another. Following are some of these passages:

1. Teach the Doctrine of Christ:

- a) Acts 2:42 _____
- b) Acts 5:28 _____
- c) Acts 13:12 _____
- d) Acts 17:19 _____

2. We are to Obey this Doctrine:

- a) Rom. 6:17 _____
- b) Rom. 16:17 _____
- c) 2 Tim. 4:2-3 _____
- d) Tit. 1:9 _____

3. The Dangers of being Led Away from this Teaching:

- a) Heb. 13:9 _____
- b) 1 Tim. 4:1 _____
- c) Rev. 2:14 _____
- d) 2 Jn. 9-11 _____

4. Great stress on Wholesome Teaching:

- a) 1 Tim. 1:10 _____
- b) 1 Tim. 4:6 _____
- c) 1 Tim. 4:16 _____
- d) 2 Tim. 4:3 _____
- e) Tit. 2:1 _____

God's people need to do all that we can to uphold the pure teaching of the Word of God (1 Tim. 6:1; Tit. 2:10; 1 Tim. 6:3). Congregations that will not hold to such teachings are heading for a calamity.

FEELINGS versus TRUTH

We are to teach the whole counsel of God, not the feelings of some brethren (Acts 20:27; 14:22; Tit. 1:13-14; 1 Tim. 4:16). Our job is to teach God's word whether it makes people "feel good" or not. A big danger of human beings is that we depend too much on our feelings rather than fact and reality. Someone says, "*Lord, let us feel Your Spirit.*" The question is "How?" Did the Prophet Nathan make David feel good when he told him the truth? (2 Sam. 12:1ff). Obviously not! Our goal or job in teaching is not to make people feel good, but to teach truth to the saving of their souls (Micah 3:8; Matt. 14:1-11; Acts 8:20; 13:10). If a person is in Sin, he needs to be brought to godly sorrow and repentance—not to paper him and make him feel good!

There is a saying that we hear often: "*If it feels good, do it!*" We need to make it crystal clear that this is not the message of God, but the Devil's message (Jn. 8:44-45). Nowhere does God give the indication that we are to base our decisions on our feelings!

It is the Word of God, not feelings, that is able to save our soul. (Jas. 1:21).

WHO ARE TO TEACH?

It is interesting to note that there is a strong emphasis on the older, more mature persons to do the teaching rather than the young. Why? Is it because the young have a tendency to go too much by their feelings? Notice these Scriptures:

1. **Parents**. (Deut. 6:6-9; Josh. 4:6-7; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21; 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14-15)
2. **Older Men & Women**. (Tit. 2:1-5; Job 32:7)
3. **Elders**. (1 Tim. 3:4-6)
4. **Deacons**. (1 Tim. 3:12-13)

Usually, older people are more sober-minded and responsible. An outstanding example of this is found in 1 Kings 12:1-15. The new King Rehoboam (son of Solomon) listened to the advice of the young men around him rather than the elders. This caused a division of the kingdom.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

It is certainly a great honor to teach people the Word of God and see the great results for good in their lives and the lives of others. It is also a grave responsibility that must be shouldered—to teach only God's truth, not the thinking of men nor what makes them feel good. The majority will not want to listen to the Truth of God, so expect criticism and even persecution.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- ___ 1. Salvation of man's soul comes only from teaching the Truth of God.
- ___ 2. The word "doctrine" has reference to that which is taught.

- ___ 3. Men either teach the "doctrine of Christ" or the "doctrine of men."
- ___ 4. We are admonish to teach "wholesome" or "sound" doctrine, not unwholesome or unsound doctrine.
- ___ 5. When we no longer follow "sound doctrine" we have departed from the faith.
- ___ 6. We should be very careful that we do not hurt the feelings of those that we strive to teach.
- ___ 7. Teaching truth can save a person's soul and also make him feel good.
- ___ 8. If something feels good, we should be allowed to do it.

- ___ 9. Emphasis is put on older people doing the teaching rather than the young.
- ___ 10. King Rehoboam is a good example of one who saw the benefit of listening to the young men in his kingdom.

