

Teaching

By Michael Wright

As we grow in faith, hope, love, and knowledge, **TEACHING** is an Area in which we are to grow.

- “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same **COMMIT** thou to **FAITHFUL** men, who shall be **ABLE** to **TEACH** others also.” (2Tim.2:2)

It would be good to remember **What** should be **Taught**, and **WHY**.

- “preach the **WORD**; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ³ For the time **WILL** come when they will **NOT** endure sound doctrine; but after their **OWN** lusts shall they **HEAP** to themselves teachers, having **ITCHING** ears; ⁴ and they shall turn **AWAY** their ears from the **TRUTH**, and shall be turned unto **FABLES**.” (2Tim.4:2-4)

It’s important to note, that talking about the Bible, waving a copy of the Bible, and asking endless questions about the Bible, is **NOT** preaching the WORD.

[1Pet.4:11](#) says

- “If any man **SPEAK**, let him speak **AS** the **ORACLES** of God; if any man minister, let him do it **AS** of the ability which **GOD** giveth: that **GOD** in **ALL** things may be **GLORIFIED, THROUGH** Jesus Christ, to **WHOM** be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

The **NIV** translates as

- “If anyone speaks, they should do so, as one who speaks the very words of God”

The **NASB** translates as

- “Whoever speaks, is to do so, as one who is speaking actual words of God”

Three important things to note about [1Pet.4:11](#):

- When men teach, the oracles of God **MUST** be spoken
- By speaking the oracles of God, God is glorified
- And By implication, if men don’t speak as the oracles of God, God is **NOT** glorified

One apostle said in [1Thess.2:4](#)

- “we were **ALLOWED** of God, to be put in **TRUST** with the **GOSPEL**, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”

The apostles had a **HUGE** responsibility with the gospel, or Word of God, and we do too!

The inspired apostle Paul stated,

- “For do I now **PERSUADE** men, or God? or do I **SEEK** to please men? for **IF** I yet pleased men, I should **NOT** be the servant of Christ” ([Gal.1:10](#)).

The sobering reminder of [Gal.1:6-9](#) reads,

- “I marvel that ye are so soon **REMOVED FROM** Him, that **CALLED** you into the **GRACE** of Christ, unto **ANOTHER** gospel: ⁷ which is **NOT** another; but there be some that **TROUBLE** you, and would **PERVERT** the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But though **WE** (that is, the apostles), or an **ANGEL** from heaven, **PREACH** any other gospel unto you, than that which we have **PREACHED** unto you, let him be **ACCURSED**. ⁹ As we said before, so say I now again, If any **MAN** preach any **OTHER** gospel unto you, than that ye have **RECEIVED**, let him be **ACCURSED**.”

The Bible says:

- “Take **HEED** unto thyself, **AND** unto the doctrine; (**NOT** unto man’s thoughts, not unto endless questions about the Bible, but unto the **DOCTRINE**, the Word of God), continue **IN** them: for in **DOING** this, thou shalt both **SAVE** thyself, and them that **HEAR** thee” ([1Tim.4:16](#)).

Man’s **THOUGHTS**, Man’s **WISDOM**, Man’s **INVENTIONS**, Man’s **ILLUSTRATION**, Man’s **HUMOR**, and Man’s **APPLICATIONS** and story telling, will **NOT** save anyone! ...and so those types of things, need to be kept at a bare minimum.

If one is going to **TEACH**, it needs to be the literal Word of God ([2Tim.4:2](#); [1Pet.4:11](#)). Jesus said “It is **written**” and then spoke His eternal, powerful Word (read [Matt. Ch.4](#)),

God’s **THOUGHT’S** most certainly SHOULD be **ELEVATED**, underscored and **highlighted**, above the thoughts or words of men, as the Bible says:

- “For **MY THOUGHTS** are **NOT** your thoughts, **NEITHER** are your ways **MY WAYS**, saith the LORD. For **AS** the heavens are **HIGHER** than the earth, so are **MY WAYS**, **HIGHER** than your ways, and **MY THOUGHTS**, than your thoughts” ([Isa.55:8-9](#)).

Christians need to remember that,

- It is the **Word** of God that is **quick** and **powerful** and **sharper** than any two-edged sword ([Heb.4:12](#)); ...**NOT** the words of men!
- It is the **HEARING** of the **Word** of God, that **Faith** comes ([Rom.10:17](#)); ... **NOT** the words of men!
- It is the Word of God that **ESTABLISHES** one in the faith ([Acts 16:5](#)); ... **NOT** the words of men!
- It is the Word of God that **BUILDS** ([Jude 1:20](#); [Col.2:7](#)); ...**NOT** the words of men!
- It is the Word of God that causes one to **GROW** ([2Pet.3:18](#); [Col.1:10](#)); ...**NOT** the words of men!
- It is the Word of God that **PRICKS** one in the heart ([Acts 2:37](#)); ... **NOT** the words of men!
- The Word of God, is a **LAMP** and **LIGHT** unto our feet and path ([Psalm 119:105](#)) ...**NOT** the words of men.
- It is the Word of God that one **REASONS** from ([Acts 17:2](#)) ...**NOT** the words of men.
- It is the Word of God where one gets **UNDERSTANDING** ([Psalm 119:104](#)) ...**NOT** the words of men.

The Bible says,

- “According as His **DIVINE** power, hath **GIVEN** unto us **ALL** things that **PERTAIN** unto life and godliness, **THROUGH** the knowledge of Him (that is, through His Word) that hath **CALLED** us to glory and virtue: Whereby are **GIVEN** unto us **EXCEEDING** great and **PRECIOUS** promises: that by these ye might be **PARTAKERS** of the **DIVINE** nature, having **ESCAPED** the corruption that is **IN** the world **THROUGH** lust.” ([2Pet.1:3-4](#))

...and so it is the Knowledge or Word of God that gives us all things, not the words of men!

- “the way of man is **NOT** in himself: it is **NOT** in man... to direct his steps.” ([Jer.10:23](#)).

It should be very clear by now, that our **TEACHING** needs to strictly include God’s Word.

The Lord needs Christians, who

- **Daily** in the temple, and in **EVERY** house, ceased **NOT** to teach and preach Jesus Christ ([Acts 5:42](#))
We don't teach and preach a good story!

In fact, the early Christians

- **FILLED** all of Jerusalem, **WITH** that doctrine ([Acts 5:28](#)), that is, with the Word of God.
- They so spoke **BOLDLY**, that great multitudes **BELIEVED**. Don't ever forget [Acts 14:1-3](#)
- They believed that they were **DEBTORS** to preach the gospel;
- That they should be **READY** to preach the gospel;
- And they **CERTAINLY** would never be **ASHAMED** to preach the gospel
- As they **UNDERSTOOD** the gospel, to be God's **POWER** to **SAVE** (read [Rom.1:14-16](#); [1Cor.15:1-4](#); [James 1:21](#))

In fact, an inspired apostle said,

- **IF** our gospel be **HID** (that is, IF the Word of God be HID), it is **HID** to them that are **LOST** ([2Cor.4:3](#))

In another passage, the apostle Paul said,

- **WOE** is unto me, if I preach **NOT** the gospel ([1Cor.9:16](#))
Woe is unto anyone, if they teach or preach NOT the Word of God, is the idea.

[2Jn. vs 10-11](#) has this warning,

- If there come **ANY** unto you, and bring **NOT** this doctrine, that is bring NOT the Word of God, receive him **NOT** into your house, **NEITHER** bid him God speed:
For he that biddeth him God speed, is **PARTAKER** of his **EVIL** deeds. ([2Jn.vs 10-11](#))

The clear implication is that it is evil to replace the Word of God, with man's thoughts.

We need to be careful not to exclude God's Word, or replace it with **excellency of speech!**

Paul said,

- "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came **NOT** with **excellency of speech** or of wisdom (of men), declaring unto you the testimony of God. ² For I determined not to know any thing among you, save (except) Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴ And my speech and my preaching was **NOT** with **enticing words of man's wisdom**, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: ⁵ that your faith should **NOT** stand in the **wisdom of men**, but in the power of God." ([1Cor.2:1-5](#))

Since men are

- **CALLED** by the **Gospel** of Christ ([2Thess.2:14](#)), that is, called by the Word of God,
It needs to be taught and preached **EVERYWHERE!**
- So that the Word of God can **GROW** and **MULTIPLY**, as it did in the first century ([Acts 12:24](#))
- So mightily **GREW** the Word of God and **PREVAILED** ([Acts 19:20](#))

With all of these thoughts in mind,

Shouldn't Christians, teachers and preachers, include **MORE** of the Word of God, instead of less of it?

In the first century, when

- the word of God **INCREASED**; ...the number of the disciples **MULTIPLIED** ([Acts 6:7](#)).

What do you think will happen, if the Word of God DECREASES from teachers and preachers?

Don't ever forget, the great importance of growing in **TEACHING**, but also that the TEACHING should **NOT** be neglected by **REPLACING** God's Word, with the word's of men, wisdom of men, humor, application, illustration, or inventions of men.

We need to be careful about incorporating inventions of men, in **PREPARING** to Teach.

It is said of an older gospel preacher, who mentored several other gospel preachers. He told them this slogan, "Make'm laugh, Make'm cry and Tell'm good-bye".

There is a method used in the realm of Engineering and it has the acronym K.I.S.S, which means "**Keep It Simple Stupid**".

Neither of these two examples, has any place in preparing to teach and preach the Word of God.

Carl Allen and others have emphasized in preparing to Teach, one should study the text, pre-text, and extended text.

Johnny Ramsey said to study in context, is to take all of God's revelation on a given subject, then you have God's thoughts on that subject or topic.

Both men have it right, and here's the Bible verse that proves it.

[Psalm 119:160](#) (American Standard Version) reads,

- "The **SUM** of Thy Word **IS** Truth;
And every one of thy righteous ordinances endureth for ever."

We understand about the word SUM, it means to Add.

Here's an example. When one takes the Bible passages on,
God's Grace + God's Mercy + the Blood of Christ
+ Man's responsibility to Hear + Believe + Repent + Confess + Be Baptized INTO Christ,
We have the SUM of God's Truth, on His Plan of Redemption for mankind.

I even heard a man say that preachers should get away from teaching topical lessons. If we did, we'd never learn the SUM of God's Truth on the Plan of Salvation, and many other Biblical subjects.

- "The **SUM** of Thy Word **IS** Truth" (don't ever forget [Psalm 119:160](#))

To grow in Teaching, we don't need inventions of men, as God has given us everything we need in His Word ([2Tim.3:16-17](#)).