

Do We Need Teachers?

“Understandest thou what thou readeſt? . . . How can I, except ſome man ſhould guide me?”
Acts 8:30-31

- I. But Ain't I a Priest?
 - A. But I'm a king and a priest (Rev 1:6). But that does not make you either wise or a teacher.
 - B. But I've got an unction (I Jn 2:20,27). But why did John write then to instruct them in truth?
 - C. But I have the internet. Indeed! You're ever learning and never able to find truth (II Tim 3:7).
 - D. A little knowledge is dangerous. Why do you have a saw? I read an article on heart surgery.
 - E. But sharing is so much fun. Of course! Thirty people sharing will produce forty wrong ideas.
 - F. But Plymouth Brethren, Quakers, and the House Church movement have such sweet peace.

- II. But Ain't the Bible Easy to Understand?
 - A. There are 2 billion “Christians” today and 95% err three times on the simplest Bible subject – baptism. They teach (1) it saves from sin, (2) it is for babies, and (3) it means sprinkling.
 - B. Peter thought Paul difficult, and he mentions the unlearned bringing destruction (II Pet 3:16).
 - C. Parables are not “earthly stories with heavenly meanings for simple people” (Matt 13:10-17).
 - D. Jewish doctors knew the Bible from memory but were grossly wrong (Matt 12:3,5,7; 22:29).

- III. What Is God's Pattern?
 - A. Under the Old Testament, God's knowledge was to be sought from the priests (Malachi 2:7).
 - B. Consider the teaching service in Nehemiah 8:5-8. This is how we learn. Name the teachers.
 - C. God's pattern includes strictly defending his chosen teachers (Numbers 12:1-16; 16:1-50).
 - D. Paul judged the Athenians ignorant and superstitious and declared the truth (Acts 17:22-24).
 - E. Apollos was greatly gifted and taught in the Lord's way, but he needed more (Acts 18:24-28).
 - F. The New Testament pattern is ministerial succession by ordination of teachers (II Tim 2:2).

- IV. Did God Give Gifts?
 - A. When Jesus ascended up on high, He gave teaching gifts to men (Ps 68:11,18; Eph 4:8-14).
 - B. What are the best gifts (I Cor 12:28-31)? Teaching! Are all teachers (I Cor 12:28-31)? No!
 - C. Paul was entrusted with the gospel like no other (I Thess 2:4,13; Eph 3:1-7; II Cor 5:20).

- V. Does God Divide Labor?
 - A. The Scriptures are primarily for the man of God – the ordained teacher (II Tim 2:15; 3:16-17).
 - B. The man of God, a bishop like Timothy, was dedicated to teaching (I Tim 4:13-15; II Ti 2:4).
 - C. Those taught the word ought to take care of the teacher to keep him studying (Galatians 6:6).
 - D. Women are to be silent (I Cor 14:34-35; I Tim 2:11-12) and teach limited things (Tit 2:3-5).

- VI. What Are They Like?
 - A. They preach with authority very differently than the religious establishment (Matt 7:28-29).
 - B. They are to preach the Word insistently ignoring public opinion (II Timothy 4:1-5; Tit 2:15).
 - C. They are bold, dogmatic, and critical of errors (Job 32:6-14,21-22; Gal 1:8-9; Rom 16:17-18).

- VII. What Shall We Do?
 - A. Be thankful for beautiful feet (Romans 10:15), and celebrate learning the truth (Neh 8:10-12).
 - B. Seek out appointed teachers and esteem them highly for their work's sake (I Thess 5:12-13).
 - C. Receive their teaching with a ready mind and check it by the Bible (Acts 17:11; I Thess 5:21).
 - D. Pray (Eph 6:19; II Thes 3:1-2; Col 4:3-4); pay (II Chr 31:4; I Cor 9:14); obey (Heb 13:7,17).