

## **THE NEED FOR TEACHERS** **(2 Timothy 2:1-2)**

### **I. Let's notice the need.**

- A. Christianity is a taught religion (John 6:44-45).
  - 1. You are not born a Christian.
  - 2. You do not mysteriously become a Christian.
  - 3. You have to be taught what the Bible says about salvation.
- B. Since Christianity is a taught religion, there is a great need for teachers to teach this religion.
- C. Notice what the Hebrews writer had to say about people teaching (Hebrews 5:12).
  - 1. Did you notice that word ought?
  - 2. It means to be in debt.
  - 3. We are morally bound to be teachers if we are Christians.
  - 4. That does not mean in front of a class or in a preaching capacity necessarily.
  - 5. But it does mean we are to teach.
- D. Notice the words of Peter (2 Peter 3:18).
  - 1. He says we are to grow as Christians.
  - 2. A friend of mine ran a cartoon in the church bulletin that said, "If some people grew physically at the rate they grow spiritually, they would spend their whole life in the playpen."
  - 3. We are to grow in knowledge and this requires study and teachers in order to do so.
- E. Too many times we have a shortage of teachers because of a lack of knowledge in some and a lack of concern in others.
- F. When this happens, you usually have young Christians teaching classes who need to be in class themselves.
- G. Or, the ones who are willing get stuck in a class and we use them until they burn out and never want to teach again.
- H. The Great Commission says teach.
  - 1. That commission was given to all of us.
  - 2. We don't have to go to Africa or China to fulfill this commission.
- I. Ask yourself something: Do I have the ability to teach?
  - 1. If yes, but your not teaching then why aren't you?
  - 2. If no, why not?
    - a. Is it because you are a new member?
      - (1) This is acceptable.
      - (2) You need to be in class.
    - b. Or is it because you don't have the knowledge after having been baptized for many years?
      - (1) This is unacceptable.
      - (2) It shows a tremendous lack of growth.

### **II. Let's notice some false notions.**

- A. People come up with a lot of excuses not to teach and we all know what an excuse is.

- B. Let me say that I do believe there are some good reasons for not teaching a class, but most are excuses and not reasons.
- C. Some say I am too old.
  - 1. This may very well be true, but most of the time it isn't.
  - 2. I have heard some older people say, "I have done my time in the class room, now it is some younger persons turn."
  - 3. Notice Titus 2:2-4 - what class of people, specifically women, are told to teach - the older class.
  - 4. Aged means older or old.
  - 5. It doesn't say retire from teaching, but now you are seasoned to teach.
  - 6. John was well into his 90's when he wrote his books.
  - 7. What if he had said I am old, let someone else do it?
  - 8. Our older members should be a storehouse of knowledge.
    - a. That knowledge should be dispensed.
    - b. It shouldn't be kept in a vault.
- D. Some say that the children don't behave and are hard to teach.
  - 1. This may very well be the case, but it doesn't mean they don't need to learn.
  - 2. As a former youth minister, I know kids can be unruly.
- E. Let me talk to the parents here.
  - 1. We should take the blame for this if it is the case.
  - 2. We owe the teacher a few things.
    - a. Our children should be there on time, not disrupting the class by being late.
    - b. Our children should be prepared for Bible class the way they are for Math class.
    - c. When there is a discipline problem we should back the teacher if he/she is right.
- F. Some say that the students don't prepare.
  - 1. I remember being in preaching school and one of the students tell the instructor that class was boring.
  - 2. The instructor looked at him and said "you are boring."
  - 3. Parents need to make sure their children are prepared.
  - 4. Adults need to make sure they are prepared for their class as well.
  - 5. Even if the students don't prepare there is still a need for teaching.

### **III. Let's notice the necessities for teaching.**

- A. The number one need for a teacher is preparation.
  - 1. You can't teach something you don't know.
  - 2. One of the most valuable things that come out of teaching a class is the knowledge the teacher gains from the study of the material.
    - a. If you do it right you can never get through the all the material that you could present.
    - b. You come away from that class learning far more than any student in the class itself.
  - 3. Teaching takes time and effort but it is worth it (Romans 10:15).

4. When you see the change in a student's life or watch them grow up to become elders, preachers or teachers then you can know you had a hand in that.
- B. Another necessity is a love for souls.
1. Don't look at the students in the class as people but as souls.
  2. Each one of them is on their way to heaven or hell and you can help determine that destiny by teaching them.
  3. Do you love them enough to teach them or can you sit in a pew and do nothing while people around you are lost?
- C. Another necessity is a knowledge of the class.
1. We must make sure we are teaching on their level.
  2. We can talk to high or to low for the students.
- D. Another necessity is a concept of time.
1. I am not talking about going over or under time.
  2. When you teach someone you are using valuable time.
  3. Make sure that we don't waste theirs and ours.