

An "Exposing the Word" Sermon Series



12- Deciding to Become a Master Craftsman Heb 5:12-13

Experience is a great teacher and to pass along the knowledge and wisdom is a great blessing.

We have spend the last several months talking about building our Christian lives with the Blueprint that God would have us use.

There is one more thought that cries out for exploration before we move away from this series. In the world of construction you will find many times that a older man will take a young man under his wing and teach him how to be a carpenter. A Master Craftsman, satisfied not only by knowing how to build, desires to pass along the knowledge. They may be called a journeyman in the electrical field, a apprentice or whatever in other fields.

May I suggest that the Bible would teach us that we need to pass along the things we learn to others as we build our lives? As we learn the lessons from God in our lives as he shapes a builds us we need to mentor, disciple, become friends with, apprentice, or whatever term is in vogue at the time.

The Bible clearly teaches us that there is a calling to be a teacher. A calling that is gifted by spiritual gifts. **1Co 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers...** The books of Acts give numerous instances where Paul and the other apostles and missionaries taught for many months and even years at different locations.

Many in the churches today have been called and equipped by God through the Holy Spirit to be teachers. Many who have been called have not responded.

I- You Ought to Be Teachers:

Having said that may I suggest that we all have a calling to teach the faith not just the ones who hold the position. We all need to make a decision, are we going to become a master craftsman who passes along the knowledge?

Notice what the writer of Hebrews said in a challenge to the Christians to become more mature and pointing out their lack of spiritual growth.

Heb 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

The *English Standard Version*(ESV) says, **For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God...**

They had been Christians long enough to have grown in the faith.

David Guzik said the following:

Their failure to mature is exposed. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God;

...You ought to be teachers: It wasn't that these were unique people who would hold a unique role of teaching. Instead, they **ought to be teachers** in the sense that all Christians should be teachers.

There is an important sense in which every Christian must be a teacher, because

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we can all help disciple others. We really only master something after we have effectively taught it to someone else. Teaching is the final step of learning.

So the challenge today is that a decision needs to be made. Are we going to become someone who passes the faith along and teaches others or not. We are called to be teachers and all have a sphere of influence that we are stewards of. It is a simple fact that we all are teachers. Now it is only a matter of what we teach.

What Kind of Teacher?

The mediocre teacher tells.

The good teacher explains.

The superior teacher demonstrates.

The great teacher inspires.

Progress Magazine, December 23, 1992

II- Milk Babies:

Heb 5:12...are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

Some verses sum up the world today and many of our church attendees. Notice **2Ti 3:1-2 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy... 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

We might call these milk babies. Now when someone is first saved they are often like a newborn baby that needs nourishment of the word of God to grow. We are even told in **1Pe 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.** Now the idea is not that we always remain milk babies. So the first decision many time we need to make is to

get off the milk and onto the meat of the word.

If we fail to mature then we run the risk of become a weak Christian that does not recognize the Bible when it is taught and mistake other things as they are taught as the Word.

In April, 1985, I [John Underhill of Spokane WA] visited in a couple's home who told me how they had been fans of Dr. Gene Scott from Southern California, and what a great preacher he was. They hadn't been at church for a while, so I went to visit them. When I arrived, Dr. Scott was on TV, they'd purchased a satellite dish in order to stay current with his teaching. After some chit-chat, the husband turned to me and said, 'You're probably wondering why you haven't seen us at church lately. Right then, Dr. Scott held up a book about the lost city of Atlantis and the pyramids, and the husband looked at me and said, 'This is what we want in Bible teaching, and we haven't ever heard this taught in any of the churches we've been in!''

Now obviously the pyramids and the lost city of Atlantis is not found in the Bible.

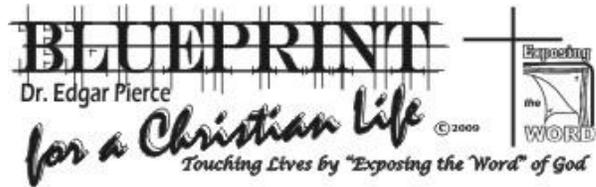
Paul said in **2Ti 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

The call for Master Craftsmen to teach the word with their voice, lives and commitment is needed sorely in our times.

III- A Family Affair:

What if we do not do this? What if we continue to not study the Word, not learn

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so we can teach, not put into practice the things we hear? May I say if we do not teach our kids and the family of our church and community someone will. Others will teach them and many times it is things contrary to what we claim to believe but do not pass along.

It is a commonplace how easily a child of 3 or 4 picks up a foreign language if exposed to it without any formal teaching. Yet we are unwilling to admit that a child of the same age picks up our unconscious attitudes and prejudices without being taught, and often retains these longer than any of his formal education. - Sidney J. Harris

Paul talked about Timothy and his heritage of faith in **2Ti 1:5** *When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*

This illustrates from the Scriptures that the passing of the faith along is a family affair.

IV- Results Best Settled in Eternity:

Many times, we wonder if we are making any impact. Often we are not aware of the influence we are having as we teach with our lives and words. Hear **Gal 6:9** *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

Dyson Hague, a chaplain in an English hospital...visited a ward of dying soldiers. One man asked him if he would write his Sunday school teacher and tell her he would die a Christian because of her teaching.

Chaplain Hague wrote the letter. A few weeks later he received this reply: 'Just a month ago I resigned my class of young men which I had been teaching for years, for I felt that my teaching was getting nowhere. Then came your letter, telling how my teaching had helped win this boy to Christ. I've asked for my class back. May God have mercy on me!'

Leslie B. Flynn quoted in Our Daily Bread, September 26, 1992

V- Call to Action:

The next verse in Hebrews 5 after our text is **Hebrews 5:14** *But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

The call to action today is simple. Are you doing what needs to be done in your life at your stage of spiritual life to pass along the faith? Are you learning the Word so you can teach it, are you willing to step out and commit to become a Master Craftsman who passed the trade along?