

Teachers & Teaching

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Lesson text: **Acts 18:26** – “So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and **explained to him the way of God more accurately.**” (NKJ) Friends, there is an example of some teach training taking place.
1. The context of our text takes place in the ancient metropolis of Ephesus during the course of Paul’s third missionary journey that lasted some four years and covered some 2,515 miles (1,190 by sea and 1,325 by land).
 2. With Paul not yet present in the city, Apollos of Alexandria and began to teach what He knew, but what he knew was based on limited knowledge.
 3. Paul’s fellow tentmakers, Aquila and Priscilla, took him aside privately and “. . . . **Explained to him the way of God more accurately.**”
 4. On this occasion the hearers did some teaching.
 5. On this occasion the teacher was being taught.
 6. On this occasion a better teacher was being developed for the Lord’s service.
 7. After this occasion Apollos chose as his classroom the notorious city of Corinth wherein it remains stated in **I Corinthians 3:6** that Paul “**planted, Apollos water, and God gave the increase.**” The watering came after Apollos received some additional “teacher training” in Ephesus.
 - a. He was better ready for Corinth after he had been to Ephesus.
 - b. Maybe you will be better ready for your classroom after this series of lessons is completed.
 8. Perhaps after these studies you will be better prepared and/or better motivated to go forth and plant or water in order that God may give His increase.
- B. It has been said . . . and I might add . . . a lot has been said:
1. It has been said . . . “As goes the Bible school . . .so goes the church.”
 2. It has been said . . . “As goes the teacher . . . so goes the Bible School.”
 3. It has been said . . . “Those who can DO, and those who cannot, TEACH.” To that I say hogwash. (And I say that without the slightest intention of insulting a hog)
 4. It has been said . . . “Any class is 85% teacher and 15% curriculum.”
 5. It has been said . . . “All the Bible one has is what he lives.”
 6. It has been said . . . “A teacher teaches little by what he says, more by what he does, but most by who he is.”
 7. It has been said . . . “God had only one Son, and He made Him The Teacher.” In fact, Jesus was called “teacher” more than anything else.
 8. It has been said . . . “85% of conversions come from the Bible school.

It has been said . . .

 - Mediocre teachers TELL
 - Good teachers EXPLAIN
 - Superior teachers DEMONSTRATE
 - Great teachers INSPIRE
- C. From all this I gather that a lot “has been said.” However, not enough has been said . . .
1. Not enough has been said about the importance and place of the Bible class teacher in the work of the church.

2. Not enough has been said in appreciation of and for our Bible class teachers and the work they do in instructing the students placed under their care.
 3. Not enough has been said about the important role that Bible classroom instruction plays in the public responses to the Lord's invitation in the auditorium.
 4. Not enough has been said about the hours of preparation and prayer that dedicated Bible school teachers put into every class.
 5. Not enough has been said about the potential that every teacher brings to the classroom.
 - a. The potential to be partners with God in changing a life eternally.
 - b. The potential to be partners with God in teaching a soul.
 - c. The potential to be partners with God in helping a soul be saved.
 - d. The potential to be partners with God in helping a student make it through a crucial week in his life.
 - e. The potential to be partners with God in helping a student not ruin his or her life because of strong peer pressure to sin.
 - f. The potential to be partners with God in helping to motivate and inspire other students to become partners with God as teachers and being this cycle all over again . . . again . . . and again.
- D. Teachers are special.
1. An awesome responsibility is theirs to know that parents have entrusted their child's mind and faith to their trust each Bible class period.
 2. It is an awesome responsibility for teachers of adults to know that each class period may mean the difference in being saved or being lost . . . or remaining faithful or returning to the word, hangs in the balance in the heart, mind, and life of someone present in your Bible class.
 3. Friends, the importance of the role of Bible class teachers cannot be overstated and should not be underestimated.
 4. And never . . . no, never . . . should a Bible class teacher be taken for granted.
- E. In this series of studies . . . at points throughout these sessions . . . I hope to:
1. I hope to encourage those are teaching to press on.
 2. I hope to encourage those who may desire to begin teaching . . . to begin teaching.
 3. I hope to encourage an undecided brother or sister to finalize a decision to become a faithful Bible class teacher. Once has to decide before he can begin.
 4. I hope to dissuade a discouraged teacher from leaving the classroom.
 5. I hope to say something that will strengthen the resolve, the sense of mission, privilege, and duty of an already strong faithful Bible class teacher.
 6. I hope to show you that the work of the Church is being carried out every time a Bible class meets.
 7. I hope to show you that Christ should be present in every Bible class.
 8. I hope to show you before our time together is over that two of the greatest needs we have today is for:
 - a. FAT teachers.
 - F** - Faithful
 - A** - Available
 - T** - Teachable
 - b. DESTRUCTIVE classrooms
 1. Classrooms that are destructive in destroying Ignorance.
 2. Classrooms that can be destructive in destroying loneliness.
 3. Classrooms that can be destructive in destroying lukewarmness.

4. Classrooms that can be destructive in destroying sin and the hold it has on the lives of the students.

TEACHERS, YOU ARE IN THE CHURCH BY DIVINE AUTHORITY . . . YOU BELONG!

A. Teachers are in the church by Divine authority.

B. Hear God's Word

1. **John 6:44-45** - "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And **they shall all be taught by God**. Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me"
2. **Matthew 28:19-20** - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen"
3. **Ephesians 4:11** - "**And He Himself gave some to be apostles**, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and **teachers**, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ"
4. **Acts 13:1** - "Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers . . ." Luke goes on to name five of the teachers

C. Jesus was indeed the Master Teacher of all time.

- He taught **publicly** - Matthew 23:1-39
- He taught **privately** - Matthew 24:3-25:6
- He taught during the **day** - Luke 21:38
- He taught at **night** - John 3:1-11
- He taught in **cities** - John 7:14-29
- He taught in the **countryside** - Matthew 5:1
- He taught **His own people** - Matthew 13:54-58
- He taught **people of other races** - John 4:4-42
- He taught His **friends** - Matthew 13:36-43
- He taught **strangers** - Matthew 15:21-28
- He taught the **rich** - Luke 18:18-23
- He taught the **poor** - Luke 4:18
- He taught **public officials** - Luke 19:1-27
- He taught **private citizens** - Luke 23:27-31
- He taught **military personnel** - Matthew 8:5-13
- He taught **civilians** - Luke 8:34-38
- He taught **religious leaders** - Matthew 8:11-13
- He taught **religious followers** - Matthew 11:1-6
- He taught in His **home town** - Luke 4:16-30
- He taught in **neighboring communities** - Luke 4:32

D. The Master Teacher masterfully taught!

- The **TRUTH** of God - John 8:32
- The **WORDS** of God - John 11:25
- The **LOVE** of God - John 3:16
- The **WILL** of God - John 6:38

- The **WAY** of God - John 14:4
- The **DOCTRINE** of God - John 7:1-60
- The **PROMISES** of God - Luke 24:49
- With **POWER** - Luke 4:32
- With **AUTHORITY** - Matthew 7:29

F. Not only was Jesus The Master Teacher:

1. He was the master of all teachers.
2. He was the teacher of all masters. He was the teach of:
 - a. Those who think they have mastered teaching.
 - b. Those who think they have mastered learning.
 - c. Those who think they have mastered knowledge.
 - d. Those who think they have mastered methods and approaches.
 - e. Those who think they have mastered the Bible School classroom.

G. Jesus was sent to teach, and those He taught, He sent to teach others the Word of God.

1. Peter wrote in **1 Peter 2:21**, "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps."
2. It is incumbent upon those who would be God's children also becomes teachers of God's Word.
3. Not all teaching is done formally; much teaching is done informally. Not all teaching is done in the Bible school classroom; much teaching is done the broader classroom of life.
4. As a Christian you have been taught . . . as a Christian you must teach others. It is a great honor to be a teacher in life . . . it is a greater honor to be a Bible School teacher.