

TEACHING FROM THE BIBLE

Part II: The Teacher's Cooperation With His Overseer, The Chief Shepherd (2 Tim. 1:6f, 13f; 1 Pet. 5:4; 1 Tim. 4:14; 1 Cor. 2; 2 Cor. 2:14ff; Rev. 3:14)

I. Introduction

- A. When one gets involved teaching the Bible, he soon finds himself asking, "What just HIT me?!" He experiences stresses and fatigue that he was not anticipating before taking the task.
- B. There is a spiritual dimension to teaching that every Bible teacher must understand if he wishes to be blessed in effectively making disciples.

II. The Teacher's Cooperation With His Overseer, The Chief Shepherd

- A. When Paul wrote to Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:1-4, he mentioned the **tears** that Timothy shed over his work which included teaching, 1 Tim. 4:13. Accordingly, Paul encouraged Timothy to use his **spiritual gift**, cf. 2 Tim. 1:6-7; 1 Tim. 4:13-14. This command to Timothy reveals a principle in Bible teaching: **one who teaches Scripture wars a spiritual warfare; thus, he must minister supernaturally to succeed!**
- B. Accordingly, we look at the following dynamics for success in presenting the Word of God:
 1. Every Christian "shepherd" is accountable to the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ, 1 Peter 5:4.
 2. That Chief Shepherd gave the following input for those who teach Scripture:
 - a. Jesus Christ wants Bible teachers to utilize their unique spiritual gifts in presenting the Word, 2 T. 1:6f. One should **not** try to **copy** another teacher's actions, for he may not have the **same** spiritual gift **emphasis** as the one he copies, so such copying efforts will leave him using human ability, producing painful spiritual **failure**, cf. 1 Cor. 12:4-11,12-30.
 - b. The teacher should always look to the indwelling Holy Spirit's power to preserve his doctrinal purity, 2 T. 1:13f. This equips the teacher to teach with **confidence** that he is **correct in content!**
 - c. **When** he faces suffering in God's will, the teacher must handle those afflictions by depending upon God instead of handling them in human strength, 2 Tim. 1:8. One can handle **any** suffering coming his way if he serves **in God's will**, for **God** secures **his ministry** from **eternity past**, 2 Tim. 1:9.
 - d. If the teacher is **in God's will**, God will equip him as the speaker and illuminate the minds of those who hear him **regardless** of **subjective events** in the teaching process, 1 Cor. 2:1-5 (for the speaker's enabling when humanly unappealing) and 1 Cor. 2:9-13 (the hearer's illumination). The teacher must not gauge success or failure on events he sees in teaching. Though they **produce** visible results, spiritual advances themselves are **not** visible events, 1 Th. 3:5-8!
 - e. The teacher must rest in the sovereignty of the Chief Shepherd over **all** who hear him teach, Rev. 3:14. (1) Jesus is the "**Amen**," the One who causes the **godly** to respond positively to teachers; (2) He is the "**faithful and true Witness**," the One who holds the **carnal believer** responsible to what the teacher says, cf. Jeremiah 42:5 (the only place in Scripture besides Rev. 3:14 where this expression is used, and there it is of carnal hearers who don't take Jeremiah seriously!); (3) Jesus is the "**Head of the creation of God**," the One rules over even **unbelievers** who hear Bible teachers!
 - f. The Bible teacher must rest in the security of God's **guaranteed** ministry success for all of his efforts **in God's will**: in 2 Cor. 2:14-16, Paul reported that God **always** made him **triumph** in his ministry. 2 Cor. 2:17 explains why: unlike many false teachers who corrupted the Word of God for unjust gain, Paul and his co-workers were **honest** in their lifestyles and teaching deliveries, and God consistently **blessed** this approach !

Lesson: If we teach without depending on the Holy Spirit, our best efforts will be of no eternal effect (Jn. 15:4-6), and we will suffer spiritual trauma in the teaching process. But if we teach a given party (1) in God's assignment, (2) focusing on using the spiritual gift God has given us in this effort, (3) depending on the Holy Spirit for our doctrinal accuracy preservation, for handling those afflictions caused in that teaching process, and for causing the disciple-making process to succeed no matter WHO hears us, and if we (4) deliver this lesson candidly, (4) God guarantees everlasting blessing!