

## The Role of Teaching

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*by Bill Crews*

The gospel is God's power unto man's salvation (Rom. 1:16). It is able to convict the world in respect of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8-13), to instill faith in Christ and the Father (Acts 15:7; Rom. 10:17), to prick the hearts of sinners in regard to their sins (Acts 2:37), to beget unto salvation (1 Pet. 1:23; 1 Cor. 4:15), to draw unto Christ (John 6:44-45), to make men disciples of Christ (Matt. 28:19; Acts 14:21), and to bring eternal life (John 6:63, 68). It will enable the child of God to grow and develop (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 1:5-11), to teach others (Heb. 5:14), to recognize error and departure from the truth (Eph. 4:14; 1 John 4:1). It will, in fact, enable the man of God to be perfect or complete and to be thoroughly furnished unto every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

The role of teaching in the salvation of the lost, the maturing of the saved, and the proper development of a local congregation has never been over-emphasized. There has never been too much time given to teaching God's word nor too much teaching done -- publicly or privately. Often more attention has been given to means, methods, aids, facilities, and mechanics of teaching than to the importance and necessity of thorough, faithful Bible teaching. The more some churches emphasize teacher training courses, the less Bible they teach in their Bible(?) classes. (Their "vacation Bible schools" become more fun and entertainment than learning what is in the Bible.) What good is accomplished by knowing how to teach if we are not going to jealously guard what we teach? Much better is it to have God's word taught, even if crudely taught, than to have human philosophy taught with polish.

It has often been said that a lack of Bible teaching is behind all our problems among churches, and that thorough Bible teaching is the solution to all of our problems. Of course there must be a proper respect for that teaching. So very many in nearly every congregation are like those described in Hebrews 5:12 who "by reason of the time ought to be teachers," but in reality "have need again that someone teach" them "the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God." Individually and collectively we can do something about a situation such as this. As parents we can truly nurture our children in the chastening and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). As saints we can be diligent in privately studying the Scriptures (Col. 3: 16; 2 Pet. 3:18). As a congregation we can have a sound, thorough program of teaching. As members we can take advantage of the opportunities to hear and learn God's word at assemblies and in Bible classes; we can bring our families and urge others to attend.

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