

## What Future Elders Should Be Doing?

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by Wayne Goff

Christianity is a taught religion (John 6:44-45; Hebrews 8:8-12). So, churches need good teachers in their fold. Ephesians 4:11 lists “*apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers...*” In the early church, many evangelists would preach in a city for a while, start a new congregation and then the everyday teaching was left to the teachers. As Paul put it, “*I planted, Apollos watered...*” (1 Corinthians 3:6). Consider a few areas in which teachers must excel now and if they are to teach in the future as they lay the foundation for future generations within the church.

**Make the Scriptures your focus.** We do not need teachers who spend the class focused on “*fables*” (2 Timothy 4:4), “*foolish disputes*” (Romans 14:1; Titus 3:9), “*opinion*” (Romans 12:16) or “*complaining*” (Philippians 2:14). The teaching of Jesus was saturated with Scripture and the church needs teachers who know and teach Scripture.

**Good teachers are first taught.** Before we can teach, we must first learn. Taught people teach people. So listen to godly parents (Ephesians 6:1-4), religious teachers (2 Timothy 1:11,13) and choose good reading materials (1 Timothy 4:13). Maturing to the point of becoming a teacher takes time because it takes learning (Hebrews 5:12-14).

**Good teachers provide good examples.** Teaching is not just for anybody (James 3:1). Paul told Timothy to pass on the teachings of Christ to “*faithful men*” (2 Timothy 2:2). Timothy himself was to “*be an example to the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity*” (1 Timothy 4:12). Jesus once warned about the Pharisees who “*don’t practice what they teach*” (Matthew 23:3, HCSB; cp. Romans 2:17-24). Live what you teach.

**Good teachers must tame their tongues.** James 3 is all about how teachers can injure with their tongues. The ways we can do so are nearly endless. We can be too harsh (Proverbs 15:1), too shallow (Ephesians 5:6), too crude (Ephesians 5:4), too false (Ephesians 4:14), too quick to answer (James 1:19) or even too showy (1 Corinthians 2:1).

Is there someone you want to teach — a child, a friend, a neighbor, a Bible class? Make it a daily goal to work at developing these qualities to develop yourself as a teacher.

## “Abortion” After Birth?

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by Wayne Goff

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*of the Son of Hinnom;...*” (v. 6). Manasseh practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, consulted mediums and spiritists. “*...He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger.*” God caused Babylon to invade Judah and carry Manasseh away to captivity. There Manasseh “*humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom*” (vv. 11-13). Eventually, these horrible sins were revived in Judah (vv. 21-23), and the nation was utterly destroyed, and the survivors brought to captivity for seventy years! The LORD did not turn from the **fierceness** of His **great wrath** against Judah because of this (2 Kings 23:26; 24:3). **Is His anger not boiling now?!**

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