Green Oaks Church of Christ

The Teacher

His Purpose

&

His Message

**(2 Timothy 2:2)**

And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

James Cating

***The Teacher and His Purpose***

The church needs men who are willing and able to stand in the pulpit and effectively teach the word of God. The apostle Paul was one of the most effective teachers the church has known. His instructions to Timothy (1 and 2 Timothy) allow **us** to learn the qualifications and objectives of an effective teacher.

1. **The Qualifications of an Effective Teacher**

In order for a teacher to be effective, he first has to be credible.

* If a teacher is credible, others will be more likely to listen, believe, and follow what he says.
* If of a teacher is not credible, others will be less likely to listen, believe, and follow what he says.

Paul gives two qualifications of a credible teacher…

**(2 Timothy 2:2)** And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to **faithful men** who will be **able to teach** others also. (NKJV)

The first qualification of a credible teacher has to do with his ***character.***

1. ***“Faithful Men”***
2. The word “faithful” here means **reliable** or **trustworthy** (Thayer, 514).
3. Timothy was taught to gain the respect of his hearers by practicing what he preached.

**(1 Timothy 4:12-16)** Let no one despise your youth, but **be an example** to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. **Take heed to yourself** and to the doctrine. **Continue in them**, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you. (NKJV)

1. Hypocrisy does damage to the teacher and his message.
2. Sermon preparation begins with a prepared heart.

**(Ezra 7:10)** “For Ezra had **prepared** his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to **teach** statutes and ordinances in Israel.”

The second qualification of a credible teacher has to do with his ***competency***.

1. ***“Able To Teach Others”***
2. Teachers must be able to teach (to edify and to instruct).
3. Teachers must be willing to put forth the time and effort to prepare their sermons and develop their abilities. Teaching the word of God is a privilege that must be taken seriously.
4. Not all faithful men can be public teachers of the word, nor should they be.

**(1 Corinthians 12:29)** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all **teachers**? Are all workers of miracles? (NKJV)

1. Not everyone has the ability to teach, and some teach for the wrong reasons.

**(James 3:1)** My brethren, let not many of you become **teachers**, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. (NKJV)

Some in the early church assumed the work of a teacher simply for the prestige without considering the responsibilities that go with it.

James is not trying to frighten or discourage everyone from teaching, but he admonishes all: if you are going to teach, you need to do it in the right way and for the right reasons.

**A teacher should ask himself these questions:**

1. Am I reliable and trustworthy?
2. Why do I want to teach?
3. Am I willing to take the necessary time to study in order to properly edify?
4. Am I willing to work to improve my speaking ability and study habits?
5. Can I take advice and constructive criticism from others?
6. Am I willing to bear the consequences of my actions?
7. **The Objectives of an Effective Teacher**

The ultimate objective of teaching is salvation and edification.

**(1 Timothy 4:16)** Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will **save** both yourself and those who hear you. (NKJV)

**(Matthew 18:11)** For the Son of Man has come to **save** that which was lost. (NKJV)

**(Ephesians 4:11-12)** 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, (NKJV)

**How does an effective teacher specifically accomplish the ultimate goal?**

1. ***Impart Knowledge***

**(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.

“Teaching” here comes from “*didasko*” and means “*to impart instruction, instill doctrine into one*” (Thayer, 144).

**(Nehemiah 8:8)** So they **read** distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the **sense**, and helped them to **understand** the reading. (NKJV)

1. ***Transform Behavior***

**(Matthew 28:19-20)** "Go therefore and make **disciples** of all the nations…”

A “disciple” is more than a learner, a disciple is a follower (John 8:31). Simply imparting knowledge is not the sole objective of teaching the Bible. It is to get people to act on that teaching, “to observe all things” Christ commanded us (Mt. 28:20).

The goal of teaching is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Thus, teaching must challenge and change behavior in order to ultimately save the lost. A sermon is not a speech, it is not a lecture, but it is a call to action.

**(2 Timothy 2:24-26)** And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. (NKJV)

1. ***Guard the Gospel***

**(2 Timothy 1:13-14)** Hold fast the pattern of **sound** words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. (NKJV)

The word “keep” conveys the idea “to guard, watch, to keep by way of protection” (Vine’s, pg. 340).

**(2 Timothy 4:2-4)** Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure **sound** doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (NKJV)

**Notes:**