



## Responsibilities and Rewards

*By David Reynolds*

*“Be not many teachers, my brethren knowing that we shall receive heavier judgment” (James 3:1—RV).*

### Objectives

- To understand the great responsibility of the calling to teach God's Word.
- To understand the rewards of being a Christian teacher.
- To understand the importance of preparing ones-self for the teaching ministry.
- To understand the importance of carefully preparing each lesson.
- To understand the importance of the unction of the Holy Spirit upon a Christian teacher.
- To understand that a teacher must be a life-long learner

### Chapter Outline

#### Introduction

- I. Teacher---You have the power to Loose or Bind.
- II. Teacher ---You are a gift to the Church
- III. Teacher----The Kingdom of god is not Yours
- IV. Teacher--- Know Your Attitude
- V. Teacher---Keep the Big Picture in Mind
- VI. Teacher---Know the Value of Preparation

#### Conclusion

### Key Words

- Secular** -Concerned with the temporal, worldly matters
- Conduit** -A channel or pipe through which material is carried
- Coin** -Object given value, used in exchange for merchandise.
- Commitment** -A continuing sense of obligation to a cause
- Unction** -An anointing, as with oil
- Preparation** -To get ready for by study, work or practice

## Introduction:

You must understand your awesome responsibility as a Christian teacher. You must not only teach the truth, but also live the truth. You become a visual object lesson for your students. A Christian teacher must know the way, go the way, and, show the way.

*“The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses seat: All, therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do: but do not ye after their works: for they say and do not” (Matthew 23:1-2).*

Jesus pronounced the following judgment: *“And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers. Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered” (Luke 11:46, 52).*

### I. Teacher: You have the power to loose or to bind.

Apostle Peter was given the keys to the kingdom with the power to loose and the power to bind. You, as a teacher must always remember you can open the door of knowledge to a student; or, by neglect or design you can lock it. “Ye have taken away the key of knowledge.” God help you to open doors.

Remember you must have a true born again experience yourself or you fall into the warning Jesus gave: *“Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat and swallow a camel... for ye make clean the outside of the cup and the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess... hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres which indeed appear beautiful outward but are within full of dead men’s bones and of all uncleanness” (Matthew 23:24-27).*

In another warning Jesus says: *“Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. But whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:19).*

The responsibility may be great—but so also are the rewards, for those who do teach; for those

**Q.** In what ways can you open the door to spiritual knowledge?

### II. Teacher: You are a gift to the Church.

Remember a Christian teacher is a gift to the church. You are special. You are great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

*“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-12).*

1. So that the church will, “be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine...” (verse 14).
2. So by, “speaking the truth in love,” the body “may grow up into him in all things ...even Christ” (verse 15).
3. So that the Gifts of Ministry will keep, “the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which [every supporting ligament supplieth, NIV]” (verse 16).

4. So that, "...the effectual working in the measure of every part, making increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (verse 16).

*"And God hath set in the church, first Apostles, secondly Prophets, thirdly Pastors, Teachers."* Notice it is God who has set you in the Church. If you are a Christian Teacher, you are a gift to the Church. What an honor, but also what a responsibility!

You must be totally committed to the cause. It is *"Your reasonable service"* (Romans 12:1). *"...Freely ye have received, freely give"* (Matthew 10:8).

Apostle Paul said, *"And, I will gladly spend and be spent for you"* (II Corinthians 12:15). *"I am a debtor both to the Greeks and the Barbarians; both to the wise, and the unwise, (Romans 1:14).*

Jesus said, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone"* (John 12:24).

**Q.** How is your role different than the ministry of an Evangelist?

### III. Teacher: The Kingdom of God is not yours.

Too often we assume ownership of the message. This is understandable, since to be a teacher you must become totally involved to the cause. There is a danger however, of forgetting that the kingdom has a King and we are just His messenger. The lesson is not ours, nor are the students, they all belong to God.

Jesus made sure the Jews understood that His message came from above: *"...My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me, If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him"* (John 7:16-18).

In Matthew the eighth chapter the centurion not only showed great faith but he also showed an understanding of delegated authority. The centurion said, *"I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: And I say to this man Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it"* (Matthew 8:9).

When Jesus heard this, the Bible says he *"marveled."* Notice he did not say he was a man, in authority; he said he was a man under authority. The centurion always kept in mind his authority came ultimately from Caesar. The only reason he was able to tell his men to go and to come was due to the authority which Caesar had vested in his position as centurion. Authority comes with the position, it is not given to an individual.

The centurion recognized that the power of all heaven stood behind the authority of Jesus Christ. You as Christian teacher are under the authority of Jesus Christ, thus this same power, the power of heaven, is backing your decisions.

What a privilege! What an awesome responsibility! Please, always remember that the power, the praise and the authority of teaching comes from God. You are just the conduit. You are truly "a teacher come from God".

#### IV. Teacher: Know Your Attitude!

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24).*

*“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer” (Psalm 19:14).*

Why do you want to teach? Is it for honor and acclaim or do you really want to serve? *“For where your treasure is there will your heart be also” (Luke 12:34).* Is your heart in your teaching? If it is not, be honest and step down.

How about your spirit? *“Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them...” (Luke 9:55-56).*

Do you want to build with your teaching or must you destroy. Are you giving life or do you want, like Jonah, to see judgment. *“The words that I speak they are spirit and they are life” (John 6:63).*

Your tongue can be used as an instrument of life or an instrument of destruction. *“Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things, behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!” (James 3:5).*

*“My brethren, be not many masters, teachers, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation, for in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and is able also to bridle the whole body” (James 3:1-2).*

*“But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. [but] If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not: and it shall be given him” (James 1:4-5).*

*“Wherefore, My beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath” (James 1:19).*

**Q.** Why do you want to teach?

#### V. Teacher: Keep the Big Picture always in mind.

Don’t get bogged down in little matters. The cause is too big. Time is too short. *“Time is the coin of learning.”* Don’t waste it on things that will not count for eternity.

*“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel” (Matthew 23:23-24).*

Do not spend your time on that which would take from your ministry. *“...It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables... We will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:2-4).*

**Q.** How can a teacher be hindered by focusing on small issues?

## VI. Teacher: Know the value of Preparation

The author was asked once for the greatest weakness He observed in teachers. He replied, “There are two. The lack of a defined teaching objective, and the lack of preparation.” If a teacher is having trouble in the delivery of the lesson or with the discipline within the classroom it is usually due to lack of a well defined lesson goal, and/or the lack of adequately preparing for the lesson.

Lack of preparation comes from a lack of commitment due to low value placed on the importance of the lesson.

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15).*

*“My people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge; because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee that thou shalt be no more priest to me” (Hosea 4:6).*

You as a teacher must never cease to learn. You cannot give out anymore than you have taken in. If you are going to have knowledge; you must seek knowledge in order to share knowledge.

Many teachers experience burnout and stress due to the fact they are not replenishing their own supply of unction and spiritual food. Jesus set a great example for us; *“...And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place and there prayed” (Mark 1:35).*

Never allow your students to leave your class unsatisfied. Jesus told his disciples, *“They need not depart, give ye them to eat” (Matthew 14:16).* You need to allow the Holy Spirit to lead and instruct you, so you in turn can serve as a conduit of the Holy Spirit. You can claim the promise from God, *“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye” (Psalm 32:8).*

Q. What two components must be prepared for a successful lesson?

### Conclusion:

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

The Bible says about Ezra: *“He was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given” (Ezra 7:6).* *“For Ezra had prepared... to seek the Law of the Lord” (Ezra 7:10).* Ezra was an enthusiastic student of the subject he was going to teach. You cannot share what you do not have yourself.

Before Ezra ever taught he took the time and made the effort to prepare for his ministry. Let us examine the steps he took as he prepared himself for this solemn responsibility—that of teaching the statutes of the Lord in Israel. I believe every Christian teacher would do well to follow each of these steps and in the same order, so as to be an effective teacher for Jesus Christ.

1. Ezra prepared his heart to teach God's laws.
2. Ezra was a student of the laws of God.
3. Ezra was willing to follow God's laws.
4. Ezra had a target for his teaching. He wanted to teach Israel.

Teacher; much power to influence others has been placed in your hands—what a responsibility! Remember, the students are not yours and the message is certainly not yours; they are the Lord's. You are just an instrument in the hand of your Master. Ever be willing and ever strive to be a sharp instrument in His hands.

If you really wish to make a difference, you must realize that even the position of teacher is not yours, it is a ministry of God's to others. The Christian teacher is a gift prepared and given to the church to strengthen and to up build the body of Christ. All benefits should go to the church and all glory must go to God, who gave the gift.

Keep your attitude right and pure before God. Always put the Kingdom business first and foremost in your heart and mind.

Lastly, let us be willing to put in the time and the energy in order to prepare so as to be a good steward in His Kingdom.

*“Apollos... an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures... This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the Spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord...” (Acts 18:24-25).*

Freely you have received... freely give (Matthew 10:8).

#### Home work

1. Read Ezra Chapter 7
2. Write a short paper on the steps that Ezra and Apollos followed to prepared themselves to teach. What areas of your life must you now focus on in your own preparation.
3. What are your rewards as a Christian teacher?

#### Class Discussion:

How is the responsibility greater for a Bible teacher than for a secular teacher?