

God Gave Teachers

June 9, 2019

Ephesians 4:11-12 ESV

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,
12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

The American Church is missing today:

- *The supernatural church-planting and overseeing authority of the Apostle.*
- *The bold declaration and discernment of God's Word by the Prophet.*
- *The power of the Holy Spirit's conviction of sin and salvation delivered in simplicity from the Evangelist.*
- *The compassionate and nurturing care of the Pastor.*
- *The transforming exposition of God's Word presented by the Teacher.*

"HE GAVE ...TEACHERS....."

The Divine Life and Power of God's Word

2 Timothy 3:16 ESV

16 All Scripture is **breathed out** [inspired] **by God and profitable** (*ōphelimos* - serviceable, helpful) **for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...**

Hebrews 4:12-13 ESV

12 For **the word of God** is **living and active**, sharper than any two-edged sword, **piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

13 And **no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**

Isaiah 55:10-11 ESV

10 For **as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout**, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

11 **so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**

"My dear brethren, do not try to make the Gospel tasteful to carnal minds. Hide not the offense of the cross, lest you make it of none effect. The angles and corners of the Gospel are its strength: to pare them off is to deprive it of power. Toning down is not the increase of strength, but the death of it."

— Charles H. Spurgeon

"Don't ever water down the Gospel. If the truth offends, then let it offend. People have been living their whole lives in offense to God; let them be offended for a while."

—John MacArthur

Teaching to please God not man.

2 Timothy 3:16 - 4:4 ESV

16 All Scripture is breathed out [inspired] by God and profitable (*ōphelimos* - serviceable, helpful) for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete (*artios* - fitted, complete, perfect), equipped for every good work.

1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:

2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,

4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

"A time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the church will have clowns entertaining the goats."
—Charles Spurgeon

"It is now common practice in most evangelical churches to offer the people, especially the young people, a maximum of entertainment and a minimum of serious instruction. It is scarcely possible in most places to get anyone to attend a meeting where the only attraction is God. One can only conclude that God's professed children are bored with Him, for they must be wooed to meeting with a stick of striped candy in the form of religious movies, games and refreshments."

— A.W. Tozer, Man: The Dwelling Place of God

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 ESV

1 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom.

2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling,

4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible (*peithos* - persuasive, enticing) words of wisdom, but in demonstration (*apodeixis* - making manifest, showing forth) of the Spirit and of power,

5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Rightly handling the Word of Truth

2 Timothy 2:15-18 ESV

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

16 But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,

17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

18 who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.

- Exegesis vs. Eisegesis - two contrary methods of teaching
- Exegesis - "to lead out of" - the objective exposition and interpretation of the text based on:
 - TEXT - what exactly is said?
 - ILLUMINATION - Scripture is foolishness to the natural mind without the guidance and

illumination of the Holy Spirit.

- *CONTEXT - both the verses immediately surrounding the text as well as the entirety of Scripture.*
- *LANGUAGE - are there nuances of meaning in the words used?*
- *HISTORY & CULTURE - many passages are difficult to understand and easy to misinterpret without knowing the historical and cultural background and context.*
- **Eisegesis** - "to lead into" - the interpreter injects his own subjective ideas into the text making the text mean whatever he/she wants them to mean. Biblical text is twisted to support the interpreter's ideas regardless of the objective analysis of what the text is actually saying.

Divine Transformation in Biblical Teaching

1 Thessalonians 2:13 ESV

13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, **you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.**

2 Corinthians 3:1-11 ESV

1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you?

2 **You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all.**

3 **And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.**

4 Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God.

5 **Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God,**

6 **who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.**

7 Now if **the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end,**

8 **will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory?**

9 For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, **the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory.**

10 Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it.

11 For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

2 Corinthians 3:15-18 ESV

15 Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts.

16 **But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.**

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, **there is freedom.**

18 **And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.**

Puritan Preaching

“The Puritans expected Biblical results from preaching, which, according to Nicholas Byfield (1579-1622) includes opening men’s hearts (Acts 16:14), begetting faith (Rom. 10:14), giving the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:44), imparting the childlike fear of God (Acts 13:16), trembling and humbling the proud heart (Isa. 66:2) and speaking via the Spirit to the churches (Eph. 1:13).

The Puritans trusted that God’s Word would not return to Him void (Isa. 55:10-11).

Like John Calvin, they believed every sermon had two ministers preaching - the external minister, who *‘holds forth the vocal word and is received by the ears,’* as well as the internal minister, who is the Holy Spirit and who *‘truly communicates the thing proclaimed, which is Christ.’*”

— A Puritan Theology, Puritan Preaching, p.683.

“The Puritans were insistent that preaching must be fenced in by the Word. John Mayer (1583-1664) wrote, *‘Every preacher of the Word speaketh only what God putteth into his mouth whilst He keepeth him to preaching according to the Word.’*”

— A Puritan Theology, Puritan Preaching, p.683.

“The Puritans had a profound sense that God built His Church primarily by the instrument of preaching.”

—A Puritan Theology, Puritan Preaching, p.682.

“The Puritans grieved that the Anglican preaching included no note of *‘thus saith the Lord,’* no authoritative proclamation of the Word and will of God.”

— A Puritan Theology, Puritan Preaching, p.686.

“No doubt in response to this Anglican preaching, Thomas Brooks (1608 - 1680) wrote, *‘Starved oratory may tickle the brain, but it is plain doctrine that informs the judgment, that convicts the conscience, that bows the will and that wins the heart.’* Jonathan Edwards (1703 - 1758), at the very end of the Puritan era, said, *‘I had rather be fully understood by ten than admired by ten thousand.’*”

— A Puritan Theology, Puritan Preaching, p.686.

“The goal was to teach, not to dazzle. Human wisdom must be hidden both in the content of the sermon and in its delivery. So Perkins wrote, *‘The preaching of the Word is the testimony of God, and the profession of the knowledge of Christ, and not of human skill. Furthermore, the hearers ought not to ascribe their faith to the gifts of men, but to the power of God’s Word.’*”

—A Puritan Theology, Puritan Preaching, p.690.