

“TEACHING THE WORD”

(I Tim. 4:1-4)

The Apostles had a charge given them in the “Great Commission,” Matt. 28:19-20, Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: 20 teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” It was the duty of the apostles, in obeying the Word of the Lord to go into “**all nations.**” It is also stated to the apostles that they were to be **witnesses** of the Lord: “*8 But ye shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be my witnesses in Jeru-salem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth,*” Acts 1:8. According to Col. 1:23 Paul declares that this was done: “*23 If so be that ye continue in the faith, grounded and stedfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel which ye heard, which was preached in all creation under heaven; whereof I Paul was made a minister.*” I do not use the great commission as a commandment today; because it was to the apostles and was fulfilled by the Apostles. During the “sponsoring church type of arrangement,” there were those who tied the “great Commission” to the local congregations; but, this did not work. To find a commandment for us in the twentieth century I must look elsewhere.

Let’s look at a passage that does charge the individual with a responsibility of teaching the Word. “*2 And the things which thou hast heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also,*” II Tim. 2:2. From this passage we learn Timothy was to teach faithful men, who would be responsible for teaching others. From the preaching of Timothy we learn, “**others are to teach others!**” This would be a requirement for us today. We are not to hold the Word of God; but rather, share it with others. The Word of God is something you **share** with others.

I was told, many years ago, “*You can no more teach someone something you do not know, than you can go back to a place where you have never been!*” I believe this to be true. A child of God needs to fill his heart and mind with the Word of God; so, he then will be able to teach others. After he has succeeded in learning and teaching others, there should be a **burning desire** to impart that knowledge to others. This would cause him to have the motivation to seek out others and teach them the truth. There was an older preacher, up north, that had a bible class with a young man and his wife. The wife was a member of the church and the husband was not. The older preacher walked four blocks for the class on a snowy and freezing night and conducted the class. Later the young man obeyed the Gospel and when asked what one of the reasons was, he said: “That old man got out and walked four blocks on a cold and snowy night, he must have thought it was important. So, you see, not only are people affected by the gospel of Christ; but our zeal and determination has its affect also.

I can look about and remember the words of Paul in Rom. 3:23, “*23 for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God.*” I can look about and see my family, I can see friends and neighbors, and remember they need the gospel also. There they are, and here I am, and I need to remember that **I have something they need** – the Gospel of Christ. It could well be that some of those that I try to teach will refuse the truth; but, that should not keep me from trying. Now, when I stand before the judgment, there will not be those present who would say: “*You never mentioned him to me!*” I remember a statement in the book of James that says, “*17 To him therefore that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin,*” Jas. 4:17.

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