

Why so Few Teachers

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 9/10/2016

In the world tomorrow, who will be **teaching** the way of God? We have long known that Jesus Christ will rule from His throne in Jerusalem, and that all nations will flow unto Him. This concept of Christ reigning over all the earth in peace, righteousness, and justice is found throughout the Scriptures.

We are even told that "*Every eye will see Him.*" (Revelation 1:7)

In the last few decades it has become commonplace to see live events from anywhere on earth. Wouldn't it be easy to set up a Jerusalem television studio where Jesus could broadcast His program and teach everyone as He did in His public ministry? In that way, all would know that they were receiving the straight and complete Truth. That would rule out any doubts or questions.

But brethren, that is not the way that God is going to set up **teaching** in His Kingdom. You and I are in training right now to be **teachers** in the millennium. Where will we have been trained to be teachers in the world tomorrow? Certainly, we would like to think that our only responsibilities will be reigning and ruling, (just point your finger and issue a command) – as some would picture it) but teaching will be an integral part of our duties. It is good for us to set our sights where they should be.

Notice a prophecy about the inhabitants of the world tomorrow being instructed by teachers.

Isaiah 30:19 For the people shall dwell in Zion at **Jerusalem**: thou shall weep no more: [God] will be very gracious unto you at the voice of your cry; when He shall hear your cry, He will answer you.

Isaiah 30:20 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but your eyes shall **see thy teachers**:

Isaiah 30:21 And your ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

I think this is an amazing revelation: We will not be some form of wispy spiritual beings – but walking, talking, visible beings – able to be seen as we teach and instruct those of the millennium – how to live Christian lives.

The people of the world are not being called at this time. Only a select few people who are given spiritual gifts that are needed for the purposes of God's Will are being called by God at this time. It is they who will teach with Jesus Christ in the world tomorrow.

Maybe you've wondered about some of these questions: Where will this teaching in the Kingdom take place? What will be taught? When will classes be held – or will it be 'on the job' training? Who will be doing the teaching? Let's imagine that your duties include ten cities as we find here:

Luke 19:17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

How will you organize your teaching seminars so that no one is overlooked? Time is of the essence in that *no one knows that day or hour* of Christ's return. (Mark 13:32)

Before we are qualified to teach we must know the way of God. Perhaps you fall into the crowd that believes everyone in a certain corporate organization will be the teachers in tomorrow's world. I submit to you that there are only a relatively few people who know and love God well enough to qualify.

Matthew 22:8 Then [the king said] to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

This parable is speaking of the marriage of the Lamb – and the Church has made herself ready.

Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Fewer still are prepared to teach when Jesus Christ returns. Hearing good sermons is one thing – but, putting those **principles of God** into our lives well enough to be able to pass them on to others, is another.

You will see, as we get into today's sermon, how much “**teaching**” is accomplished by the example we set for others in the way we live our lives.

It is one thing to listen to the word of God being expounded Sabbath after Sabbath, but **who** is proficient enough in the **truth of God** to be ready to teach it to others in the millennium?

Jesus Christ established the Church for the purpose of **training** up and qualifying a people with spiritual knowledge and Godly character who are able to **teach** to reign and rule with Him in the Millennium.

We are to **teach** as we have been taught. That thought comes from:

2Timothy 3:14 But continue in the things which you have **learned** and have been assured of, knowing of whom you have learned them.

No one in the Kingdom will be going off on his own tangent – teaching some ‘new’ thing.

1Timothy 6:3-4 If any man **teach otherwise**, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing.

Our teaching comes directly from God -> through His inspired word -> through Jesus Christ and His apostles. Even Paul learned it directly from Jesus:

Galatians 1:12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the **revelation of Jesus Christ**.

And we've been given a token of God's Spirit to lead us into all truth.

John 16:13 Howbeit when the Spirit of truth, is come, it will guide you into all truth:

The Church brethren today are the Kingdom of God in embryo, waiting to be born into God's Kingdom, as God is reproducing Himself in man.

The Church of God is being **taught** and trained now. We will need to know how to teach and rule in the millennium under Christ when He sets His hand to save the rest of mankind. We are to be learning to teach here and now.

Matthew 28:18-19 Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Do you know that some, who count themselves as Church members, have concluded that the **teaching** has all been done? They believe that the **teaching** was completed in 1986!

Brethren, we too, are all called to be teachers. What is the Church to **teach**? The answer to this question is encompassed by the total life of Christ. He is our perfect **teacher**.

What kind of a man was Jesus Christ? What did He do? How did He live His life? What kind of relationship did He have with His Father in heaven?

The answer to these questions is what the Church of God teaches, and that is how the Church is also to live. Jesus tells us to teach what He taught.

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe **all things** whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Do we opt out or get out of becoming teachers because - after all - we are not the local minister? We might think – “It is someone else’s job to teach – not mine.” Brethren, we are **all** to teach without exception: Example:

Titus 2:3 The **aged women** likewise, that they be in behavior as becomes holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

Titus 2:4 That they may **teach** the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children.

That is for **now** – this lifetime – in preparation for being **teachers** in the world tomorrow. Paul says that we are to **live it!**

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ **dwell in you richly** in all wisdom; **teaching** and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

That is for **now** too! Do we teach only ourselves – or one or two others?

Matthew 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, **teaching** in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

Matthew 5:2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: ...and all the beatitudes.

We are looking at only a small sample selection of Scriptures that emphasize the aspect of being teachers.

There was a plethora of Scriptures to chose from, using teaching, teach, taught, learning, instructing, with various tenses and so forth. Well over 200 verses to choose from! And, 50 some odd times more for "Master" teacher, school teacher, or head master.

Matthew 13:54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

How often did Jesus teach?

Matthew 26:55 ... I sat **daily** with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.

Mark 1:21 And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the Sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and **taught**.

Jesus didn't just teach at Sabbath services.

Mark 2:13 And he went forth again by the **sea side**; and all the multitude resorted unto him, and he **taught** them.

I think Mark really appreciated the seaside venue.

Mark 4:1 And he began again to **teach** by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

Mark 4:2 And he **taught** them many things by parables, and said unto them in His doctrine.

Mark 6:2 And when the Sabbath day was come, he began to **teach** in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? And what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?

Jesus loved the work of teaching – His **heart** was fully in His **teaching**.

Mark 6:34 And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was **moved** with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to **teach** them many things. (Until they got really hungry -> loaves and fish miracle)

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Mark 8:32 And he spoke that saying openly.

You get the idea of how the Scriptures amplify the aspect of teaching and God's word being taught.

Luke 5:3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and **taught** the people out of the ship.

Picture all the opportunities Jesus took to **teach** - He was driven to teach - and He didn't let any grass grow under His feet about it.

For 3 1/2 years Jesus relentlessly taught. Jesus taught from city to city - slept along the way. Jesus was motivated by the obligation to teach. He said, "My meat is to do the will of my Father."

John 4:30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto Him.

John 4:31 In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master [teacher], eat. [The disciples called Jesus, Teacher.]

John 4:32 But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.

John 4:33 Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat?

John 4:34 Jesus said unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish His work.

Above all, Jesus came across to His disciples as a teacher.

Luke 11:1 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

John 7:14 Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.

Jesus taught all the time. Do we wait for a convenient time and audience?

John 8:2 And **early in the morning** he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

Where did Jesus learn all the things that He taught?

Knowing the **source** of spiritual wisdom and knowledge is important.

Jesus' source is the same as our source.

John 8:28 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my **Father** hath **taught** me, I speak these things.

Learning is never something to boast about:

1Corinthians 4:7 For who makes you to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive? Now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou had not received it?

Paul was only passing on the things he had been taught - we are to do the same - but are we doing it with a fervor as we see in the Scriptures?

1Corinthians 4:17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timothy, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

2Thesalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

Jesus is our role model. When we pass on the teachings of Christ and the apostles who recorded so much of it - we are to stick to the truth - and not go changing it up in any way. I believe this is the attitude God desires to see in us:

You remember how Ezra was given the commission to go back from Babylon to Israel – to rebuild the Wall and the Temple? I want you to look at the motivating force that drove Ezra in all that he did.

Ezra 7:10 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.

That's God's Way. Brethren, are you ready to step into this teaching position right now? The purpose for God's Church is to prepare those who are willing to live His way – to be the world tomorrow's teachers. And time is growing very short.

The responsibility and duty of Church brethren is to function as God's tools in helping to bring salvation to humanity, and to demonstrate God's wisdom to His spiritual creation, and ultimately to be in the Kingdom of God.

Hebrews 2:10 For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory."

Those who are converted in Christ will, after their salvation and resurrection to eternal life, teach God's perfect way to all peoples of the earth.

The Church is only the firstfruits of God's Work and not the end of God's plan of salvation.

There are many more conversions to come – and we will be **co-saviors** with Jesus in teaching them God's way.

The Church has the commission to preach the gospel (good news) of the coming Kingdom of God, and to warn and witness to all nations, and especially the lost tribes of the house of Israel, as God gives us the strength.

It takes the combined effort of the brethren to get the job done. We will not all teach the very same thing in the world tomorrow: God places each person within the Church where it pleases Him. He gives unique gifts to the individual members for the profit of all the other members of the Church.

This places a great responsibility on each individual Church member to teach for the well-being of all the Church brethren.

1Corinthians 12:7 The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal [everyone].

1Corinthians 12:8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

1Corinthians 12:9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

1Corinthians 12:10 To another the working of miracles; to another inspired preaching; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

1Corinthians 12:11 But all these [gifts] work that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.

1Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

We will all have unique teaching abilities to instruct others. The Church of God is being taught and trained now. We will need to know how to teach and rule in the millennium under Christ when He sets His hand to save the rest of mankind. We are to be learning to teach here and now.

The apostle Paul warns us of a weakness among some of the brethren in these perilous last days. He distinguishes between the **real substance** of **Godliness**, and that which does not measure up to God's expectations for His people.

Our worship is **spiritual**, and our goal is spiritual, but there are those in the various church groups today who are only "playing church." They cannot envision the reality of true Godliness because they possess only a form of "church going" that comes far short of God's standards.

Paul was concerned that Timothy be aware of the distinction between those teachers who only teach a **form** of religion, and those who teach the requirement of Godly **substance**.

2Timothy 3:5 Having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Paul was describing the "form without substance" church members. They deny the spiritual intent of the things of God. They major in the minors.

They are more concerned with looking good than being good. They wish to portray the image of Christianity without the substance of Christianity in action. They are not growing in grace and knowledge for the purpose of becoming imbued with spiritual substance. They are not prepared to be teachers.

And this applies to entire congregations having only a form of Godliness, all for show, where their main doctrine is to be nice and non-confrontational in matters of faith and morals.

It is true, form precedes substance, but it does not matter what we were before we were called because the thing that is important is what we are becoming. Are we becoming men and women of substance? We must be, for that is the spiritual reality that leads to glory.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Form has a very useful purpose, but it is transitory and not meant to be sustained forever. Form is introductory for the purpose of growing into spiritual reality.

God uses symbols, analogies, patterns, behaviors, types/antitypes, parables, allegories and He compares and contrasts those representations—to bring us to a right and good understanding of His word and His Plan for us.

The Bible utilizes various comparisons and contrasts in order to open our understanding to the higher things of God.

For example, we see the **letter** of the law being contrasted with the **spirit** of the law so that we might seek that which is right and better. In another example, Paul speaks of the law being a **shadow**. In that case, the law being a shadow is the **form** that leads to greater things – the very substance of good things to come.

Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

Which is the greater reality? Is it form or substance?

In the flesh we tend to believe that physical things are real, and we are inclined to put great stock in the fact that rocks and rivers and trees are real – and the things we cannot handle we consider to be intangible.

However, from God's standpoint the spiritual things and the heavenly things are the things of reality. Everything else is temporal and will eventually pass away.

The unseen **spiritual realm** of God greatly supersedes anything in our physical realm. Even the Tabernacle which housed the Ark of the Covenant was a **form** and example of the substantive heavenly temple of God. Jesus came to add substance to the law – to make the law more full (Matthew 5:17). The substance we wish to attain to is the same resurrected glory we see in Jesus Christ.

2Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding, as in a mirror, the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to [even greater] glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

We utilize every single day, but especially the Sabbath Day, to develop into the same **substance** which is Jesus Christ – just as Jesus is of the same substance as God the Father (Hebrews 1:3).

Yes, we go through a process of spiritual metamorphosis. We begin as babes with **form** and are then transformed into **spiritual substance**. When that takes place – we are ready to be teachers in the world tomorrow.

I find a stern warning to us as I go through these Scriptures – and Paul recognized the **unpreparedness to teach** in his day as well.

1Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

1Corinthians 3:2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

Paul goes on to say we are accountable for what we are doing now.

1Corinthians 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest:

1Corinthians 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

At the same time, Peter admonishes us not to forget our roots and foundation in the truth. Go back to the old Correspondence Course and the Church literature. Read them – study them. Don't assume you know the material so well that it can be cast aside. Peter put it this way:

1Peter 2:2 As newborn babies, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

But we are not to remain babies - but we are to put what we've learned into practice – so that our lives shine forth as examples of true Christianity.

We must be living our faith in our daily lives – that is how we teach others now – and that is how we prepare to teach in the millennium with Christ.

Even this life that has been given to us is a “Teacher”– are we learning the lessons of life's experiences? Paul said that there is so much more to growing into mature Christians.

Hebrews 5:10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 5:11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.

Hebrews 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

Hebrews 5:13 For every one that uses milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

Hebrews 5:14 But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age [Spiritually Mature], even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

And the Scripture goes right into Hebrews 6:1 – the principles of the doctrine of Christ.

We have to **mature** in order to be useful to God. The Bible is the living word of God – there is always so much more to learn – and change in ourselves.

Ephesians 4:13 Until we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

Are we learning to put our Christianity into action – because that is what we must do to be teachers in the world tomorrow? Most of us have had ample time to get ready to teach—and still are not prepared for tomorrow's teaching positions. Are you prepared to teach?

Do you suppose that Jesus will have some remedial classes early in the millennium for us to earn our "Way of God" teaching credentials?

I have met people who thought that we do not have to learn to be teachers now – and that somehow in the resurrection we will be changed miraculously into paragons of education. It doesn't work that way – this earth is our training ground now – our classroom where we are taught and where we practice our skills.

Last night while I was working on this sermon – my wife was doing some Bible Study – and she asked me, "What is this Perfect Law of Liberty that James writes about?" "Good question," I thought.

But, to be teachers in the world tomorrow – we do not have to memorize the Bible or know the answer to every question.

Yes, the Bible is the Word of God sufficient unto salvation.

Remember this, Jesus Christ established the Church for the purpose of training up and qualifying a people with spiritual maturity and Godly character who are able to **teach** with Him in the Millennium.

We must learn to be teachers **now** – there is no "later" for us.

How do we learn?

If we will stand tall, and walk in God's truth, and live it in our lives we will be prepared to teach.

Psalm 86:11-12 *Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name. I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.*"

End: Why so Few Teachers