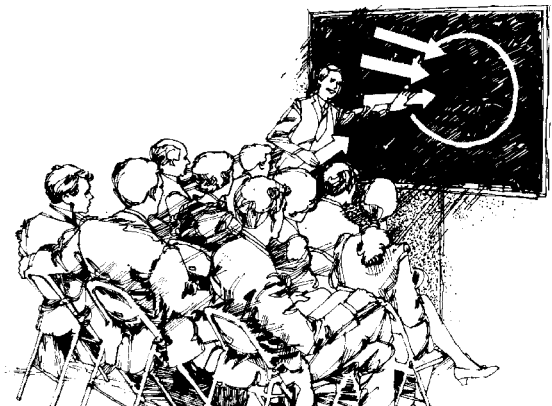


Setting the Church in Order

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What Is the Local Church?

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:2

Introduction:

A. Those who espouse a “new hermeneutic” deny that local churches of Christ must conform to the New Testament pattern for the local church; in fact, they deny there is such a pattern. “There is an exemplar and paradigm, but it is not a particular institutional form of the church in history. It is Jesus Christ himself” (Rubel Shelly and Randall J. Harris, **The Second Incarnation**. 78-79).

B. The church of the New Testament, correctly studied, is indeed the perfect pattern for local churches today. - Philippians 3:17

C. What are the scriptural characteristics of a local church of Christ?

I. It is composed of saints who agree to work together. - Acts 9:26-28

II. It is local. - 1 Corinthians 1:2; Romans 16:5

III. It assembles regularly. - Acts 11:25-26; 20:7; Hebrews 10:24-25

IV. It functions collectively. - 1 Timothy 5:16; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

V. It is organized. - Philippians 1:1

A. bishops - Acts 20:17,28; 14:23

B. deacons - Acts 6:1-4

C. saints - Romans 12:4-8

D. supports evangelists - Philippians 4:15-16

VI. It is independent, autonomous (local control). - 1 Peter 5:1-2; Acts 13:1-3

Conclusion:

A. The local church, as revealed in the New Testament, is a group of Christians in a given locality who agree to worship together regularly and to do the Lord’s work collectively through the use of pooled resources as an organized, functional body independent of all other organizations, human or divine.

B. This simple pattern for the local church is to the glory of God. - Ephesians 3:8-12, 20-21

C. We dare not violate this pattern. - 2 John 9

The Work of the Church

Text: 1 Timothy 3:14-15

Introduction:

- A. “This church exists to benefit the residents of the Saddleback Valley by providing for their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social needs” (Rick Warren, **The Purpose-Driven Church**. 220, as quoted by Gary Gilley, **This Little Church Went to Market**. 48)
- B. Modern “mega-churches” operating on the “market-driven” philosophy have become social clubs for those who are like-minded. - e.g., A Baptist Church in Little Rock built the largest gymnasium in Arkansas and justified it by stating, “We minister to the whole man.”
- C. The church must be diligently at work. - 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3
- D. But it must be diligently doing God’s work, not man’s. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- E. What is the scriptural work of the local church?

I. The work of the local church reflects the nature of the relationship. - Ephesians 1:3, 22-23

II. In what activities is the local church authorized to engage?

- A. evangelism - 1 Timothy 3:14-15; 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8
- B. edification - Ephesians 4:11-16
- C. relief of needy saints - 2 Corinthians 8:1-4

III. The church must not engage in work unauthorized by the New Testament. - 2 John 9

- A. general benevolence (glorified Salvation Army) - Romans 14:17; John 6:26-27
- B. social and recreational activities (glorified YMCA) - Romans 8:5-8
- C. politics (glorified political party) - John 18:36
- D. secular education (glorified school) - 1 Timothy 3:14-15; John 17:17

Conclusion:

- A. What kind of congregation do you want to be a member of:
 - 1. a nice, comfortable church that does little and expects little of you?
 - 2. A “market-driven” church that finds out what you want and supplies it?
 - 3. a faithful church that diligently does the Lord’s work and expects you to pull your share of the load?
- B. Your choice reflects what you want to be. - 1 Corinthians 15:58
- C. Be zealous in the Lord’s work and be a member of a local church that diligently does what He directs.

Responsibilities to the Local Church

Text: 1 Corinthians 12:14-27

Introduction:

- A. Tell about the couple in Northwest Arkansas who floated from church to church.
- B. Many Christians, although hopefully not this unfaithful, fail to realize their responsibilities to the local church.
- C. What are the responsibilities of a Christian to the congregation of which he is a member?

I. The Importance of Membership in a Local Congregation

- A. The only functioning unit of the church is the local congregation. - 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Timothy 5:16
- B. All Christians are to join a local congregation (idea of “free-floating” members is unknown to the New Testament). - Acts 2:44-46
- C. All the members of a local congregation have a peculiar responsibility to it to fully support its work (not to be discharged in any other way).
 - 1. based on **mutual agreement** to work together - Acts 9:26-28
 - 2. based on **mutual responsibilities** to one another - Romans 12:4-8 (Each of us has the same amount of responsibility to do his own part.)
 - 3. based on **mutual love** for one another. - Romans 12:9-10
 - 4. based on **mutual need** for one another - Ephesians 4:16

II. The Importance of Each Member - 1 Corinthians 12:14-27

- A. Each member of the congregation has his own function to perform. - 1 Corinthians 12:14-19
- B. Each member is important. - 1 Corinthians 12:20-24
- C. Each member should have the same care for one another. - 1 Corinthians 12:25-27

III. The Responsibilities of Each Member

- A. **Assemble** faithfully with the saints - Hebrews 10:24-25
- B. **Give** liberally to help the church discharge its work - 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
- C. **Fully support** all scriptural functions of the church - James 4:17
- D. **Diligently** do whatever **work** he can do - Romans 12:4-8
- E. Demonstrate **love** and concern for each other - Romans 12:9-10
- F. **Pray** for one another. - James 5:16

Conclusion:

- A. Each member of the congregation must fulfill his obligations for the local congregation to be successful in doing its work. - 1 Corinthians 12:14
- B. Are you doing your share? - Romans 12:11

Peace in the Local Church

Text: Ephesians 4:1-3

Introduction:

- A. God wants His people to have peace. - Ephesians 4:1-3
- B. What attitudes can we manifest that will help achieve peace?

I. We must endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. - Ephesians 4:3; cf. Proverbs 20:3

- A. We can have peace without unity. - Romans 12:18
- B. But we cannot have unity without peace. - Ephesians 4:3
 - 1. “peace”: “harmony, concord”
 - 2. “bond”: “that which binds together”

II. To do this, we must walk “a worthy walk.” - Ephesians 4:1-2

- A. “calling” - 2 Timothy 1:9; child disgracing family name
- B. What are the characteristics of a worthy walk?
 - 1. lowliness - Philippians 2:3-8
 - 2. gentleness: “Gentleness” is “regularly used of animals which have been tamed, and which have learned to accept discipline and control.” (William Barclay, **Flesh And Spirit**. 113-14)
 - a. obedience to God - Philippians 2:8
 - b. gentleness to fellows - Colossians 4:6
 - 3. longsuffering: “long-tempered” - James 1:19-20
 - 4. bearing with one another: “to hold up from retaliation” - 1 Peter 2:21-23
 - 5. love: active good will - 1 John 3:16-18

Conclusion:

- A. Peace among brethren is a wonderful thing. - “How Sweet, How Heavenly, Is the Sight”
- B. Am I doing my part to maintain peace among brethren? - Ephesians 4:1-3

Unity in the Local Church

Text: Ephesians 4:1-6

Introduction:

- A. Latest figures indicate there are over 35,500 denominations in the world claiming to be “Christian.”
- B. There are also divisions in the church of Christ.
- C. We will answer four questions about the unity of the Spirit.
 - 1. What is it?
 - 2. Is it desirable?
 - 3. Is it possible?
 - 4. How can we attain it?

I. **A Prayer** - John 17:20-21

II. **A Plea** - 1 Corinthians 1:10

III. **A Plan**: The Divine Platform - Ephesians 4:4-6

- A. One Body (unity of relationship) - Ephesians 1:22-23;
1 Corinthians 1:11-13
- B. One Spirit (unity of revelation) - John 16:13; Galatians 1:6-9
- C. One Hope (unity of aim or goal) - 1 Peter 1:3-5
- D. One Lord (unity of authority) - Acts 10:36; Matthew 28:18; Colossians 3:17
- E. One Faith (unity of doctrine) - Jude 3
- F. One Baptism (unity of entrance requirements) - Romans 6:3-4
- G. One God (unity of worship) - John 4:23-24; Matthew 15:9

Conclusion:

- A. Indeed, the unity of the Spirit is a desirable and achievable goal. - Psalm 133
- B. If we will follow the divine plan, we will attain and maintain it. - Ephesians 4:4-6

Church Discipline

Text: 2 Corinthians 2:9

Introduction:

- A. “discipline” (**New American Standard Bible**, Ephesians 6:4: “1) *the whole training and education of children* (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment)... 2) *whatever in adults also cultivates the soul, especially by correcting mistakes and curbing the passions.* (J.H. Thayer, **A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**. 473).
- C. There is a pattern; will we obey it? - 2 Corinthians 2:9
- D. How should we exercise discipline in the local church?

I. Right Attitudes - Proverbs 4:23

- A. purposes - 1 Corinthians 5:5-6
- B. attitudes - Galatians 6:1-2
- C. without favoritism - 1 Timothy 5:20-21
- D. long-suffering - 1 Thessalonians 5:14

II. Prevention (Vaccination): Teaching - Acts 20:26-27

III. Correction (Inoculation)

- A. private - 1 Thessalonians 5:14
- B. public - 1 Timothy 5:19-20

IV. Withdrawal (Amputation) - 2 Thessalonians 3:6

- A. what it is - Matthew 18:17; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 5:2,5,7,9,11,13
- B. where it is to take place - 1 Corinthians 5:4

V. Continued Admonition - 2 Thessalonians 3:15

VI. Forgiveness - 2 Corinthians 2:6-8

Conclusion:

- A. We cannot afford to overlook sin. - 1 Corinthians 5:6
- B. Will we obey? - 2 Corinthians 2:9

The Work of a Preacher

Text: 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Introduction:

- A. The attitude many have toward the work of a preacher is exemplified by the woman who “quit the church” because “the preacher did not come to visit her family.”
- B. Do you want the preacher to do the work God has assigned him or the work denominations assign their pastors?
- C. What is the scriptural work of a preacher?

I. The Substance of the Preacher’s Work is to Preach the Word. - 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Acts 20:20, 26-27

II. With What Aims Should He Preach?

- A. toward God: Please - Galatians 1:10
- B. toward Sinners: Save - Romans 1:14-17
- C. toward Brethren: Edify - Acts 20:20,32
- D. toward the Faith: Guard - Jude 3
- E. toward the Faithful: Teach to Teach - 2 Timothy 2:2
- F. toward the Congregation: Set in Order - Titus 1:5

III. What methods should he use?

- A. no craftiness or deceit - 2 Corinthians 4:2
- B. convict - John 16:8; Acts 2:37
- C. beseech - 1 Corinthians 1:10
- D. persuade - 2 Corinthians 5:11
- E. command - 1 Timothy 4:11
- F. teach - 1 Timothy 4:13
- G. fight - 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Acts 17:16-17; Titus 1:13-14
- H. reprove and rebuke - 2 Timothy 4:2
- I. exhort - 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:9

II. What attitudes should he have?

- A. faith - 2 Corinthians 4:13; Romans 10:17; 1 Peter 4:11
- B. boldness - 2 Corinthians 3:12
- C. diligence - 1 Timothy 4:14-16; 2 Timothy 2:15
- D. gentleness - 2 Timothy 2:24-26
- E. longsuffering - 2 Timothy 4:2
- F. authority - Titus 2:15
- G. love - Ephesians 4:15

Conclusion:

- A. The work of a preacher is to preach the Word.! - 2 Timothy 4:2
- B. The reward is great. - 2 Timothy 4:6-8

The Characteristics of a Preacher

Text: 1 Timothy 6:6-12

Introduction:

- A. The book marker “Would You Hire This Preacher?” describes the travail of the apostle Paul.
- B. People generally expect the preacher and his family to be better than other Christians. This is probably the source of the old saying, “The preacher’s kids are the meanest in town.”
- C. What should a preacher be like?

I. People often make demands the Bible does not.

- A. secular education - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
- B. dynamic personality - 2 Corinthians 4:5
- C. married - 1 Corinthians 9:5
- D. just the right age - 1 Timothy 4:12; Philemon 9 (“30 years old with 30 years experience”)

II. Preachers **do** have greater responsibilities, since they preach the gospel. - 1 Timothy 4:12

- A. in **personal life** - 1 Timothy 6:6-11; 2 Timothy 2:22
- B. in **use of the word** - Titus 2:6-8
 - 1. honest - 2 Corinthians 4:2
 - 2. courageous - 2 Timothy 4:1-5
 - 3. studious - 1 Timothy 4:15; 2 Timothy 2:15
 - 4. gentle - 2 Timothy 2:24-26
 - 5. humble - Ibid
- C. in **personal relations** - Romans 14:7
 - 1. Fit in. - 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
 - 2. Be considerate of the weak. - 1 Corinthians 10:32-33

Conclusion:

- A. It is no easy task to measure up as a “man of God.” - 1 Timothy 6:11
- B. But the rewards outweigh the demands. - Philippians 4:1

The Work of Elders

Text: 1 Peter 5:1-4

Introduction:

- A. Leaders are remembered as great because in times of trial they rose to the occasion. - e.g., Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt
- B. In a time of sweeping apostasy, the church sorely needs such leaders. - Acts 20:28-31
- C. The success or failure of elders in the discharge of their duties will determine the eternal destiny of both the shepherds and the flock. - Titus 1:7; Hebrews 13:17
- D. What are the duties of elders?

I. "Take heed to yourselves" - Acts 20:28; cf. Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:3; 1 Timothy 3:7

II. "Take heed ... to all the flock." - Acts 20:28

- A. oversee - Acts 20:28; 1 Thessalonians 5:12
- B. shepherd (feed) - Acts 20:28
 - 1. feed - Psalm 23:2
 - a. teach personally - 1 Timothy 3:2; Ephesians 4:11; Titus 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; Hebrews 13:17
 - b. select competent, faithful teachers and evangelists - 1 Timothy 4:14; Acts 20:17; 1 Timothy 1:3
 - 2. guide - John 10:3-5; 1 Peter 5:3; Hebrews 13:7
 - 3. watch - Hebrews 13:17
 - a. care for the lambs - Romans 15:1; James 5:14-16
 - b. prevent the sheep from straying - Ezekiel 3:16-21
 - c. recover the lost - Luke 15:3-7
 - d. guard against predators - John 10:11-13; Acts 20:29-31; Titus 1:9-11

Conclusion:

- A. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of good elders to the local church. - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
- B. Elders, perform your duties with zeal and care. - 1 Peter 5:2

Qualifications of Elders

Text: Titus 1:5-9

Introduction:

- A.. “God has probably required more of a man in order to serve as an elder than any country in the world requires of its highest leader” (Lowell Williams).
- B. What are the scriptural qualifications a man must meet to become an elder?

I. Kinds of Qualifications: There are five types of qualifications for elders and a reason for each.

Kind of Qualification	Reason	Proof
A. character	the steward of God	Titus 1:7; cf. Hebrews 13:17
B. reputation	lest he fall into reproach	1 Timothy 3:7
C. ability	may be able to exhort and convince	Titus 1:9
D. family	prove his ability to rule	1 Timothy 3:5
E. experience	prevent pride	1 Timothy 3:6

II. 1 Timothy 3:1-7

- A. blameless: He must have no deficiencies of character or uncorrected sins that would keep him from being an example to Christians. - Hebrews 13:7; 1 Peter 5:3
- B. the husband of one wife
- C. vigilant: “sober, temperate, abstaining from wine” (Thayer. 613)
- D. sober: “of sound mind ...; hence, self-controlled, sober-minded” (Vine 4:45); “prudent, thoughtful” (W.F. Arndt & F.W. Gingrich, **A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**. 810)
- E. of good behavior: “a well-ordered life” (Thayer. 356)
- F. given to hospitality: “not what is now meant by that word; namely, the keeping of a good table and an open house for one’s friends... who are able to make him a return in kind; but it consisted in entertaining strangers...; the poor also, and the persecuted...”(James MacKnight, **Apostolical Epistles**. 451)
- G. apt to teach: “not merely the ability, but also the willingness, to teach” (W. Robertson Nicoll, **The Expositor’s Greek Testament**. 4:112).
- H. not given to wine: not one who actually drinks or one who behaves like a drinker, i.e., is quarrelsome and brawling
- I. no striker: “a pugnacious, contentious, quarrelsome person” (Vine. 4:83).
- J. not greedy of filthy lucre: “greedy of base gains” (W.E. Vine, **Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words**. 3:24); either by gaining money or material possessions through dishonest, illegal, or immoral avenues, or by being more concerned with money than with the Lord (identical with “not covetous,” left out of **NASB, NIV**, etc.)
- K. patient: “reasonable and gentle” (Henry Alford, **The Greek Testament**. 3:323)
- L. not a brawler: “not contentious” (Vine: 1:146; so Thayer. 31)
- M. not covetous: “not loving money, not greedy: (Arndt & Gingrich. 126)

N. ruleth well his own house

1. subjection: “obedience” (Arndt & Gingrich. 855; Thayer. 645)

2. gravity: “that characteristic of a pers, ... which entitles to reverence or respect” (Thayer. 573)

O. not a novice: “not a new convert” (**NASB**)

P. a good report of them which are without: “a good reputation with those outside the church” (**NASB**)

III. Titus 1:5-9

A. faithful children: “[Believing.] How shall he bring others to the faith, who could not bring his children?” (J.A. Bengel, **Gnomom of the New Testament**. 2:559)

1. not accused of riot: “of a dissolute, debauched, profligate manner of living” (R.C. Trench, **Synonyms of the New Testament**. 55)

2. or unruly

a. “that cannot be subjected to control, disobedient, unruly” (Thayer. 52)

b. “rebellious” (Arndt & Gingrich. 76)

B. not self-willed: “denotes one who, dominated by self-interest, and inconsiderate of others, arrogantly asserts his own will” (Vine. 3:342)

C. not soon angry: “not quick-tempered” (**NKJV, NASB**)

D. a lover of good men: “a lover of what is good” (**ASV, NKJV**, other translations and lexicons agree); cf. Philippians 4:8

E. just: “righteous, observing divine and human laws; one who is such as he ought to be....2. In a narrower sense, rendering to each his due; and that in a judicial sense, passing just judgment on others” (Thayer. 148-49)

F. holy: “pure from evil conduct, and observant of God’s will” (Vine. 2:227)

G. temperate: “self-controlled” (**ASV, NKJV, NASB**, and lexicons)

H. holding fast the faithful word : “cling to the trustworthy message” (Arndt & Gingrich. 215); verse 9

Conclusion:

A. To perform the important task of a bishop, a man **must** have these qualifications. -

1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:7

B. “Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you” men possessing these qualities, “whom we may appoint over” this church. - Acts 6:3

Deacons

Text: 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Introduction:

- B. The office of deacon is an important office.- 1 Timothy 3:13
- C. But to fill the office, men must meet divinely ordained qualifications, be selected and be appointed.- 1 Timothy 3:8; Acts 6:3
- D. What are the qualifications and work of deacons?

I. Qualifications:

A. 1 Timothy 3:8-13

- 1. grave: seriousness of mind reflected in character and conduct that demand respect
- 2. not double-tongued: “saying one thing with one person, another with another, with intent to deceive” (Thayer. 152).
- 3. not given to much wine: “must not be a drunkard”(Don Dewelt, **Paul’s Letter to Timothy and Titus.** 68)- cf. 1 Peter 4:4; 1 Timothy 5:23
- 4. not greedy of filthy lucre: “eager for base gain” (Thayer . 17)- 1 Timothy 6:10; John 12:1-6
- 5. Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience: a knowledge of the word of God, steadfast loyalty to it and diligent application of it to one’s own life- cf. Hebrews 5:14
- 6. the husbands of one wife
- 7. ruling their children and their own houses well - Ephesians 5:23-25; 6:4

B. Acts 6:3

- 1. honest report: “of good reputation” (**NASB**) - cf. Acts 10:22; Hebrews 11:2,39
- 2. full of the Holy Ghost - Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16; Galatians 5:22-23
- 3. wisdom - James 3:17

II. All the New Testament terms used to describe the deacon and his work pertain to serving.

- A. *diakonos*: servant, minister, deacon- Matthew 23:11; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8
- B. *diakoneo*: serve - Matthew 25:44; 1 Timothy 3:10
- C. *diakonia*: service - Luke 10:40; Acts 6:1

III. What, then, is the work of deacons?

- A. The primary task of the seven was to discharge the “daily ministrations” by serving tables.- Acts 6:1-3
- B. But by leaving the apostles free to accomplish “the ministry of the word” it is necessarily implied they were charged with the discharge of the physical duties of the church under the oversight of the apostles. - Acts 6:4
- C. The elders of the church should devote themselves to shepherding and overseeing and assign the physical details to the deacons.- Acts 20:28
- D. The preacher should not be used as if he were a deacon.- Acts 20:20

Conclusion:

- A. The deacons have the valuable task of discharging the details of physical duties of the church thus leaving the elders free to oversee and shepherd the church and the preacher to preach and teach.
- B. This is a good work that good men should desire.- 1 Timothy 3:13

Teachers

Text: 2 Timothy 2:2

Introduction:

- A. There are two extremes among Christians in regard to teaching the Bible.
 - 1. Those who want to teach as soon as they become Christians.
 - 2. Mature Christians who will not or cannot teach.
- B. All Christians are expected to develop the ability to teach the Bible. - Acts 8:4-5; 2 Timothy 2:2, 24-26; Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Peter 3:15
- C. But we should not be hasty in becoming teachers. - James 3:1
- D. How can we become effective teachers of the Bible?

I. Why should we teach the Bible?

- A. The Bible is the most important book anyone can learn. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:2-4
 - 1. Israel needed to know God's will - Deuteronomy 4:1-9; Hosea 4:6
 - 2. We need to know it at least as much. - Hebrews 8:6-13
- B. All people should be taught the Bible. - Matthew 28:19-20
 - 1. children so they will become Christians - Genesis 18:16-18; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Ephesians 6:4
 - 2. alien sinners to be brought to salvation - Mark 16:15-16; John 6:44-45
 - 3. erring Christians to be brought to repentance - James 5:19-20
 - 4. Faithful Christians to be brought to maturity - Luke 6:40; Matthew 28:20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 2:1-3

II. How can we develop our ability to teach the Bible? - Colossians 4:6

- A. First, we must know the Bible. - 2 Timothy 2:15
- B. Second, we must learn how to teach it to others. - Matthew 13:52
 - 1. The best teacher training manual is the Bible itself. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - 2. The best example of an effective teachers is Jesus, the true Master teacher. - Matthew 7:28-29; Luke 4:22; John 7:45-46

III. There are rules to be followed in teaching. (from **The Seven Laws of Teaching**, by John Milton Gregory)

- A. The Law of the Teacher: The teacher must know that which he intends to teach. - Hebrews 5:12-14
- B. The Law of the Learner: The learner must attend with interest to the material to be learned. - e.g., John 3:1-4
- C. The Law of the Language: The language used in teaching must be common to teacher and learner. - John 16:12; 1 Corinthians 14:9
- D. The Law of the Lesson: The truth to be taught must be learned through truth already known. - e.g., Matthew 13:3-9
- E. The Law of the Teaching Process: Excite and direct the self-activities of the student, and as a rule tell him nothing that he can learn for himself. - Luke 10:25-28

- F. The Law of the Learning Process: The student must reproduce in his own mind the truth to be learned. (stages of learning God's will). - Colossians 1:9-12
1. rote memory - Colossians 1:9a (What does the passage say?)
 2. understands thought - Colossians 1:9c (What does the passage mean?)
 3. seeks evidence - 1 Thessalonians 5:21 (Do I believe it? Why?)
 4. makes application - Colossians 1:10; James 1:22-25 (How can I use this truth in my life?)
 5. sees the big picture - Colossians 1:9c (How does this fit into the divine plan?)
- G. The Law of Review and Application: The completion, test and confirmation of the work of teaching must be made by review and application. - 2 Peter 1:12

IV. A Good Teacher of Scripture (Jesus the Perfect Example): - Matthew 7:28-29; Luke 4:22

- A. has a proper attitude toward the Scriptures. - Matthew 5:17-19; John 10:35
- B. knows the Scriptures. - Luke 2:41-47; 24:45
- C. has proper objective . - Matthew 18:11
- D. knows how to teach. - John 7:45-46
- E. loves to teach. - John 4:31-36
- F. knows his students. - John 2:24-25
- G. wants to help his students. - John 10:11; 15:31-32
- H. lives what he teaches. - John 8:46; 1 Peter 2:21-22

V. We, as uninspired teachers, need to plan our lessons. - 1 Timothy 4:14-16

- A. importance of planning
 1. If we fail to plan, we plan to fail.
 2. Plan your work, and work your plan.
- B. How can we properly plan Bible class lessons? - 2 Timothy 2:15
 1. Pray for wisdom. - James 1:5
 2. Meditate. - 1 Timothy 4:15-16
 - a. Read the entire passage for an overview. See if you can:
 - (1) identify its theme.
 - (2) outline it.
 - b. Look up the important facts.
 - (1) Define the key and difficult words.
 - (2) Locate the places (makes the narrative become real).
 - (3) Identify the people (makes the narrative come alive).
 - c. Study paragraph by paragraph and sentence by sentence to grasp the message.
 - d. Think of applications.
 - e. Try to think of good illustrations. Bible stories are the best source of illustrations.
 3. Write a plan to teach the lesson you have learned. Write it in terms of what you want the students to be able to do and how you will help them be able to do this.
 - a. Objective of Lesson: What should the student think or do as the result of this lesson?
 - b. Write questions designed to lead the student to meet this objective (Questions make the student become an active learner.).
 - (1) Facts
 - (a) What do the key and difficult words mean?
 - (b) Where did this happen?

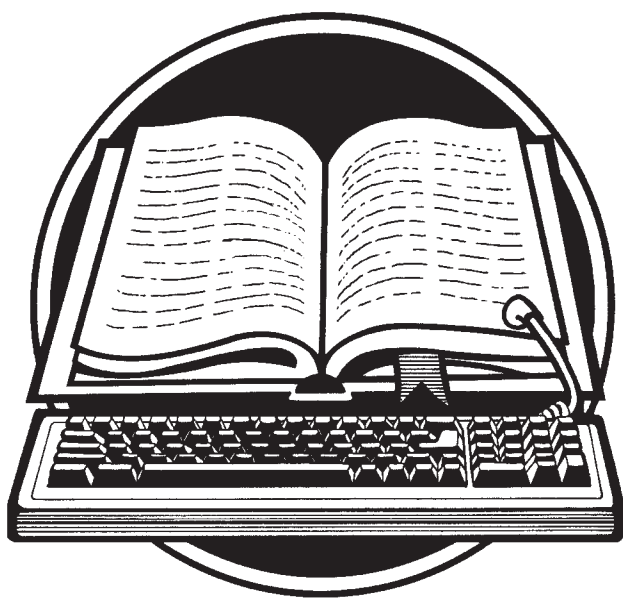
- (c) Who did it?
- (d) What happened?
- (e) When did it happen?
- (2) Understanding
 - (a) Why was this said or done?
 - (b) What does the inspired writer want us to learn from this?
- (3) Application
 - (a) How does this apply to us today?
 - (b) What should I believe or do as the result of this lesson?

VI. Practical Application to Teaching Home Bible Studies (a suggested process)

- A. Use only your Bible, a notepad (I prefer stenographer's notepad), and a pencil.
- B. Take along an extra Bible, identical to yours, for the student to use. Most new Bible students do not know the books of the Bible, and, if they have a Bible, it is a loose, modern version. By taking along a Bible identical to yours, you can call page numbers for the passages and be sure he is reading from an accurate translation.
- C. Write a series of lessons in your notepad. These should consist only of a series of Bible verses with questions over each passage to direct the student toward learning how to be saved.
- D. On the first visit, get to know the student. Find out what he believes and what changes in belief and life he needs to make. Suggest a series of topical studies based on his needs.
- E. Ask the student to write down on a piece of paper whether or not he is saved and, if he thinks he is saved, how he was saved. This way, if he later decides he has already been scripturally baptized, he can look back at his own belief before you taught him the truth. No one should see this piece of paper but the student.
- F. Preferably around the kitchen table, study through a series of no more than six lessons, one lesson per session. Spend no more than an hour in the house each time.
- G. At the beginning of each session, ask if he has questions, but, if they do not pertain to his salvation, give brief answers in order to return to the study of how to be saved.
- H. Always remember that your goal is to lead this student to Christ.

Conclusion:

- A. No work has greater potential reward or greater danger than Bible teaching. - 3 John 4; James 3:1
- B. Therefore, prepare earnestly to do this great work. - 2 Timothy 2:15
- C. Then, having adequately prepared, zealously teach God's word. - Acts 8:4-5



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