

Teaching in Times Past and Now

All Scriptures from The Old and New King James Version

Teaching in bible times was different than our times. They had their difficulties. Some of the problems are similar to our time but many were different. In bible times it was not uncommon for people to discuss things at the gate of the city. They also could discuss things in the synagogue. People were freer with time, to talk. It was not uncommon for people to draw a multitude to listen to someone talk in a city square.

Their problems caused by speaking publicly were more severe in their time than now. The Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, and the Roman authorities could have you scourged or killed, or the crowd could stone you if you said something they disliked. Despite these problems, the faithful seemed to get God's message out. Remember they were told to meditate on the word day and night. Most of them did not possess any scriptures but kept in memory what was read to them in synagogues and from others who received the word of God. We with all our privileges, should do as much more than they did.

In the generations past in our society tent meetings were common for people to listen to preaching and teaching. People were more open to receive you into their homes to discuss the bible. Unfortunately, after the invention of radio and tv, people began to say they did not have time. It is even worse in our time. Computers, phones, and video games are taking up our time. People don't seem to want to give up this time. The increase in criminal activity has also made it harder for people to trust a stranger. Now it is extremely important that we become friends just to talk to people. These problems are not an excuse. We must teach our neighbors.

Teachers found ways to overcome problems in biblical times, so can we. But first we must become confident in ourselves to do the job. If we only depend on inviting people our meetings (Revivals) at our church building, then it is almost a guarantee you will never progress to the point of teaching others. It takes effort and study these days to convince people. Inviting people to our churches is good but exhort and encourage them to come to regular assemblies. Ask if they would like personal studies.

*Luk 12:48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. **For everyone to whom much is given, from him***

much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

Jos 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Well to become proficient at scripture we must read and meditate on it. If English is your problem as it is with me, use an audio version of the bible to get help you through the whole Bible. Some will say well you need to be able to read the Bible. Well they are right but listening can get you to the ability to overcoming many reading problems, especially the hard to say names in the Bible. Remember in bible times most people only had listening as the only method to gain knowledge of God's word. Don't become dependant on audio only. If you have problems with spelling and grammar a friend or a computer can help until you become better at it. Memory can help you retain scriptures so you can teach others. My point is, you can find some way to overcome difficulties in your life to do God's work. Planning and meditation are necessary to accomplish any task. Remember in building a Christian life you need to do more than build a foundation. Let us continue to build the building of a Christian life. Let us progress from the milk of the word to the solid food of the word.

1Pe 2:1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Heb 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

Luk 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it— 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is

not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

Get yourself prepared to have the ability to find scripture to answer people's questions. Use memory or a mark your bible or even a portable computer bible. Don't be afraid to say I don't remember where the scripture is stated now, but I will find it for you. Don't make yourself out to be an expert. Just show you are a student of the bible and are trying to share it with others.

Now let us talk about some of the problems we face in teaching in our time. People seem to busy to talk especially about religion. Well try making your own studies or tracks and giving them to people and ask for feedback on the study or track. Leave some way for them to contact you. Phone number or e-mail or any method you can come up with.

People have preconceived ideas which were taught them. Most of the time they just accept what was taught them because they trust the source teaching them. They don't wish to doubt their source. Let them know that all men are fallible and we should trust God. Say let us see in scriptures what they believe is taught. The scriptures will show what is right. The light of scripture will change what they believe if their heart is right.

Some don't believe the Bible is from God. With them you will need to go into evidences. The best evidence is in the creation and its order of the things not made with hands. Contextual proof and historical proof are another method. These studies can require outside proofs.

I believe they know in their heart there is a God but some are not willing to accept this. It is possible to convert them. Remember they have deceived themselves.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

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