

PATIENCE IN TEACHING

Teaching can be an exasperating task. Many are ignorant of the truth. Others are set in their ways. Some want to do better, but are slow to grasp the principles of the gospel. Those who have been Christians for many years may have forgotten where they once were. Thus, there is a need for the Christian teacher to exhibit patience in teaching others. Paul said to Timothy, “And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.” (II Tim. 2:24-26.)

The word “patient” means “pertaining to enduring difficulties without becoming angry or upset - ‘tolerant, patient.’” In teaching another, there may be a proclivity to get angry because he is slow to learn or his reasoning is not correct. The student may even hurl personal invectives at his teacher. He may attack the character of the teacher; however, Paul says that the servant of the Lord must be patient.

Later in the same epistle he wrote, “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. (II Tim. 4:1-5.)

In the above passage, Paul charged Timothy to preach the word and to “reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” The word “longsuffering” means “a state of emotional calm in the face of provocation or misfortune and without complaint or irritation.” Preaching the gospel is a “rocking the boat” occupation. It entails many times making people aware of the need to change their thinking, their

actions, their conduct and their associations in order to be pleasing to God. People do not like their feet stepped on. Maybe what the preacher has said will mean that one will lose some of his income, friends, or prestige. When sin is pointed out in the lives of those whose hearts and lives are not right, they may begin look for ways to shoot the messenger. And when the fiery darts come at the teacher of the gospel, one must be calm in the midst of the heavy shelling.

When a faithful gospel preacher tells a young lady that her dress is too short or her blouse too low cut, he may be accused of being a dirty old man. Should he refrain from his duty of pointing out sin? NO. He is duty-bound to cry aloud and point out sin, regardless of the attacks made upon him.

When a teacher of the truth points out that there is no authority for the use of mechanical instruments of music in worship, the advocate of the opposing view might hurl the charge of one’s being a narrow-minded legalist. No matter. One must still ask for New Testament authority for its use in worship, regardless of the attacks. We are authorized to sing, not play (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).

In bringing people out of denominationalism, patience is needed. More than likely, they did not arrive in their present state overnight, and neither will all their false ideas be removed overnight. We are to gently instruct with all longsuffering.

When a false teacher is exposed, he may attack the one who has exposed him by accusing him of not being loving or that he is exposing error just to make a name for himself. Regardless of those who might impugn our motives, we are duty-bound to expose the false doctrine and warn others of the false teacher. Paul wrote, “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.” (Rom. 16:17-18.) Since we cannot read the hearts of men, we should leave such judgment to God (Matt. 7:1-3). However, regardless of what others may say our motives are, we are to continue to contend for the faith, warning others night and day.

In our efforts to teach others the gospel of Jesus Christ, we may grow weary in well doing; however, Paul exhorted, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” (Gal. 6:9.)

In the teaching and preaching of God’s word, let us exhibit patience.

Ben F. Vick, Jr. from *The Informer*

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

The Bible teaches that the majority of people will not enter heaven. This is sad to think about, but the Bible says, “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matt. 7:13-14).

The Bible teaches that only a “few” will find that strait gate and narrow way. This is contrary to what many people base their religion on today. Many say, “the majority is a safe guide,” but this passage proves that it is not a safe guide.

The Bible says, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15). I urge you make certain that what you practice in religion can be found in the Bible. Remember Matthew 7:21, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”

If anyone misses heaven, he will have no one to blame but himself. We have been “given all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (2 Pet. 1:3). The Scriptures give us everything to make man perfect (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Are you searching the Scriptures? If we are to reach heaven, we must do as the Bible says.

Tommy Stacks from *Eastside Edifier*

ANNIVERSARY

George and Linda Thomas, 09-14.

BIRTHDAYS

Jared Nelson, 09-15; Debra Gragg, 09-16.

ILL

Wednesday: Chris Edwards, Millie Robertson. David Cole had cancer surgery September 6 and will need chemo-therapy. Jamal Abyad had tests which may indicate further treatment. Allen Scott had a good report.

Those battling cancer: Diane Cannon, Ledgia Campbell and Ron Wood. Please remember these, as well as: Janice Carter, Lynda Cole, Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is in Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

The James' were at Clinton last weekend. Cindy and Chelsea Nelson were in Salem, MO last Sunday AM. Debra Gragg is in Augusta, KS this weekend.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

The regularly scheduled Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, September 10 following AM worship.

MID-WEST LECTURES

The 24th Annual Mid-West Lectures will be held on September 17-21, 2006. The theme this year is: "*Mark Them Which Walk So.*" Flyers are in the foyer.

FALL GOSPEL MEETING

Our Fall Gospel Meeting with Randy Mabe will be September 24-28. Flyers are in the foyer to invite others.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 50; Sunday PM, 41; Wednesday PM, 48.

Those To Serve

September 10, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Tullis

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek
PRESIDE..... John Cody Carter
ASSIST..... Jared Nelson
ASSIST..... John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... Charles Tullis

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Carter
CLOSING PRAYER..... Gary Cole
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Cody Carter

WEDNESDAY 13th

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
INVITATION Jared Nelson

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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