



# TEACHING THE BIBLE

## SESSION WORKBOOK

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the Church at **Martinsburg**



**INDEPENDENT BIBLE CHURCH**

# Introduction:

## TEACHING IS “TRUTH THROUGH PERSONALITY” The Call and Character of the Man of God

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Did you ever hear a message from a speaker who was an excellent communicator, but someone that you did not respect as a person? It was probably hard to listen, let alone receive what he was saying.

Since God has planned that preaching be the channel of the truth of His Word through a man who is passionate about Him, then the kind of person one is cannot be overestimated. “The preacher as well as the sermon must be prepared. The two go together, in every part of his being—physical, mental, emotional, spiritual—the preacher must be a prepared vessel to contain, and then to share the message of life.”<sup>1</sup>

Every husband and father is called to shepherd and teach his own family. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 summoned the men of Israel to this priority:

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*<sup>2</sup>

Notice that love for God must be real in our heart if teaching our own children is to be effective.

1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 give the qualifications for local church elders. In doing so, these passages create a composite portrait of spiritual maturity for any Christian man. Most of the characteristics in the list can be found as standards for Christians in general in other passages. Of the 19 or so character qualities listed, only one has to do with skill (*apt to teach*). One other has to do with knowledge and handling of Scripture (*holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict*, Titus 1:9). The rest have to do with personal character or reputation.

Men of God, memorize these passages. They will be a constant source of the Spirit’s conviction and challenge for growth. No one has reached perfection. But, the standard is not perfection. It is the direction or pattern of one’s life in each area—*good reputation (blameless)*.

While all church elders are to be *apt to teach* and *hold fast the faithful Word* in order to correct false teaching, some are especially called to *labor in the word and doctrine* (1 Timothy

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<sup>1</sup> Warren Wiersbe and David Wiersbe, *The Elements of Preaching* (Wheaton: Tyndale, 1986), p. 20.

<sup>2</sup> *The New King James Version*. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 1982, S. Dt 6:4-9

5:17, NKJV) or *work hard at preaching and teaching* (NASB). When Paul said that God worked in his life, *putting me into the ministry* (1 Timothy 1:12), he recognizes that God calls some men to serve the church full time as teachers of the Word of God (Ephesians 4:11).

The call to “full time ministry” consists of unquenchable desire (1 Timothy 3:1), unquestionable character (3:2-7), appropriate spiritual gifting, and a recognition of these by the local church (Acts 16:2, 1 Timothy 4:14).

The skills of preaching can be learned and practiced. In some respects, they are simple. Warren and David Wiersbe, father and son, introduced a book on preaching with this encouragement: “Our conclusion is that the multitude of books, seminars, cassettes, lectures, and ‘preaching helps’ gives the impression that preaching must be a complicated and burdensome task. We hope to convince you that, while preaching is not easy, its elements are really quite simple, and the application of them can bring real joy to your heart.”<sup>3</sup>

There is a tendency to make homiletics more complicated than it needs to be. Local church leaders can learn and develop the skills of presenting the Word of God. This is not to say that preaching should ever be taken lightly. We would all do well to emulate the attitude of Samuel Rutherford who said, “I preached as never sure to preach again and as a dying man to dying men.”<sup>4</sup>

We should also keep in mind that some are gifted and chosen by God to preach the Word as a full time calling.<sup>5</sup> Whether preaching occasionally, or called to preach full time, one’s godly life and reputation provide the platform for communication that makes an impact for God.

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<sup>3</sup> Wiersbe and Wiersbe, p. 10.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 15.

<sup>5</sup> See John Piper, *The Supremacy of God in Preaching, Revised Edition* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2004) pp. 21-22, where Dr. Piper gives the simple testimony of his own call to preach in a very personal and helpful way.









































