

The Summer

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PLUMBLINE

Preaching & Teaching: "Edification"

10th Article in the Series by D. Bruce Barnes

In studying words for communication of biblical truth, one will stand out as the overall purpose in it all: edification. Regardless of the presentation method or style, edification is always the point. It might be to challenge an unbeliever to faith in Christ which is undoubtedly informative and instructive, or it might be for the building up of believers for personal Christian joy or service. Preaching nor teaching exist only to fill the head with information or move the emotion for no spiritual objective. Limiting either of these presentation modes cheapens their purpose and weakens their effect.

The New Testament Greek word for edification is oikodomeo, meaning "edify, build up, restore, benefit, or strengthen." The term denotes an "inner strengthening in might and knowledge, an outer winning and convincing" (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Vol. V, 140). An example passage using this word is 1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."

Through whatever means edification is done, instructive understanding and application occur for

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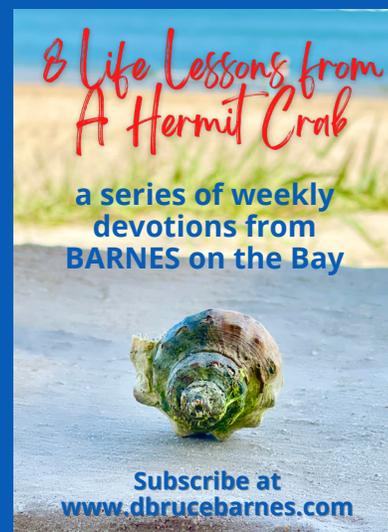
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D. Bruce Barnes, VAFWB Promotional Director

<https://vafwb.org>

| dbrucebarnes@vafwb.org

| 757-407-1183

EDIFICATION, Preaching & Teaching, cont'd.

the recipient's benefit. And such ministering is also for the collective good of the church community. Edification is the purpose of teaching and preaching, not merely the receiving of spiritual blessings or increase of knowledge. It strengthens, restores, builds up, and benefits all involved, even though the benefits will vary according to the individual need. Genuine preaching and teaching labors for proper spiritual edification.

Jesus was known both as a preacher and teacher. Even the world recognizes the effectiveness of His teachings and teaching methods because He is often spoken of as the Master Teacher. In Scripture, Christ's purpose in preaching is never separated from His purpose in teaching. Sure, there were different settings where it is said that He preached or went aside to teach. But the intention was always the same: enlightenment of the truth for its life application. And this is the point!

In like manner, our preaching and teaching may use various methods to see God's Word change people for their eternal good and growth. In both ways, our message will be founded in God's Word and what it says and then spoken for change among its hearers.

Grateful for Your Ministry Among Us!

Rev. Paul Collins presently serves on the VAFWB Missions Board, and his service to our brethren, church planters, and our state is greatly appreciated! Here's a little background about Bro. Paul.

He was fifteen when he was saved at Hyde Park FWB Church in Norfolk, VA, and sixteen when he answered God's call to preach while at the Tidewater Association Youth Camp. He also served four years as the youth pastor at Hyde Park.



Rev. Paul Collins

Paul spent 32 to 40 hours a week working his way through college, graduating from Welch College in 1984 with a BA degree in Pastoral Training and Christian Education. During his first and second years in college, he helped lead a group to reopen a mission church in Jackson, TN: Victory FWB Church. Throughout his junior and senior years, he traveled to Knoxville, TN, to serve as the youth pastor and later as the interim pastor of Forest Grove FWB Church.

In 1984, the Tidewater Association asked him to move to Richmond, VA, to help a struggling church: Glen Lea FWB Church. Even though the congregation grew quickly, the existing membership discouraged the new arrivals. Paul redirected those people to the new mission church, Good News FWB Church in Chesterfield, VA. Paul left the Glen Lea Church after six months, and the church closed two years later.

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PAUL COLLINS, cont'd.

Paul began pastoring Temple FWB Church in March 1985 and married Patricia Sligh in May that year. He pastored there for thirteen years, growing from one of the smallest to one of the largest in the area. Paul left Temple in 1998 and accepted to start a joint project as a church planter in Harrisonburg, VA. He brought the church to self-supporting status.

In addition to these ministry areas, Pastor Collins held the following positions in South Carolina: Home Mission Board, General Board, Presbytery Board, Conference Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and Executive Board Member. He also has held positions in Virginia as State Promotional Director, State Moderator, Assistant Moderator, State Executive Board Member, Harvest Child Care Board Member, and Home Mission Board Member. He has also served as Conference Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, and Executive Board Member in the Northern Virginia Conference.

Bro. Paul, thank you for your faithful service to the Lord's work over these years and for your service to our Free Will Baptist brethren here in Virginia. We are grateful for the input you provide for our church planters and for the experience you bring to the table.

- August 6: Northern Virginia Conference, Harmony FWB Church, Orange, VA
- August 7: PR-DR AM Service, First FWB Church, Richmond, VA
- August 13: PR-DR Preaching, Central Virginia Conference
- August 14: PR-DR AM Service, Woodland Heights FWB Church, Martinsville, VA
- August 21: PR-DR AM Service, First FWB Church, Richmond, VA
- September 11: PR-DR AM Service, Lifegate FWB Church, Winchester, VA
- September 18-21: PR-DR Homecoming & Revival, Harmony FWB Church, Lake Butler, FL



*VAFWB
on the Road*

National Association Review

For a review of various items related to the National Association Meeting in Birmingham, please follow the links on the right.

- [Convention Review](#)
- [Convention Photos](#)
- [Impact Birmingham Video](#)
- [Obituary Video](#)

GO Booth at the National

We had the opportunity to share the ministry of GRACE Outreach (GO) this year in Birmingham. Debbie and I set up the booth and ministered there for three days during the conference. A special thanks go to three pastors from Virginia—Glen Johnson, Paul Collins, and Jay Baines—who also spent some time with us promoting GO. We were able to have substantive discussions with some pastors about the need for evangelism and our program's organizational structure that would help in those endeavors. Pray with us as we follow up with these pastors and as others consider renewing their efforts in local-church evangelism.

