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PREACHING & TEACHING

A Study of New Testament Words: D. Bruce Barnes

Much difference has been made between preaching and teaching for some time now. Although the argument is overly simplified, the suggestion has been that preaching is related to style, emphasis, and result. At the same time, teaching is supposedly more the presentation of rote facts with no application to life. These means of communicating the Scriptures are more multi-faceted than simple definitions can quickly explain. However, pastoral teaching has often become something foreign to what some call preaching. The feeling is that preaching moves people, and teaching relates facts to people. In truth, teaching that fails to move people lacks instructive value, and preaching that fails to further a progression in the knowledge of the truth lacks lasting value. That is, preaching is supposed to move people, and teaching is supposed to do the same. Preaching and teaching will move through the presentation of the truth.

To demonstrate the point, let's consider 1 Corinthians 1:18. "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." The point of the verse is not that preaching alone is the power of God. The prepositional phrase qualifies what kind of preaching brings that power. It is the "preaching of the cross!" (Emphasis mine). Again, preaching will move listeners through the presentation of the



truth. Consequently, the preacher must have his message sourced within and developed from God's Word. That is why expository preaching is preeminent. It consistently and clearly lays out the truth of Scripture, and Scripture will move people. It is not altogether the style but rather the content that will change lives.

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It is understood that teaching or preaching can be attractive or boring, regardless of how these are individually defined or characterized. The danger lies in suggesting that a stylistic approach popular within oratory is that which is genuine preaching.

With that in mind, this and succeeding articles will consider the wealth of information the New Testament reveals about teaching (then, we'll consider preaching). In fact, there is much more about teaching and its relationship to pastoral preaching and the ministry of the Word than we might at first think. A study of teaching in the New Testament is a broad topic involving many passages that either mention or refer to it. To understand this Christian ministry as presented in the New Testament, a study of the various words that speak about teaching would be appropriate. These words reveal the inner significance of what biblical instruction is. The following articles are a compilation of Greek words most commonly used for or about teaching and instruction. These words give an interesting insight into what the New Testament means when it says, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

TEACHING IS INSTRUCTION

Teaching, therefore, is, first of all, "instruction." The primary New Testament Greek word used to express this idea is *didasko*. "It denotes 'teaching' or 'instructing' in the widest sense" (Kittles, 135). This concept suggests that a learner gains insight into a truth that must be learned. The learner has their attention alerted to the desired truth and is focused on the lesson to be acquired and put into practice. But it also presupposes the knowledge of the one who holds the truth: the teacher or proclaimer. That which the teacher knows, in this case, the Word of God, must be delivered to the listener. The holder of that knowledge must find a bridge over which the truth can be delivered, thus the instructive method. In this sense, the interested learner has the instructor cross the bridge, which is the teacher's instructive method. Through it, the learner also crosses the bridge to understanding. This is *didasko* learning.

An example passage is I Corinthians 11:14, "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?" The use of *didasko* encompasses the broad sense of teaching because the instructor (nature) forms a bridge of knowledge with the pupil to conclude with the lesson learned. The truth learned from this education is not static, not just a fact to know. It is for the learner to understand and act accordingly. A transformation of life should come from instruction!

Therefore, the man of God who preaches the Word must be able to bridge to the seeker the information needed through the means of his instruction. For this type of instruction to be profitable and thus, productive in the life, the pupil must provide interest and ability toward the teaching. As these qualifications are met, this bridge of teaching and learning will be formed between teacher and pupil. What the teacher knows will have been imparted to the learner, as will its learning purpose.

Therefore, teaching and preaching demands the acquisition of imparted knowledge. In the following article, we will consider the word for "acquisition."

VAFWB ON THE CALENDAR

- MARCH 27: GO Training at Great Bridge FWB Church
- MARCH 30: PR Director, Pulpit Revival Service, Hope FWB Church, Plymouth, NC
- APRIL 3-6: PR Director, Forgiveness Conference, FWB Church of Roanoke
- APRIL 8: Southwest Virginia Minister's Conference, Central FWB Church, Norton, VA
- APRIL 9: East Wise Quarterly Conference
- APRIL 10 (Palm Sunday): PR Director, AM Service, First FWB Church, Richmond
- APRIL 17 (Easter): PR Director, AM Service, First FWB Church, Richmond
- APRIL 22-23: East Coast God's Man's Conference, Gateway FWB Church, Virginia Beach
- APRIL 24-27: PR Director, Forgiveness Conference, Woodland Heights FWB Church, Martinsville
- APRIL 29: John Wheeler Annual Association Meeting

Ruth McDonald Accepts WNAC Director's Position

The Women Nationally Active for Christ is pleased to announce Mrs. Ruth McDonald as the new WNAC Director. Donnie will continue to be an IM missionary and strategically promote missions education in the US, visit churches, develop a teaching curriculum, and assist with Go Global events. The McDonalds have ministered as IM missionaries in Japan for 38 years. They have served as church planters, teachers, evangelists, and recently provided leadership in the Good News Chapel in the greater Tokyo area. Ruth shares, "WNAC has had a huge part to play in our ministry in Japan for all these years. I am excited about giving back by serving our wonderful Free Will Baptist women." Don Matchett, Director of Development at IM, Inc.



states, "I am excited about this move for several reasons: First, IM has always worked closely with WNAC. They play an invaluable role in giving, communicating, and promoting IM, Inc. and its missionaries' hearts, actions, and needs. Who better to be placed in the director's seat than an accomplished missionary such as Ruth McDonald? Second, Donnie will play a strategic role in encouraging and educating churches from a Free Will Baptist missions perspective." "We have seen God's hand guide throughout the process of hiring a new director. We are beyond thankful and excited to welcome Ruth. With a rich Free Will Baptist heritage and love for our denomination, Ruth has a passion for women's ministry and sharing through the written and spoken word. We are confident her values, goals, and passions will help expand new ministry opportunities while holding tight to the heritage of our Free Will Baptist women's ministry organization," Amy Johnson, WNAC Board Chair. The McDonalds will move to Nashville in October to begin their new roles November 1. Please join IM, Inc. and WNAC in praying for the McDonalds as they enter this new season of ministry. Also, pray for the Good News Chapel in Japan as they look confidently towards the future and move to Japanese leadership.