

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew** 18- The King Begins to Teach and Preach

Church June 26, 2022

Matthew 4:23-25

23 Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

24 The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.

25 Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan.

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen*

Now back when we were being introduced with the Apostle Matthew- we discovered that, in order to reach the Jewish people- God the Holy Spirit led him to *purposefully* designed this Book to mirror the first five Books of the Old Testament (the Torah). So, you have the Introduction (Chapters 1-3) and an Ending (Chapters 26-28) that sit on top of and underneath five separate Sections of Teaching- that would allow the Jews to see Jesus as not only being the *Messiah* and *Immanuel* (God with us)- but also the 2nd and final Moses.

But this would also allow the Jews to see the Record of Jesus' Life, Ministry; Death; and Resurrection as part of a single Story- that began with Adam in the Garden and will finish with King Jesus ruling the Nations of the world. And since that is the Way Matthew wrote this Book- that is the Way we should read it and understand it.

So, with verse 23 of Chapter 4- we are now entering the *first* Section of powerful and anointed Teaching from Jesus- that will go all the way to the end of Chapter 7. And, of course, the MAIN Part of this first Section of Teaching is what we call, the "*Sermon on the Mount*" that covers Chapters 5 through 7.

We need to remember that the *primary* Way that Jesus conducted His Ministry was NOT by performing Miracles; Signs and Wonders; or Casting out of

Demons. Those supernatural Manifestations were designed to give Jesus and His Teaching the “*Divine Credibility*” that He needed so that the Jews would listen to what He said. But they were NOT the most important Part of His earthly Ministry. What consumed MOST of Jesus’ time on earth was His Teaching and Preaching. **Matthew 4:17b** says that as soon as His Time of Testing (from God’s Perspective) and Temptation (from satan’s perspective) Jesus...

... began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

And then here in **Matthew 4:23b**- we see that Matthew says that Jesus ...

was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

... so, Jesus was *Teaching; Proclaiming* (Preaching); and *Healing*.

And the Healings and Signs and Wonders and Miracles that Jesus performed gave Divine Credibility to the radical Gospel of the Kingdom that Jesus was Teaching and Preaching.

So, Jesus taught and preached more than anything else. And beginning with **Matthew 4:23** and ending with **Matthew 25:46**- we will be exposed to the most perfect Teaching and Preaching the world has ever known. And so, the bulk of our time in **Matthew** will be comprised of three things:

1. Examining the Words that Jesus used in His Teaching and Preaching
2. Understanding what Jesus *meant* by what He taught and preached
3. Finding Ways to *apply* what Jesus taught and preached to our *own* lives

... so, these three things: *Examination; Context; and Application*.

Now the Method I will employ to accomplish those three things will *include* going back to the original Aramaic words that Jesus actually spoke to find out what those words mean. You see, even though Jesus was a Jew- He did NOT speak Hebrew. Now He knew Hebrew as well as Greek- but Jesus taught in the Aramaic language- which was common for Jews in Palestine in the 1st Century.

But when Matthew wrote this Gospel record down- he wrote it, *originally* in Hebrew- to make it easier for Jews- who lived outside of Palestine to read and understand. But as time went on- copies of the Gospel of Matthew were written in Koine Greek- which was the language of the Mariners of that day. This allowed the Gospel Record to spread across the known world much faster than if it had

remained in either Aramaic or Hebrew. That Greek copy was then translated into Latin starting around 382AD. by Jerome¹; and, finally, around 600 years later- this same Gospel Record began to be translated into English.

So, whichever English Version you use- you have an English translation; of a Latin translation; of a Greek translation; of a Hebrew translation; of the Words of Jesus that were originally spoken in Aramaic. But even though that is true- you can trust whichever English Version you use² and be comforted in the Knowledge that the God, Who inspired the Apostle Matthew in the first place to write this Book down- is the *same* God, Who has sovereignly *preserved* it to this day.

And that is why you can expect me to go very slowly over the next 21 Chapters- as we struggle to understand what Jesus taught; what He *meant* by what He taught; and what Obedience to Jesus' Teaching looks like in the 21st Century.

Now the timeframe in Jesus' earthly Life that we will cover over the next 21 Chapters is approximately 3-1/2 years. But because what Jesus said is so important- it is going to take us much *longer* to go through those Chapters than it took for Jesus to actually speak these words. You may remember that we spent 9 years and 10 months going through **The Gospel of Dr. Luke**- which actually has more words than **Matthew**. So, I expect to spend several years in our "*Journey*" through Matthew's Gospel.

Now I'm not doing this because I am enamored with my own voice. I am NOT going to take this time- simply because I enjoy listening to myself speak. I am going to go slowly through this Gospel Record for several Reasons:

- I want to understand what Jesus said and did *myself*
- I want to obey the Commands of Jesus *myself*
- I want to "delight myself in Jesus"- NOT be an academic or an intellectual when it comes to understanding the Bible
- I don't want to be deceived *myself*
- I certainly don't want to deceive anybody else

Now in **Luke 19:10**- Jesus gave us His primary Reason for His entire earthly Ministry. There, He said,

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

¹ Jerome translated the Bible into Latin in what was called the "Latin Vulgate" in 382AD.

² Even though we can trust whatever English Versions we use- there are English Translations that are better than others. I recommend six: The New American Standard Bible (95update); The Legacy Standard Bible (LSB); The King James Version (KJV); The English Standard Version (ESV); the Christian Standard Bible (CSB); and the New King James Version.

... that is Jesus' PRIMARY GOAL as to why He came to this earth- to seek and to save the Lost. So, that is what Jesus is focused on- NOT *judging* the Lost or *damning* the Lost- but *saving* the Lost. So, this first Advent of Jesus to this earth is marked by offering Salvation to those who are unsaved or Lost. His second Advent is where His Wrath and Judgment and Damnation against all those who are not saved will come about. But He has come this time- to seek and to save the Lost- to offer the Forgiveness of Sins and spotless Righteousness to guilty rebels.

And with that Statement we now see that all of Humanity is broken down into two categories:

1. Saved people
2. Lost people

... and every single human on earth is in one of those two categories. Everybody in this Sanctuary this morning is either saved or lost. And if you are "Saved"- then you love Jesus- and you *prove* that Love every day by striving to please and honor and obey the Lord. And if you are Lost- then you love *yourself*; and you love Sin and Darkness- and you *prove* that Love every day by living to please and honor and obey your own carnal Lusts and the desires of satan.

And so, this tells us that Salvation is a real big deal to God. Because God really, really, really loves Jesus. And so, God has sent the very BEST that Heaven has; and the ONE He loves the MOST- to this Sin-cursed earth to save guilty sinners. So, by sending the BEST- we can tell that Salvation glorifies God MORE than anything else. And that means that Salvation is a real big deal to God.

Now because God is absolutely Sovereign- He *could* have accomplished that Goal of saving the Lost- in any way He wanted to- *including* by sovereignly *causing* lost people to suddenly just be saved. God could have simply brought an End- to the Lost Condition of every soul on earth. Yet it is manifestly clear that God did NOT choose to carry out Salvation that way.

So, how does the Bible teach that God decided to carry out His primary Goal of seeking and saving that which was Lost? Please read **1Corinthians 1:17b-21** together with me:

**17 ... Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.
18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
19 For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE."**

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

Now verse 21 is a little difficult to understand and so, most of the time, the *last* part of this verse is quoted while leaving out the *first* part. But even as the last part of this verse is quoted- it is usually NOT quoted correctly. So, let's spend some time here and *correctly* and *fully* "exegete" (take out of) verse 21- what God the Holy Spirit (through the Apostle Paul) put into it.

Paul begins this verse by saying... "For"- which we have learned means: *Because*. So, that tells us that in order to understand verse 21- we need to back up and answer the Question of what Paul is talking about in the first place.

So, the *first* Statement in this Passage is actually the *last* part of verse 17 that says,

... Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

So, the concern that Paul has here- is that Salvation (the seeking and saving of the Lost) will be carried out by the Apostles- in such a way- that would cause the Cross of Jesus to be "made void". And then he tells us how something that the Apostles might do- in pursuit of seeking and saving the Lost- that would cause the Cross of Jesus to be made void (or of no Effect). He said,

Cleverness in speaking

So, the Means of "*clever speaking*" in the pursuit of saving the Lost would actually fight *against* the Mission of saving the Lost- by making the Cross of Jesus to be "void" or absent of any Power; or of no consequence. And that is what the Holy Spirit through Paul is concerned with.

Now how would cleverness in speaking so *minimize* the Importance of the Cross that it would make the Cross to be void? Paul tells us in the very next verse:

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Now the phrase, the “**word of the Cross**” has to do with the Preaching and Teaching about the Cross: *What it was; Why it used by God; what it means; how it ties in with Salvation.*

And then Paul said that the Preaching and Teaching about the Cross- is “FOOLISHNESS”- to those who are “PERISHING”. Now Paul used two words here that he has used before. So, let’s look at the word, “**Foolishness**” first by turning quickly to **1Corinthians 2:14** and reading with me:

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Here Paul talks about a “**natural man**”. And this is NOT a saved person, who is simply not very spiritual- as many within the “*Pentecostal; Charismatic; or Full-Gospel Movement*” teach. The phrase, “natural man” has to do with a lost person. Someone who is unsaved and headed for Hell.

And Paul says here that a lost person or (the way the Greek is rendered) ALL lost people “DOES NOT” do something and then he said they “CANNOT DO” something else:

1. ALL lost people DO NOT “**accept the things of the Spirit of God**”
2. ALL lost people CANNOT “**understand**” **the things of the Spirit of God**

Now the word that was translated here as “**accept**” comes from a Greek word (*dechomai*; Strong’s #1209) that means: *does NOT receive; does NOT trust in; does NOT hope in; does NOT take by the hand or embrace.*

So, what is it that ALL lost people do NOT receive or trust in or embrace?

the things of the Spirit of God

... which has to do with things like: *the Bible; and Prayer; and a supernatural God; and Salvation; and Righteousness; Purity, and Jesus’ Lordship Demands over them, etc.* So, a lost person does NOT *naturally or normally* “accept” any of these things of God’s Spirit. Buy why don’t they?

... for [because] they are foolishness to him

... where the word, “foolishness” DOES NOT mean: *silly or light hearted.* No, this word has to do with: *something that is so patently ridiculous that it merits nothing but ridicule or scorn to any thinking human being.* So, this is much MORE than something being silly- this has to do with assigning abject disgust and

rejection to that which is “foolish”. And what is it that Paul said here was “foolishness”?

the things of the Spirit of God

So, the REASON that lost people DO NOT accept the “things of the Spirit of God”- is because they look at those wondrous and glorious things as being so utterly ridiculous and so patently absurd that they merit nothing but abject scorn and ridicule. So, seeing the “things of the Spirit of God” like that- is a characteristic of being Lost or unsaved.

And that is bad enough- but then Paul went on to say that ALL lost people CANNOT even “understand” the things of the Spirit of God. They have neither the Ability nor the Power to comprehend the things of God’s Spirit. Why? Because the things of the Spirit of God are “**spiritually appraised**”. And that means that ONLY saved people have the ability to assign a correct Value and an Importance and a Beauty and a Need to the things of the Spirit of God.

So, here in **1Corinthians 1:18** the Apostle uses that very same word, “FOOLISHNESS” to now also include the “*word of the Cross*” or the Preaching and Teaching of the Cross. So, to lost people, not only the “things of the Spirit of God”- but also the “Word of the Cross” is so ridiculous and so patently absurd that it merits nothing but abject ridicule and scorn.

And in verse 18- he uses the word, “**perishing**” that he used in **2Corinthians 4:3&4** that says,

**3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,
4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

So, the “**perishing**” are ALL the people on earth- **in whose case the god of this world has blinded the[ir] minds**. And *why* does satan blind their minds?

... so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

So, in addition to not being able or willing to “accept” the things of the Spirit of God- satan has blinded the minds of ALL lost people- so they will not see or behold the Glory or the Brilliance or the Beauty or the Worth or the Majesty or the Importance of the “**light of the gospel of the glory of Christ**”.

Now, Paul then went on to teach that what God calls,

“Foolishness”- lost Mankind calls, “*Wisdom*” or the “*Wisdom of Man*”. So, the very thing that *causes* lost people to see the Preaching and the Teaching of the Cross as being so ridiculous and so patently absurd as to merit nothing but abject scorn and ridicule- is what fallen Mankind labels as “*Wisdom*”.

And it is in that kind of God hating “wisdom” that causes ALL lost people to comprehend the ONLY thing that could bring them Forgiveness and Righteousness- as “Foolishness”.

So, at the end of verse 20- Paul said that God,

... made foolish the wisdom of the world

So, in an amazing turn of events- God sovereignly made the “wisdom of the world”- (*which is what lost people use to reject the Gospel and stay Lost*)- to be “so utterly ridiculous and so patently absurd that it merits NOTHING but ridicule and scorn.” And then in verse 21- Paul tells us HOW God made the wisdom of the lost world to be foolishness. He said,

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

In other words, SINCE the lost and fallen world “**did not come to know God**” through its *own* “Wisdom”- which Paul says was actually “Foolishness”- God was “well-pleased” or “honored” or “glorified” or “made to look glorious” through the “foolishness” (from the world’s perspective) of the “Message Preached”- which is the “Word of the Cross”- to save those who believe.

Now from our early morning Study on the Ordo Salutis (the Order of Salvation)- we found out that both the ability and desire to “Believe” is a Gift of Grace from God. Human beings are NOT born with either the Ability or the Desire to Believe in God. We have to be *given* that Gift of what theologians call, “*Saving Faith*”.

Now the kind of “*Faith*” that allows a person to believe and trust that when he puts his foot on the brake- the car will stop- is a “*Faith*” that ALL Humanity has- even when they are Lost. And we could call that kind of Faith- “*Horizontal Faith*” or “*Earthly Faith*”. But because we are ALL born with “Original Sin”- we must be given the Gift of “Saving Faith” or else we cannot and will not believe or trust in God for Salvation.

And the Bible uses different terms to describe this Gift of “Saving Faith”. In some places- it is called a “heart of flesh” as opposed to a heart of stone or a “stony heart”. In other places it is called a “soft heart” or a “new heart”- which is given to

ALL those who experience the Miracle of the New Birth. In other words, both the Desire and the Ability to believe God and what God has said- is part and parcel to being born again and receiving new, spiritual Life from God- a sovereign Act of God called, "Regeneration"

So, human beings DO NOT believe in order to be Born Again- as so many teach today. No, we are Born Again- by a sovereign Act of God alone- so that we may believe.

So, when Paul wrote,

... God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

... he meant that God would save those; or justify those (forgive and make Righteous)- ALL those- who had ALREADY experienced the Miracle of the New Birth. And what was the Cause or the Catalyst or the Means that allowed God to save those who had already been Regenerate? The foolishness of the Message- Preached.

Now keep in mind that the Message here is the "Word of the Cross"- which *includes* the Life; Ministry; Death; and Resurrection of Jesus. And also keep in mind that this Message is ONLY "foolish" to those who are perishing and those who satan has blinded their minds. Because to those of us- who are already saved- that same Word or Message preached- is the very Power of God.

And this is why "clever speaking" is so wrong; and so dishonoring to God; and so destructive to the saving of souls. Clever speaking is carried out by clever men, who think that human cleverness; or human ingenuity; or human wisdom ; or human communication can bring what is necessary to cause the deadness of the human soul to come alive.

Lost people are spiritually "dead". Stone-cold DEAD. There is NO spiritual Life in them. None. Lost people are NOT spiritually "sick" or spiritually "hindered" or spiritually "distant" from God. It is MUCH Worse than that. Lost people are DEAD to God. They cannot hear; they cannot see; they cannot perceive; and they cannot respond to humanly engineered speaking. So, as far as being Lost is concerned- Mankind is doomed with NO chance at all of ever being saved- using natural Means. And this is why we are told to use purely spiritual Means- which is the foolishness (as far as Man is concerned) of the Message that is faithfully and fully preached.

So, as the called and chosen Ministers of the Gospel become "fools for Christ" and faithfully and fully preach the Word of the Cross- that the Lost can't hear and sees as being NOTHING but foolishness- God performs a glorious

Miracle. And all through the Bible- the Miracle of Conversion is likened to two other examples:

1. Birth
2. Resurrection

... of which we had absolutely NO input.

So, in the SAME WAY that God created Light out of Darkness- as the Message of the Cross (that to those who are perishing is foolishness) is faithfully and fully preached- day in and day out; week in and week out; month in and month out; year in and year out- God the Spirit takes the preached Word and He alone *creates* new spiritual Life in the hearers and they are born again! And with those new eyes- they see. And with those ears- they hear. And with that new soft heart- they have been given the Gift of saving Faith. And those people respond to the Grace of God by hating their Sin and turning from it (Repentance) and putting all their Hope and Trust in Jesus personally and in His Finished Work (Faith)- and they are justified (forgiven and made Righteous) and adopted into the Family of God!

We need to always remember that the ONLY thing that Flesh can produce- is MORE Flesh. Flesh CANNOT produce Spirit. So, it isn't hard- it is *impossible*- to bring about the New Birth by using fleshly, carnal, and earthly tactics. It is *impossible* to facilitate a supernatural Miracle of Conversion by using clever speaking. Now you can get more members by being clever; you can get more warm bodies sitting in the pew; and you can, perhaps, get more followers- but they WILL NOT be saved. For people to escape the absolute Deadness of their fallen nature- REQUIRES a sovereign Act of God that is released by us engaging in the "foolishness" of the Message preached. And Paul began verse 21 by saying this was the "Wisdom of God"- precisely because it makes the "wisdom of Man" to be what it truly is- as worthless as a piece of cotton in a snow storm.

Now last time we found out that the Fallenness of Man's soul; the DEADNESS of His Nature is so deep-seated; so pervasive; so all-encompassing- that unless God does something *supernatural* and *miraculous* and *sovereign*- to each person- to give them new eyes and new ears a new spirit; and a new heart- nobody would ever see or hear; nobody would ever be convicted of Sin; nobody would ever repent; and nobody would ever be saved.

In His great Wisdom God has determined that there is ONE, SINGLE WAY; ONE, SINGLE MEANS- by which ALL who are chosen for Salvation (before the Foundation of the World) will be saved. And that is: PREACHING AND TEACHING THE WORD OF THE CROSS.

And this is *why* Jesus primarily used the "Means" of Teaching AND Preaching.

But why not reach lost people through supernatural Manifestations? Aren't people "wowed" by Miracles and Signs and Wonders? Aren't people "moved" by seeing God heal cripples; and open blind eyes; and casting out demons? Yes, they are- *for a while*. But the Bible is crystal clear about this- Miracles and Signs and Wonders and Gifts of the Holy Spirit exist for ONLY one, single Reason: To give Divine Credibility to the Message that is preached- so that the people will KNOW it is from God.

But here is the Deal. Those parts of the Old Testament that predicted some aspect of Jesus was written down; published; and was in wide circulation throughout the known world- 200 years before Jesus was born. And every aspect of the Life; Ministry; Death; and Resurrection of Jesus that is detailed in the 27 Books of the New Testament has already been written down well before the end of the 1st Century. And so, ALL that God has chosen to share with us about Jesus- has become part of what we call, "Scripture". It is part of the Holy Bible- the Word of God. There are NOT any details about Jesus- that is true- that has not already been written down in the 66 Books of the Bible. And ALL of the Words of Scripture have ALREADY been given Divine Credibility by God through Signs and Wonders and Miracles and Gifts of the Holy Spirit- so that people would know that the radical Revelation of the Scriptures came from God.

So, there isn't ANY area of inspired Scripture that hasn't ALREADY been given Divine Credibility. There is NO NEED today for any area of the written Revelation of God to have any of those supernatural Manifestations- because they already have been given.

So, instead of trying to produce Miracles or Signs and Wonders- we need to simply preach and teach the Message of the Cross. And we need to preach and teach it *fully* and *faithfully*- without apology. We need to preach and teach it to as many people as we can; every day, using every tool available.

Okay- but there are a few things we still need to understand- like what KIND of preaching and teaching should we engage in. And what the difference is- between Teaching and Preaching?

Teaching: (*didaskoo*; Strong's # 1321) *To hold Discourse with others in order to instruct them. To deliver didactic Discourses.*

Preaching: (*keerugma*; Strong's # 2782) *That which is promulgated or proclaimed by a herald or town crier.*

So, is Preaching nothing more than excited or loud Teaching- or is there a significant difference? Sadly, even though the New Testament is crystal clear that God gave the Church of Jesus the Gift of Pastor/Teachers (**Ephesians 4:11**), one of

the casualties of the wayward Pentecostal; Charismatic; or Full-Gospel Movement has been this amazing Gift of Teachers. For example, many today take **John 14:26** that says,

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

... and **1John 2:27** that says,

As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

... and they reason to themselves that, since they have God the Holy Spirit abiding in them- they have no Need for the Gift of Teachers. And they say things like,

“God will reveal to me whatever He wants me to know”

... meaning they don't need to study; and they certainly don't need anyone else to teach them. Or they will say something like,

“I am not following Man- I'm following the Lord”

... *minimizing* or outright *eliminating* their Need for a human Teacher, who is above them- instructing them.

What they are ignorant of- is the Holy Spirit that inspired both of these verses is the SAME Holy Spirit that gave **Ephesians 4:11** that illustrates our Need for Teachers. So, their real Problem is NOT that they are trying to hear ONLY from God- but that they have a sinfully elevated opinion about their own ability to hear from God while not being deceived.

So, what is really going on- is simply another manifestation of sinful Arrogance; Pride; Self-righteousness; and Rebellion that doesn't want to submit to another's Authority- not even God's. So, the result is that the individual who is teaching himself- has a fool for a student.

But the Bible is crystal clear that every single saved human being MUST be under the Authority of another saved human being- who has been called to the Position of Elder- or he is a rebel. For example, **Hebrews 13:17** says,

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

... and 1Peter 5:5 that says:

You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

The Reality is that EVERYBODY is being taught by somebody else- because NOBODY is “Self-taught.” And nobody has all Knowledge, either. So, the only difference between a soul, who graciously and joyfully welcomes the Gift of Teachers and the one, who *supposedly* is teaching himself- is that the one who *thinks* he is being led solely by God the Holy Spirit- has cut himself off from everybody but himself. And History teaches us that a person like that- is dangerous.

I personally think it is wise to have a *plurality* of Teachers- with the *majority* of them already being dead- so we can discern what the End of their Lives were. So, I recommend at least 8- two from the “early Church” (100AD- 300AD); two from the Church AFTER the great Persecution stopped and Christianity spread to Europe (310AD- 1500AD); two from the Reformation era and when Christianity spread to England and the US (1500AD- 1900AD); and two in modern days, who may even be alive (1910AD- present).

Now I have spent a lot of time revealing to you what Preaching is. Preaching is “*Expository Worship*”. It is “heralding” the Scriptures in such a way that the people can understand what the writer wrote and so that he can behold the Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ. So, the Goal of Preaching is that he falls in love with the Lord- all over again.

But what is Teaching and what makes for a good Teacher? Teaching is “didactic” in Nature. Teaching gets down into the “nuts and bolts” of Christianity and Salvation and Worship. So, Teaching would explain how to build a car; while Preaching would tell you how wonderful cars are- as opposed to horses.

If all you ever know is how to build a car- and not how wonderful a car is- you might well get a head full of knowledge of how to build a car- that you really see no need for. So, we desperately need both. We need to know how God saves lost rebels. We need to know the various parts of Salvation. And we need to know how we can please the Lord after we are saved. But we also need to know how

Glorious Jesus is. And through anointed Preaching- we need to be able to behold the Glory of God- in the Face of Jesus Christ!

Now it is not surprising to me that some of the greatest Leaders at our Church have been men, who are also significant Teachers. According to **1 Timothy 3:2**, anyone who aspires to the Office of “Overseer” in the Church should be able to Teach.

So, then a good Teacher has at least eight Characteristics:

1. A good Teacher asks himself the hardest Questions; works through to the Answers; and then frames provocative Questions for his Learners- to stimulate their Thinking.
2. A good Teacher analyzes his Subject Matter into various Parts; sees how they relate to each other; and then discovers the Unity of the Whole.
3. A good Teacher knows the Problems that Learners will have with the Subject Matter- and encourages them to get over the humps of Discouragement and press on into Truth.
4. A good Teacher foresees Objections and thinks them through- so that he
5. can answer them- intelligently.
6. A good Teacher can put himself in the place of a variety of Learners and therefore explain hard and complicated Issues in terms that are clear from their Standpoint.
7. A good Teacher is Concrete- not Abstract; Specific- not General; Precise- not Vague; and Vulnerable- not Evasive.
8. A good Teacher always asks, “*So what?*” and tries to see how Discoveries shape our whole system of Thought. He tries to relate Discoveries to Life and tries to avoid Compartmentalizing.

... and a good Teacher does all of this because his Goal is the systematic Transformation of all of Life and Thought into a Christ-honoring Unity. And, of course, the *best* Teacher; the only *perfect* Teacher was Jesus, the Christ.

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Covenant of Peace Church PO Box 2906 Gulfport, Mississippi 39505 www.covenantofpeace.net

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.