

## TEACH OR PERISH

### Int.

1. Aim: To show that the work of the church is to teach and if we do not do this we will soon perish.
2. JOHN 6:44 - 45 "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me." - I sa. 54:13
3. The scriptures tell us that the church is to TEACH the word.
  - a. Mt. 28: 19-20 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen."
  - b. Mk. 16:15-16 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and PREACH the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." We are commanded to teach
4. Definitions:
  - a. Church = a local congregation
  - b. Teach = a situation where instruction, training, and nurture take place in order to bring about the development of the stature and fullness of Christ.
5. Perish: Jas. 4:17
  - a. Teaching is necessary to become a Christian, and necessary after baptism.
  - b. If we do not teach them the younger generation will be ignorant and we will loose them to the world, and they will fall away and become backsliders.

## Discussion

### I. PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

#### A. Text - Eph. 4:11-16

1. v. 11 - mentions all of these specially endowed people
2. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers.
3. These were given special gifts to enable them to do their work in the church.
4. This involved "**teaching**" of the people

#### B. Explanation of the purpose of this teaching

1. For the perfecting of the saints v. 12
  - a. Strengthening - perfecting of the soul - Character of a Christian
  - b. To make our lives complete. Spiritual maturity.
2. For the work of the ministry v. 12
  - a. Service - ministering to others - Promotes cause of Christ among men
  - b. Serving wants of those in need = **BENEVOLENCE**
  - c. Jas. 1:27 - widows and orphans
  - d. Gal. 6:10 - doing good to all men
3. Edifying the body of Christ v. 12
  - a. Build up, make mature
  - b. Body is the church {people} we are to build up the members so they can live successfully as a Child of God:
    - (1) Faithful to God
    - (2) Faithful in life - character
    - (3) Faithful in service - helping others
    - (4) Faithful in teaching the lost

4. All come to unity of the faith
    - a. Agreement - together
    - b. Jews and Gentiles all become Christians
    - c. We are all one in Christ - Gal. 3:28
  5. Unto a Perfect man - stature of the fullness of Christ
    - a. Perfect -- brought to its end, finished; lacking nothing necessary to completeness
    - b. Level of knowledge that a full-grown person would have.
  6. No more children
    - a. Not childish, selfish, unskilled
    - b. But a full grown mature person
    - c. I Cor. 14:20 "Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men."
    - d. Led away from the truth by false teachers
  7. Grow up
    - a. To Grow - Inward Christian Growth
    - b. Rooted and grounded in the faith
- C. Purpose of the church and its activities is to bring every person to a mature Christian
1. Col. 1:28-29 "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily."
  2. Aim - to be sinless - Negative Working, serving - positive

## **II. PURPOSE ACCOMPLISHED BY TEACHING**

- A. Does not happen accidentally
  - 1. Developed by education or teaching
  - 2. Every man who comes to God must be taught
  - 3. Jn. 6:44-45
- B. The power to draw man is in HIS word
  - 1. Rom. 1:16
  - 2. John 20:30-31 - God placed in His word the power to produce faith.
  - 3. II Tim. 3:14-17 - the way to develop is through the teaching and practicing of God's Word!!

## **III. GOD HAS ALWAYS DEPENDED ON EDUCATION**

- A. In dealing with mankind God has always depended on Education for the accomplishment of His purpose.
  - 1. Adam & Eve = instruction in the care of the Garden -- false teaching led them to sin and to be expelled from the garden
  - 2. Noah = instructed about purpose of God, building of ark, selection of animals and food.
  - 3. Abraham = God directed and commanded him and explained to him his purposes and plans for him.
  - 4. Moses =
    - a. His life was one of teaching, training, and nurturing Israel
    - b. 160 times in Exodus - Deuteronomy expressions such as: "The Lord said unto Moses," "The Lord spoke unto Moses," or "The Lord Commanded"

5. Prophets =
  - a. They gave instructions to God's people
  - b. If the people correctly understood the law of Moses then they would accept Christ when he came.
- B. God has always used the process of education to instruct and guide to edify, develop and train his followers.

#### **IV. THE CHURCH MUST TEACH TODAY**

- A. The church is essentially an educational agency
- B. Two types of Teaching - basically
  1. Preparation for membership
    - a. Facts about life of Christ
    - b. Plan of Salvation
    - c. Principles about the church
  2. Training of members
    - a. Mt. 28:20 "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."
    - b. Observe = To attend to carefully, cause one to persevere or stand firm, be on guard, beware
    - c. We do not inherit knowledge from our parents
    - d. Not born with instinct like animals
    - e. But we must be taught and trained

C. This congregation must teach - teach - teach

1. Teach to prepare for membership

a. Find those who are lost and teach them

b. Mk. 16:15 - Go == search them out - Then teach them the truth

2. Training of members

a. Purpose of Bible classes

b. Meetings - VBS - Worship Services

c. Teach members to teach others -- II Tim. 2:2

### Conclusion

1. The church is to teach - the word - teach in love - love for God and his word and love for fellow man - Eph. 4:15

2. If we do not teach we will perish - cease to grow - die away

a. If we do not teach the lost then they will die in their sins and we will have to give an account to God

b. Ezekiel 3:18-19      Ezekiel 33:8-9

c. Acts 18:6      "And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook [his] raiment, and said unto them, Your blood [be] upon your own heads; I [am] clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles."

d. Acts 20:26      "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I [am] pure from the blood of all [men]."

e. If we do not teach the members then they will grow weak and fall away

f. If we do not teach then we will perish - we will be lost - because God has commanded us to teach!

3. Will you Teach??      Either Teach or Perish!!

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - March 18, 2007 Sunday Night  
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