

Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

Volume XV

March 1995

Number 8

Faculty and Students Present at the 1995 Lectureship



Row One: Left to Right; Faculty Members, Gene Stilwell, Maurice Davis, Wallace Maxwell, Kenneth Franklin, Billy Davidson, J. H. Blackman, Gene Burgett, and Jackie Stearsman.

Row Two: David

Hartbarger, Rodney Daniels, Allen Gardner, Greg Harmon, Dan Smith, and John Griffis.

Row Three: Robert Frasure, Carl Lebrun, Michael Elledge, Jean Celestin, Sam Costa, Freddie Bell, and Edward Duffy.

Row Four: Kevin Farmer, Johnny Moss, Robert Bauer, Albert McMillian, Keith DeLaney, and Howard Johnson.

Not Shown: Owen Faulk, Glen Willcut, Robert Pirant, James Huggins, and Thomas Brown.

I have learned . . .

Learning is essential to life and well being. When we stop learning, we are dead. This is true whether viewed physically or spiritually. Older people are to teach younger people what they have learned. Youth is the prime time for learning. The Bible has some valuable lessons to teach us if we will but learn. Some have not learned many needed lessons. Read the Wisdom Writer's admonition: "I went by the field of the sluggard, And by the vineyard of the man void of understanding. Lo, it was all grown over with thorns, The face thereof was covered with nettles, And the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I beheld, and considered well; I saw, and received instruction: (Yet) a little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep; So shall thy poverty come as a robber, And thy want as an armed man" (Prov. 24:30-34, passages quoted from the ASV).

Paul states that he had learned through his experiences did he not? "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content" (Phil. 4:11)

Has life taught you valuable lessons that could help others? If not, it is because you have been unwilling to learn.

Some things I have learned . . .

1. That the church has always had problems

There was a time when I thought that the church in the early days of what is commonly termed "The Restoration Movement" had no problems. I was under the illusion that men

and women by the millions came to the truth and continued in it with wonderful peace and harmony. Not so. I was forced to move back in my evaluation to the beginning of the church to have my faith strengthened and found that the church has always been in a battle. In fact, Paul said it is necessary. "For there must be also factions among you, that they that are approved may be made manifest among you" (I Cor. 11:19). This I have learned.

"I beheld and considered well; I saw, and received instruction."

2. That one of the greatest enemies may be near and dear to you

This was true of Moses. Did not his own brother and sister oppose him (Numb.12)? Paul was rejected by his own countrymen and relatives (II Cor. 11:26). Jesus had members of His family who did not believe Him (John 7:5). It should not surprise us that some who are close to us may be a great hindrance to our faithfulness. This I have learned.

3. That God will not permit evil to overpower us

There are times when we may feel that the temptation is too great and the problems too many. Yet, God in His Word

promises to make this impossible. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as man can bear: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make also the way of escape, that ye may be able to endure it" (I Cor. 10:13). We can with His help and direction face what is before us. This is truly comforting, strengthening, and challenging. If we fail, it will be of our own doing. No power can harm us unless we permit it to do so. Has he not said I will never leave you or forsake you? "Be ye free from the love of money; content with such things as ye have: for himself hath said, I will in no wise fail thee, neither will I in any wise forsake thee" (Heb 13:5).

4. That truth cannot be received without a willingness on the part of the person taught

There was a time when I felt that if I could but say it the right way or at the right time or in the proper tone of voice, etc. etc. etc. the truth would be joyfully received. How foolish of me. Does not the Bible says whosoever will? Some have no

The Harvesters

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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

interest in truth. In this they are like Pilate. Do you have the proper interest? Is your will receptive? Jesus stated that your will and mine will determine the acceptance of His truth (John 7:17).

5. That the Bible may not be understood nor properly taught without diligent study

This is not difficult to understand if we are students of the Bible. We know that men may and do twist the truth to their own destruction. (II Peter. 3:14-18). The Bible admonishes us to be diligent students that we might not be put to shame and that we might properly handle, rightly divide the Word of Truth. "Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth" (II Tim 2:15). Solomon admonished that Biblical wisdom will come only to those who are willing to pay the price. "My son, if thou wilt receive my words, And lay up my commandments with thee; So as to incline thine ear unto wisdom, And apply thy heart to understanding; yea, if

thou cry after discernment, And lift up thy voice for understanding; If thou seek her as silver, And search for her as for hid treasures: Then shalt thou understand the fear of Jehovah, And find the knowledge of God" (Prov. 2:1-5).

This should not be interpreted to discourage private, personal study of the Bible. I am advocating diligence in study. This means gaining assistance from every reliable and trustworthy source at our disposal. Is not the church of the Lord suffering today because of the lack of Bible knowledge and the proper handling of the sacred truths given to save souls?

Conclusion

I have not learned all that I want to know and I have not all the wisdom available. More than thirty (30) years have taught me many things and continue to teach me. Do you ever reflect upon the many lessons you have learned over the years? Think about it!

✍ Editor

purchase this needed and essential equipment.

Recently the brethren at Bushnell asked us to permit them to purchase something that would help our work. They wanted to do this as an act of their congregation. Rachel spends much time folding items for the mail, so a folding machine has been secured with funds contributed by these fine brethren. The machine has a plate identifying the purchase as follows:

Purchased For
Florida School of Preaching
By
Bushnell Church of Christ
February 1995

Bobby Simmons who attended *The Florida School of Preaching* is the local evangelist there. Greg Harmon, his son-in-law, is one of the full time students now and is a member at Bushnell.

✍ Editor

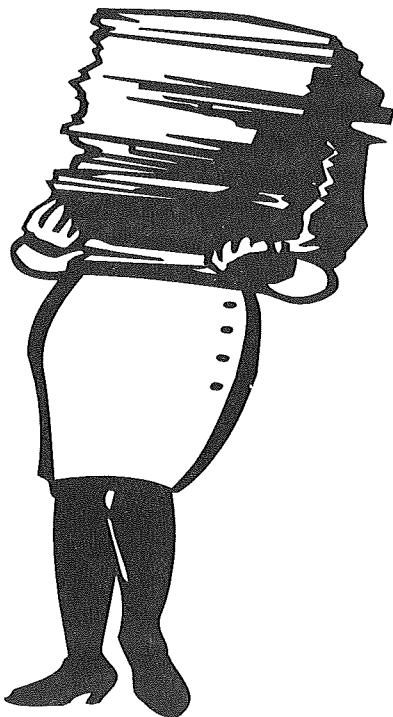
January 31, 1995

Gentlemen:

The Lord will bless you for every good work you are doing but I want to thank you. I pray that all the good words will continue plus many more.

I have been a member of the Kissimmee Church of Christ since I arrived here in 1955. The Lord has blessed us also but you have helped us from the beginning. I remember when we were not self supporting and you provided us with a speaker when we did not have one. It makes me happy to know that we can help support the work there even though it is in a small way.

When I moved here from



Bushnell Church of Christ Purchases Folding Machine

It would take our secretary, Rachel Capps, all her time to prepare and mail this publication were it not for the computer and printer that we have which has been provided by those who have shared our burden by enabling us to

Good News That Troubles The World



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FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING
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middle Tenn., the first Lord's day I took my 3½ yr old daughter to the Community House where I found probably less than twenty people for worship. Now we worship in a nice comfortable building, have a full time minister and the congregation is growing. The Lord has blessed us in many ways. Without you we would have nothing and the Florida School of Preaching, we credit for helping us, too.

My prayers are for you and the work that is going on there.

In Christian Love,
Sister Louise Elliott
(I've been with the congregation here in Kissimmee longer than anyone who is here now and that is with God's help.)

Dear Jackie,

Gary and I would like to make this donation in memory of the members of Shelton Marty's family who passed away this past year. Shelton is a former elder at River Road and he and his wife, Lillian, have long been supporters of Christian education. They are committed, loyal supporters of the School of Preaching. We look forward to our upcoming meeting.

In Christ,
Gary and Judy York

Meditation On Preaching

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard?" (Romans 10:14 ASV)

Preachers are needed for at least three Biblical reasons. (1) To teach the truth, (2) to edify souls, and (3) to defend the truth and protect souls.

If you are to have the message preached, souls edified and truth defended, then you must have trained men.

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