

I. Introduction.

II. Teaching is an awesome responsibility. v. 1

A. We need teachers.

1. James does not say “let not any” but “let not many”. I Cor. 1:26 Mt. 28:18-20
2. Teachers hold an important place among the people of God. Mt. 8:19 John 3:10 Eph. 4:11ff I Cor. 12:28-29 Neh. 8:7 II Tim. 4:1ff Acts 20:28 I Tim. 5:17 3:2

B. Those who are entrusted with the care of souls will give account to God. Heb. 13:17 Ezek. 3:17-19 33:1ff Luke 12:48

C. Unfit teachers have done great harm to the people of God.

1. False prophets. Mt. 7:15 24:11 II Pe. 2:1-2
2. False teachers. Acts 15:24 20:29ff I Tim. 1:6-7 6:3-5 Gal. 1:6-9 2:16
3. Unfaithful shepherds. Ezek. 34:1ff
4. Hypocrites. Mt. 23:1-4
5. Some want to be teachers for the wrong motives. Mt. 23:5-7 Mark 12:38-40 I Pe. 5:2-3 Jer. 45:5 III John 1:9

D. Faithless teachers are subject to God’s judgment. Deut. 13:6-11 Ezek. 33:6 34:7-10 Jer. 28:15-16 I Pe. 4:17 I Cor. 3:10-15 II Co. 5:10

E. Teachers will also face the judgment of men. Pr. 29:25 27:21 Phil. 1:15,17

III. Those who teach us should be called by God.

A. They must be gifted to understand and explain the Scriptures. I Ti. 5:13 II Ti. 4:1ff

1. Teachers should work hard at preparing themselves and their teaching. I Tim. 4:16 II Tim. 1:6 2:15
2. Teachers must proclaim Scripture fearlessly so as to please God, not men. Acts 20:26-27 II Tim. 4:1

B. They must live a life consistent with their teaching. 1:22 I Tim. 3:1-7 I Co. 9:27

**C. They should be recognized by the church as gifted and qualified. Titus 1:5ff
We need to identify and train those whom God has given us. II Ti. 2:2 Heb. 5:12**

D. Godly teachers can do a great deal of good.

**E. What are our responsibilities towards those who teach us? Heb. 13:17 Gal. 6:6
I Thess. 5:12-13 I Tim. 5:17 Eph. 6:19**

IV. Conclusion: We need grace. v. 2

A. None of us teaches perfectly – we all stumble. v. 2a Prov. 10:19

B. What makes a teacher exceptional is not eloquence as much as self-control. v. 2b

C. Jesus is the perfect teacher. Ezek. 34:11-16 Jo. 10:11ff 7:38,46 I Pe. 2:21-23

1. He is the Word Who speaks perfect truth. Mt. 7:28-29 Luke 11:53-54
2. His life is perfectly consistent with His teaching.
3. He will purify your lips and open your mouth. Isa. 6:5-7 Ps. 51:15