



August 29, 2010

Christians As Educators

Jeremiah wrote of the time that God would reestablish his relationship with the Children of Israel by way of a renewal. ***“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah... (Jer 31.31).*** Jeremiah goes on to detail the extent of this new covenant stating, ***“And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” (Jer 31.34).*** Other statements by the prophets talk about the nature of this new covenant. As we look around us we see that God’s word is throughout the world, even in places where it is not lawful for it to be. In our country we take for granted that in spite of the fact that the scriptures are readily available, Christians have a responsibility to reach out to those who are not in a true covenant relationship with God. We might find ourselves excusing inactivity based on this but we have to make a comparison to the public school system and the role of teachers. Education is readily available and yet in spite of that there are some problems with achieving a level of proficiency that is needed to live one’s life later. Recently laws have been considered and are being passed that tie the achievement of students to whether teachers will be paid or be able to continue their employment. We realize that there are more factors at work and this may not be entirely fair. Let’s compare that to the scriptures. There are many households that have Bibles available and may even have an interest in what is in them but they lack guidance when it comes to understanding what is in the book. This is what we see at work in the story of the Ethiopian eunuch. When Philip joined up with man and asked if he understood what he was reading, the eunuch stated, ***“...How can I, except some man should guide me?” (Acts 8.31).*** Folks may have a copy of the scriptures and they may even attend services somewhere, but are they really understanding the message of the book. We have the responsibility and obligation to seek and take advantage of every opportunity to teach the word whenever we can. The problem that we have is that we may allow ourselves to think that people will be able to figure things out on their own and leave it at that. I am convinced that one who really wants to understand what the scriptures teach will be able to figure that out but the number of people who will come to the point that they realize there is something wrong with what they have been taught is very small. We may not always be welcome in someone’s life to introduce a new set of concepts but if we take advantage of the windows of opportunity to challenge some of the notions they have the seed might grow to the point that they begin to develop a new perspective. In the public school system, or for those who homeschool, there is a requirement that children be educated for a certain amount of time and in certain areas to meet standards. Although we have the obligation to teach, humans have the ability to refuse to engage in Bible study. That may lead us to develop another attitude that any attempt to teach others is an invasion into their lives and privacy. This thought is one the Devil might really appreciate. He is more than happy when people reject the scriptures or are satisfied with the interpretations of those in the religious world who teach doctrines that have risen from the opinions of mankind rather than God. Teachers who refuse or fail to teach would be out of a job and their students be the poorer for the lack of experience. There are others who call themselves Christians who may decide that some individuals, because of where they live or their economic levels, are not worth the time and effort. That is the equivalent of teachers placing padlocks on the doors of the school and not allowing others to enter. As Christians we need to remember who we work for and what we need to be doing.

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