1Thess #118

Make the right decisions concerning spiritual authority.

Our current study began from the teaching of the Apostle Paul to the church at Thessalonica.

Because of the negative volition of a few many others were becoming confused about the end times.

The Apostle Paul as the spiritual leader had to take hold quickly and address the issue.

/1Thes 5:12 But we ask you, brothers *and sisters,* **to recognize those who diligently labor among you and are in leadership over you** in the Lord, and give you instruction, 13 and that **you regard them very highly in love because of their work**. Live in peace with one another. \

His first portion of the letter was to elevate their positive forward movement, concerning evangelizing in their community.

Then he begins the pivot toward correction.

/Those in spiritual leadership need not repetitively remind Bels of their authority. Yet there are points when authority is challenged, even on a subtle level that it would be remiss if the leadership did not give a healthy reminder of the chain of command. This is a delicate balance but it must be done occasionally. \

There is a huge difference between the one in leadership who continually boasts of their authority or seeks to consistently remind people of their authority. And the one who occasionally has to speak on the subject of the chain of command.

/Avoid getting under authority with deep, prevalent insecurities. This may be on display by tyrannical behaviors, manipulative agendas, as well as people pleasing skills or hyper sensitivity. Leaders in marriage, work, government or ministry have to purposely step toward maturity to avoid the arrogant complex of sins. Otherwise, they will fail in leadership and it will cascade downward onto those under their authority. \

Go over to Colossians chapter one RF.

There is no set stereotype for pastor-teacher, really for any church leadership.

There are qualifications but not personality types – all 12 Apostles were different personalities as well as education levels.

All the men the apostles trained for church leadership were a wide range of educational backgrounds and personalities.

/The gift of pastor-teacher is not gauged upon personality or popularity. It is first and foremost a spiritual gift given by God and then fulfilled by the MAN with positive volition and humility to learn BD (two power options). The gift will manifest at a certain point of growth and obedience. It is not a gift dependent upon secular standards, personality, political or educational status. \

It is often times mistaken that a pastor has to be a certain level of secular education or popularity, as well as a powerful public speaker with a lot of charisma.

None that matters to GOD.

As I have already mentioned in this series, Timothy and Titus were polar opposites yet both were highly qualified pastor-teachers.

The Apostle Paul ordained men in every region he taught in.

Even when there was no face to face contact the Apostle Paul made sure a qualified man of God went there and fed the congregation.

Epaphras was one of the Apostle Paul’s teachers. He was spoken of by Paul as *"his dear fellow-servant*," and *"a faithful minister of Christ."* He was evidently with him at Rome when he wrote to the Colossians. Some scholars believe Epaphras may have been a prisoner with Paul at some point.

/Epaphras was probably a Greek Bel, a distinguished disciple, and the founder of the Colossian church, which tells us his evangelist skills were strong. He is also mentioned in the Epistle to Philemon, where he is called by Paul his *"fellow-prisoner."* Historical evidence shows that he was a very common man, possibly even a former slave or prisoner at some point. He was dedicated and serious in his commitment to the LORD.\

So, another great contrast would be Dr. Luke and Epaphras – Luke was highly regard as an intellect and respected man of medicine. Epaphras may well have come from a much lower social status and educational background and yet both were great leaders in the early church.

The recipients of this epistle of Colosse were located in the Lycus valley in Turkey.

There were three towns in the area: Colosse, Hierapolis, and Laodicea. The culture of the valley was a mix of Jews, Phrygians, and Greeks.

(FRE-JEE-ANS, were a mixed culture from European-Asian descent.)

/This is one of the 4 prison Epistles the Apostle wrote – and it is another region that was under the attack of the Gnostics. The Gnostics were a mixed group of deep thinkers, intellects, Jewish and Greek teachers. They infiltrated the early church with a secular blend of Judaism, Asian mysticism and philosophy. They were highly regarded because of their educational and political status. Church denominations and spiritual politics began with this group. \

This is a great example of being careful not to buy the counterfeits of Satan’s cosmic system.

The most intellectual and highly respected men of the day brought in the most damage and deception into the early church.

Col 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

[Col 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/1/2/s_1108002) To the saints and faithful brothers *and sisters* in Christ *who are* at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

[Col 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/1/3/s_1108003) We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

/[Col 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/1/4/s_1108004) **since we heard of your faith** in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;

The Apostle Paul was concerned of the secular damage that the Gnostics were introducing. Similar to Thessalonica these Bels were taught already (Epaphras). \

Spiritual leadership must recognize predators among Bels, lies and counterfeits cannot be ignored.

A true shepherd protects the sheep.

/[Col 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/1/5/s_1108005) because **of the hope** (*elpis*)reserved for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in **the word of truth,** the gospel

The true HOPE- confident expectation from BD circulating in the soul. This is not a wishful thought; it is solid confidence in what is ahead. \

In your new nature you should have developed a strong assurance.

[Col 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/1/6/s_1108006) which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is bearing fruit and increasing, even as *it has been doing* in you also since the day you heard *it* and understood the grace of God in truth;

It keeps increasing – Greek present tense, tells us the WORD of GOD has come forth from the original Garden and continues forward.

/[Col 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/1/7/s_1108007) just **as you learned *it* from Epaphras**, our beloved fellow bond-servant, **who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf**,

Epaphras who paled in comparison to the group of respected, Gnostics was responsible for developing a congregation in Colosse.\

Now this congregation was allowing cosmic viewpoint to enter where a God ordained man had already developed a positive pivot of Bels.

[Col 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/1/8/s_1108008) and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

[Col 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/1/9/s_1108009) For this reason we also, since the day we heard *about it,* have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

/Col 1:9 -*The filling of knowledge* – bible doctrine, *the will of GOD* means you accept and understand the plan of God. *Spiritual wisdom and understanding* all pointing to the depth of your personal application of the two power options. The prayer that the Apostle Paul was having for these Bels, was to keep gaining momentum from BD and the filling of the HS. Not emotional nonsense, cosmic viewpoint or religious rituals. Keep building within your soul structure (ECS).\

Edification Complex of the Soul.

You are either building up knowledge that will turn into divine wisdom or you are building a cosmic habitat to glorify Satan and his fallen army.

/Every Bel is privy to the Grace Apparatus for Perception (GAP) given at salvation. It all comes down to what you do with it! Human IQ is never a factor in the function of GAP — otherwise God would be unfair. It is the apparatus attached to your new nature that helps guide you into perception of BD. It is the driving force that changes ideologies and viewpoints from human/cosmic into spiritual and effective.\

Turn to 1 Corinthians chapter two we close there today.

The grace plan of God gave you everything you needed at salvation. You either believe that and walk in it, or you remain on the fence confused about your spiritual walk.

Or even worse…become a sucker for the cosmic counterfeits and lies.

/Job 32:8 “But **it is a spirit** *that is* in mankind, And **the breath of the Almighty gives them understanding**.

The Grace apparatus attached to your new nature is able to inhale truth no matter what your human I.Q. is.\

Don’t get me wrong, it is important that you get serious about learning and growing…but that comes down to your free will.

In 1Corinthians chapter two the Apostle Paul is speaking on the spiritual dynamics of growing in God’s plan.

/1Cor 2:9 but just as it is written:  
“THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH  
HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HUMAN HEART,  
**ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.”**

God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek HIM! In every dispensation God gives teachers and leaders to speak HIS WORD.\

Within the grace plan of God in the CA dispensation, we are given the gift of pastor-teachers, the gift of the two power options and the grace apparatus of perception in the new nature to digest BD. That is the formula for success.

REPEAT

Every Bel becomes responsible after salvation to diligently seek a relationship with GOD, in the right context.

The right thing done in the right way.

/1Cor 2:10 For to us **God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things**, even the depths of God.

Being in the new nature habitually becomes paramount in finding a pastor-teacher and growing under the accuracy of the WORD.\

[1Co 2:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/2/11/s_1064011) For who among people knows the *thoughts* of a person except the spirit of the person that is in him? So also the *thoughts* of God no one knows, except the Spirit of God.

/There is a call for privacy and establishment principles for Bel priests in the area of growth and Bible study. You cannot be manipulated or distracted during your studies. Therefore, the call is for a chain of command and strong spiritual leadership. Once the Bel can sit under prepared teaching from an ordained man of God that environment will nurture growth. \

It does not matter about face to face or long-distance training, the key is what is being taught and is the man the right pastor-teacher for you.

Does he promote a spirit of critical thinking and respect your personal freedom?

Is he teaching truth and focused on the accuracy of the WORD?

Or is he simply a nice guy who tells great stories? REPEAT

/1Cor 2:12 Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but **the Spirit who is from God**, so that **we may know the things freely given to us by God.**

Bels MAY KNOW…because it takes consistency and walking in union with Christ. It’s not about religion it is a relationship God calls us into.\

That relationship is centered upon the mind of CHRIST – BD.

/1Cor 2:13 We also speak these things, **not in words taught by human wisdom**, but in those **taught by the Spirit**, **combining spiritual** *thoughts* with **spiritual** *words.*

That which is spiritual (mind of Christ) is given to the spirit filled Bel.\

The original language has it written in a dual fashion - using the word *pneumatikos, (NEW-MONTEE-CUS)* spiritual on top of spiritual.

This emphasizes true spiritual intake.

The Amplified Bible has a nice version of this, pointing us closer to the original context.

/1Co 2:13 (Amp) And we are setting these truths forth in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Holy Spirit, combining and interpreting spiritual truths with spiritual language (to those who possess the HS).\

[1Co 2:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/2/14/s_1064014) But a natural person 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 discerned.

A Bel can be a natural minded person when they are minus the filling power of God the HS and BD in the soul.

/Seeking truth is a careful and well thought out set of steps. Every Bel must find a pastor-teacher who speaks to their soul, in a fashion that is not dependent on emotions or rituals, not based off of shame and guilt. The accuracy of the WORD is imperative – the ICE principle must be step one that you seek in spiritual leadership;

**Isagogics**- historical context within the teaching.

**Categorical**- line upon line, scripture interprets scripture, categories of theology.

**Exegesis**- attention to grammar, syntax and etymology of the original language. \

/The pastor-teacher must be on a consistent journey of digging and learning. The pastor should have humility yet a strong sense of who they are IN Christ. Studying is the majority of their lifestyle with teaching behind that which amplifies the studies. They are not to be concerned with feel-good messages nor any form of manipulation. They have to be balanced in edification, rebuking, correcting and guiding all from doctrinal viewpoint. \