The Educators Communication

2 Timothy 4:16

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Take heed (epéchō [ep-ekh’-o]) Pay attention

Thyself - (seautoú [seh-ow-too’]) Of thyself

INTRODUCTION

In just a few weeks, children, teachers and administrators will return to the institution of higher learning that we call school. Those who have prepared themselves to be EDUCATORS will be place in-charge of teaching our children valuable information that will change their lives. We are living testimonies of the effects of the educational system. As an educator, you have the power of knowledge that is exchanged from the mind to the mouth and then transferred to ears of the hearers to inform and increase their intellect. The power of your words will either make them better or… We don’t want to even speak on the other side of “or.” Let’s just focus on being good educational communicators who enhance the lives of others.

For those of us who are not in the school system, who may not realizes that we to are educators; this message is for you. For the Christian, teaching is a lifestyle that is thrust upon you the day you accepted Christ as your personal Savior. We are charged with become “fruit bearers” according to John 15. We are responsible for leading other to Christ. How do we do that? By sharing our personal testimony and the word of God that led to our salvation. You may not be an educator certified by the Mississippi Department of Education, but you are an educator identified by the Master Divine will for your life.

This letter from Paul to Timothy is consider a pastoral epistle, but the duty of pastors is not only to teach the Bible, but also to live the Bible as an example to all. These instructions are not just limited to the pulpit, but should be practiced by the pew. All of us should be committed to gaining a greater understanding of God’s word so that we can educate others how to live victoriously.

In reality, you are educating people how to live in our daily communication with them. The question is, “What are you teaching them?” Paul says to teach them properly requires personal evaluation and prophetic education.

1. Personal Evaluation

“Pay close attention to yourself…”

1. Current Evaluation - Before you look out the window, look in the mirror. Dr. Billy Bell, Pastor of the New Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas, wrote a book entitled, “Grow Before You Go.” Dr. Bell focuses on personal growth and development. That original concept was not birthed in the brain of Dr. Bell. A young Pastor Timothy was encouraged by his mentor Paul who was a native of Tarsus and a descendent of the tribe of Benjamin (Phil. 3:5), was a pure Jew. Paul instructed Timothy to focus on personal growth while faithful serving in ministry.
2. There is a danger lurking in the territory of those who serve faithfully in ministry. You can become so focused on serving others and insuring their grow and maturity, that we sometimes forget about ourself. We can become guilty of teaching without taste testing.
3. Illustration. I friend of mine shared with me that his wife is able to cook delicious food that she does not like and will not taste. He declares the food is delicious and I’m questioning his taste buds. He’s enjoying the benefits of his wife’s cooking, but she is gaining nothing from the food; her only satisfactions is watching others enjoy her labor. There nothing wrong with finding joy in serving others and seeing how the work of the ministry is blessing there lives, but if you don’t eat the food that you are serving others, you miss out of the nutrients (spiritual nutrition) that you need to grow.
4. If you are serious about you spiritual growth, you have to honest ask yourself, “Where am I?” Have I grown in my faith? Do I trust God completely? Where am I in my knowledge of God’s word? Do I read my Bible more today than I did one year ago? Do I study the Bible systematically? Did I come to church today because it’s in my heart or is it just a habit? You have to take a serious evaluation of your spiritual like to know if you are growing or just going through the motion. Pay close attention to yourself… Current Evaluation.
5. Correct Evaluation - How do you perform a correct evaluation? I remember my first job evaluation after being promoted to management on my job. I my mind, my job performance was above average. I was not perfect, but felt that I had performed well. When my direct performed my evaluation, he gave me two sheets of paper. One listed my job description. It was the same list they gave me in the interview when I was hired. The second paper was a list of goal and objectives. My Director evaluated me based on what he had given me previously in writing. The judgement of God will be based on what is written in His word. Correct evaluation of our life should be based on what is written in God’s word. How many us can truthfully say that we have been living according to the word of God? The only way to know for sure is by studying the word and inviting God into your heart. Psalm 139:23-24 says, “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” On judgement day, we will have to stand before God who will judge our life. Why not ask God to evaluate our progress.
6. Continuous Evaluation - How many of you are saved on days other than Sunday? You know some people don’t think about their salvation but once or twice a week. On Sunday we live our best church life. The best version of our Christianity is on full display every Sunday between the hours of 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM. On Sunday morning we whisper a word of prayer at the beginning of worship hoping that will be sufficient to clean us up enough for God to give us a blessing. But we should be concerned about our daily walk with God. Concerned enough to performed continuous evaluation of our life to insured that our soul is right with God.
7. Prophetic Education

“Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching”

1. Tainted Teaching: We have to be cautious about what we teach and what we are being taught. What comes out of us depends upon what goes in us. I use to work with a gentlemen who believed that if you did not belong to a certain denomination, you were not going to make into heaven. I wanted to know what shaped his belief? He could not be reading out of the same Bible as me; because my Bible says, “God desires that none be lost,” and my God is not a denominational God. I discovered that his belief was a result of what he was being taught in the church he attended. Believe it or not, there are some people who teach that if you don’t belong to a certain church, you’re going to hell. That’s not true. That’s not in the Bible. And if you’re being taught that in the church were you attend, you need to find you another church. You can’t afford to sit under tainted teaching that contaminates your life. When we fail to study God’s word for ourselves, we are at the mercy of the teacher whom we are sitting under. According to Acts 17:11, you are responsible to verify what you’re being taught. Acts 17 says, “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” They listened, learned, looked it up, and then lived by it.
2. Tactful Teaching: Again the text says, “Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching.” The goal of teaching is spiritual development. When we persevere in our personal development it increase our potential to help those around us develop spiritually as well. Preparation becomes a tactful process were our teaching becomes a source of deliverance that can lead others our of darkness into the light. God has given us the resource by which we can save lives. God’s word is life saving and life changing. If you want to save someone’s life, be tactful and teach the word of God. You don’t need gimmicks, fads, religious movements or charismatic climates; all you need is to teach them God’s word and the word will lead them to Jesus Christ and Jesus will save their soul. This is what Paul means by when he said, “for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”
3. Proverb 18:21 says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue:” If we don’t use our words to speak for God, we open the door for evil forces to use them for their advantage. Don’t allow Satan to use your tongue to destroy lives when you can surrender you tongue to teach others about God and the salvation He offers through His Son, Jesus the Christ.

CONCLUSION

In my conclusion, allow me to give you this lesson in a sentence that you take home with you. We should perform personal evaluations of our life on a continuous basis so that we will be able to prophetically proclaim God’s word before others that will change their life as it has changed our. Our impact on the world around begins with how we handle our own lives. You cannot help other if you’re in a helpless situation. You don’t have to know everything in the Bible, you just have to know more to inform others. You don’t have to be on the mountain, you just have to be on your way up to lift others. You’re not required to be divine to save others, you just have to be delivered to lead them to the Savior.

If we take serious our spiritual education and become knowledgable of God’s word, we can become effective Christian educators who can communicate God’s truths to a dying world. The Educators Communication is centered around the Educators Preparation. Are you prepared to pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching and continue doing it so that it will save both yourself and your hearers?