

Education

Education is without doubt a subject of vital and practical importance – not only because it permeates so much of everyday life in one form or another, but also because it impacts the quality and length of life.

This lesson looks at the principles of education set forth by the Word of God. It is NOT intended to be a treatise for or against various methods and forms of modern education, except in a peripheral way as they relate to these principles.

There is NO mandate given in either Testament for the establishment of the kinds of education institutions we have today. The word “school” is found only one time in the Bible (Acts 19:9) – although the existence of some kind of formal education is certainly implied elsewhere:

- Psalm 119:99 ⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.
- Proverbs 5:13 ¹³ And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!
- John 7:15 ¹⁵ And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?
- Galatians 3:24-25 ²⁴ Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

What the Bible does teach by way of principle is generally contrary to much of what is commonly practiced by most people today – including many Bible-believing Baptists! The blessing is that its principles of education are still very much relevant, and will continue to work effectively whenever and wherever they are implemented.

This study deals with three (3) important areas of education which apply directly to Baptists:

- The education of children,
- The education of Christians,
- The education of preachers.

I Bible Principles of Education

Since the rise of “progressive education” in the 19th century, numerous and voluminous books have been written on matters such as curriculum, childhood development, teaching techniques, psychology, and teacher training.

Teaching (doctrine) and learning is central to the Word of God, so it obviously has had much to say about the subject. Unlike most modern theories, the Bible is both simple and consistent when it comes to education. There are two key principles:

A. Principle # 1 – All Education Is Spiritual.

It is a mistake to speak of secular and spiritual education of being distinct and separate. Secular humanism uses this ploy to “cut and coral” religious content from public school curriculum, thereby removing God and the Bible from the disciplines of history. To mention just a FEW examples:

- History: Job 12:23 ²³ He increaseth the nations, and destroyeth them: he enlargeth the nations, and straiteneth them again.
- Physics: Romans 1:20 ²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:
- Science: Job 38 (all) ¹ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, ² Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? ³ Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. ⁴ Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. ⁵ Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? ⁶ Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; ⁷ When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? ⁸ Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? ... ¹⁸ Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all.

- Social studies, Music, Economics, etc...

Many well-meaning Baptist parents have mistakenly believed that godless education can simply be countered and even overcome with an hour or two of Bible teaching and preaching every week! In reality they have fallen for the same error of divorcing God from the wonder and order of His creation as described in Romans 1:21-25 ²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

All true education is spiritual BECAUSE all creation comes from GOD. God established the heavens and the Earth. Consequently, the study of every education subject is essentially a study of God since he created them and must be viewed in this context. To divorce education from God is folly. The Bible confirms this principle thus:

1. Proverbs 9:10 ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Here we observe the foundation of any real education:

- a. According to Proverbs 8:13 (¹³ The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.), the fear of the Lord is to HATE:
 - Evil
 - Pride
 - Arrogance
 - The evil way
 - The forward mouth

FEAR OF THE LORD implies accountability and caused true believers to temper their actions with the knowledge of this accountability!
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- b. Understanding is to depart from evil. .According to Job 28:28 (²⁸ And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding
 - c. According to Psalm 111:10 (¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.), **all those who DO God’s commandments have a GOOD understanding.**
2. Proverbs 22:4 ⁴ By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.

One of the stated goals of modern secular education is to produce “productive members of society” having a good quality of life. Well, here’s the real way to achieve it!

Also read Joshua 1:8 (and verse 9 for good measure). ⁸ *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.* ⁹ *Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.* According to this scripture, the way to prosperity and personal success is to constantly attend to The Book (Holy Scriptures – The Bible).

3. A heart educated with a “godless” curriculum can only produce godlessness in life. Read Proverbs 23:7a (From verse 1 for context) ¹ *When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee:* ² *And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite.* ³ *Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat.* ⁴ *Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.* ⁵ *Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not?*

for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven. ⁶ Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats: ⁷ For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

B. Principle # 2 – Education is MORE than Acquiring Knowledge.

The Bible uses four words which outline the steps to, and the outcome of a sound education. They are:

1. INSTRUCTION - Proverbs 1:8 ⁸ *My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:*
2. KNOWLEDGE
 - Proverbs 1:7 ⁷ *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*
 - Proverbs 23:12 ¹² *Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.*
3. UNDERSTANDING
 - Proverbs 2:3 ³ *Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; ⁴ If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;*
 - Psalm 119:130 (from verse 127) ¹²⁷ *Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. ¹²⁸ Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way. ¹²⁹ Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them. ¹³⁰ The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*
4. WISDOM - Proverbs 2:6, ⁶ *For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. ⁷ He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. ⁸ He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. ⁹ Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path. ¹⁰ When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;*

Proverbs 4:4-5a (and more) ⁴ He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. ⁵ Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. ⁶ Forsake her [wisdom] not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. ⁷ Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

This scripture refers to these same steps with the words

- “taught (instruction);
- retain (knowledge);
- “keep” (understanding);
- Yields wisdom.

Also, note God’s order in 2 Peter 1:5 ⁵ *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;* ⁶ *And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;* ⁷ *And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.* God’s order: Faith (1st), then virtue... before knowledge.

Principles of Education

1 - All Education Is Spiritual.

2 - Education is MORE than Acquiring Knowledge. It has steps with predictable outcomes: instruction, knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.

II The Education of Children

Question: What is the most common practice of educating children today?

Answer: At the appropriate time, parents will send their children off to preschool – then on to kindergarten, elementary, secondary, and post-secondary educational institutions. The majority of cases these schools will be secular, government – run institutions with a generally increasing reputation of diminishing ACADEMICS, SOCIAL ENGINEERING, FRIVOLOUS PURSUITS, AND INCREASING WICKEDNESS. Parents may or may not try and offset these shortcomings with some extra-curricular activity and possibly once-a-week Sunday school and church attendance.

IS THE ANSWER TO THIS SITUATION the Christian School or the Home School?

Consider the five Biblical principles of educating children:

- **The Principle of PATERNAL Responsibility**
- **The Principle of IMMEDIATE Responsibility**
- **The Principle of DELEGATED Responsibility**
- **The Principle of DIRECTED Responsibility**
- **The Principle of TERTIARY Responsibility**

A. The Principle of PATERNAL Responsibility

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9 ¹ Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: ² That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. ³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: ⁵ And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. ⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: ⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently

unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. ⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. ⁹ And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

According to the customs of the Israelites in the Old Testament times, children were taught by their parents at home. There were no schools established for children's education. From the earliest age, children were taught the Law by recitation, repetition, games, and song, etc. In addition to this elementary education, fathers would teach their son(s) his trade or occupation, while the mother would prepare her daughters to be good homemakers and wives.

Most likely, toward the end of the Old Testament era, the local synagogue had become a school house. Even so, the prime responsibility for education rested with the parents and in particular the father.

1. Responsibility of the father.

- a. Read Psalm 78:1-8 ¹ Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. ² I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: ³ Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. ⁵ For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: ⁶ That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: ⁷ **That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:** ⁸ And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and

rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God.

Fathers are responsible to train the NEXT generation.

- b. Read Proverbs 13:1 ¹ *A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.*

A wise son listens to the instruction of his father.

- c. Read Ephesians 6:4 ⁴ *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

A father is responsible to bring his children in the nurture and admonition [counsel, advice, or caution; gentle reproof] of the Lord

- d. Read Galatians 4:2 ¹ *Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; ² But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.*

A father determines the extent and nature of his child's education.

- e. Read Isaiah 38:19b ¹⁹ *The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth.*

[during the reign of Hezekiah who witnessed the destruction of the northern [Kingdom of Israel](#) by [Sargon's Assyrians](#) in c 720 BC and was king of Judah during the [invasion and siege of Jerusalem](#) by [Sennacherib](#) in 701 BC. The siege was lifted by a miraculous plague that afflicted Sennacherib's army. Even so, the Assyrians conquered much of Judah, and Hezekiah's people came to yearn for an ideal king who would restore the golden age of David. Notably, [Isaiah](#) and [Micah](#) prophesied during his reign. Hezekiah enacted sweeping religious reforms, during which he removed the worship of foreign

deities from the [Temple in Jerusalem](#), and restored the worship of [YHWH](#) the [God of Israel](#) as instructed by the [Torah](#) of [Moses](#).]

**The father is to make known God's truth to his children.
Every father will be required to give an account to God for the raising and education of his children.**

2. The ROLE of the father.

- a. Provider (physical needs) – Read I Timothy 5:8 ⁸ *But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.*
- b. Protector (physical, emotional, spiritual needs) – Read Matthew 24:43 ⁴³ *But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.*
- c. Priest (spiritual leadership) – Read:
 - Genesis 18:19 ¹⁹ *For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*
 - Joshua 24:15e (and MORE) ¹⁵ *And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*** ¹⁶ *And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods; ¹⁷ For the LORD our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed: ¹⁸ And the LORD drave out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our*

*God. ¹⁹ And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is an holy **God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.** ²⁰ If ye forsake the LORD, and serve **strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.***

3. The routine of the father.

How is the father to carry out his God-given responsibilities?

Read Deuteronomy 6:7-9 (from verse 5) ⁵ *And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.* ⁶ *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:* ⁷ *And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.* ⁸ *And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.* ⁹ *And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*

- a. By vital conversation (7a) - teach them diligently, deliberately, prayerfully, thoughtfully. Not done haphazardly or hit-or-miss.
- b. By victorious demonstration (7b) – when thou sit, walk, lie down, or rise up.
- c. By visual manifestation (8, 9) – A Baptist home should radiate godliness and have any accompanying atmosphere of the Christian graces. Much of a child’s education is ‘caught’, not ‘taught!’

4. The replacement for the failed father.

The sad reality today is that many homes have no father – whether by divorce, death, or dereliction. Statistically, children in such homes are more likely to be “at risk” when it comes to academics and getting an education (to mention just a few areas). What is to be done in such situations? Consider the example of Timothy:

Read Acts 16:1 ¹ *Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek.*

- a. Timothy's mother was a Jewess who believed.
- b. The word "but" signifies/suggests that Timothy's Greek father was NOT a believer.
- c. Timothy received his early education from his grandmother and his __.
Read II Timothy 1:5 ⁵ *When I call to remembrance the unfeigned [sincere; genuine] faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*
- d. According to Acts 16:3a, Paul took Timothy with him on his 2nd evangelistic journey.
- e. Read Philippians 2:22 (and others) which describe the relationship between Paul and Timothy **as that of father and son.** ²² *But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.*

When no father is present, the responsibility for educating children falls upon the mother. However, she should seek help in doing this – preferably from other relatives, and especially from a "father-figure" mentor where sons are involved.

5. The rivals of the father

There is tremendous opposition to God's plan for educating children. The two primary foes set in array against fathers are:

- a. Television / Media (especially electronic) – Children watch about 35 hours of TV per week – very little of is positively Godly and Biblical. Little is even neutral. Most programming engineers persons away from the Word of God.

TV has taken over as the primary teacher of the nation's children. TV is the ideal baby sitter and has relieved parents of their God-given duty to raise their kids. Over the normal week, the typical Baptist child experiences activities shown to the right.

	hours	%
Formal instruction	30	37%
Homework	8	10%
Sunday school	1	1%
Preaching	1	1%
Home Bible instruction	2	2%
Parental guidance	5	6%
Wathcing TV	35	43%
total	82	

- A believer should NOT walk in the counsel of the ungodly. Read Psalm 1:1 ¹ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
- A believer's delight should be in the Word of God Read Psalm 1:2 ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. ⁴ The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. ⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶ For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.
- Compare Galatians 5:19-21 with Galatians 5:22-23 to determine which passages best describe the content of most TV (and other media) programming:

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such

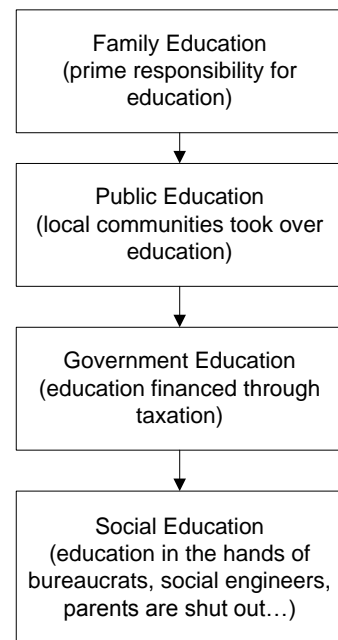
like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

- What principle does scripture give us concerning the watching of TV? Read Psalm 101:3-4 (from verse 2 through 8) because it makes our actions so CLEAR. ² I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. ³ **I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.** ⁴ **A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.** ⁵ Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer. ⁶ Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me. ⁷ He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight. ⁸ I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD.

b. Government

This nation has seen a definite historical progression AWAY from God’s plan for educating children shown to the right.

According to Luke 20:25, we are to render unto Caesar (the government) the things that are Caesar’s, and unto God the things that would be God’s. From the list below, indicate which things belong to the government and which things belong to God:



Biblical Responsibility

1	My taxes	Romans 13:6	⁶ For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. ⁷ Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.
2	My tithes	Leviticus 27:30	³⁰ And all the tithes of the land, whether of the seed of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's: it is holy unto the L
3	My prayers	I Timothy 2:1-2	¹ I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; ² For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
4	My church	Acts 20:28b	²⁸ Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.
5	My obedience	Romans 13:1,5	¹ Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. ⁵ Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.
6	Myself	I Corinthians 6:19, 20	¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
7	My children	Psalms 127:3	³ Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. ⁴ As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. ⁵ Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

According to I Peter 2:14 (¹⁴ Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.), the two fold responsibility of GOVERNMENT is to:

- Punish evil doers
- Praise the well-doers

There is NO Biblical mandate for Government to take and educate our children.

God's Word clearly teaches the principle of paternal responsibility. Fathers are responsible and accountable to God for the education of their children!

B. The Principle of IMMEDIATE Responsibility – *When does the education of children begin?*

1. **Read Psalm 58:3** ³ *The wicked are estranged [to turn away in feeling or affection; make unfriendly or hostile; alienate the affections of] from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. Children begin to display wicked tendencies from birth.*
2. **Read Isaiah 28:9** (speaking about the people of the tribe of Ephraim - one of the [Tribes of Israel](#). The [Tribe of Manasseh](#) together with [Ephraim](#) also formed the [House of Joseph](#).) ⁹ *Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. At the age of weaning children able to be taught knowledge and understand doctrine.*
3. **Read II Timothy 3:15** ¹⁵ *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. Timothy was taught scriptures from childhood.*
4. **Read Deuteronomy 31:12-13** ¹² *Gather the people together, men and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may*

hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: ¹³ And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it. **According to verse 13, children should begin hearing and learning.**

5. **Read Judges 13:8** ⁸ Then Manoah (Sampson's father) intreated the LORD, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born. **Parents should begin planning their child's education before birth.**
6. **Read Proverbs 22:6** ⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. **Parents are to train up a child in the way he/she should go.**

Childhood is the time for:

- **Communication**
 - **Read Proverbs 1:8** ⁸ My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:
- **Correction**
 - **Read Proverbs 23:13(a)** ¹³ Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.
 - **Read Proverbs 22:15** ¹⁵ Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.
- **Conversion**
 - **Read Luke 18:16(a)** ¹⁶ But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.
 - **Read II Timothy 3:15 (again)** ¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

There are four (4) reasons why childhood is the best time for education, which we have all observed in children:

- The curiosity factor – Children have a natural (God-given) desire for knowledge as seen by their constantly asking “Why?”
- The memory factor – A child’s mind has a remarkable capacity to retain things.
- The humility factor – Children are not cynical or skeptical and have no pride of the intellect. Read Matthew 18:1-4 for Jesus description of children: ¹ *At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?* ² *And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,* ³ *And said, **Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*** ⁴ *Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.* ⁵ *And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.* ⁶ *But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.*
- **The trust factor – Children have a God-given capacity to believe what they are told.**

The education of children should begin with their arrival into the world and continue until they leave home (and beyond). It is an ongoing process as set forth in Psalm 119: 10-16 ¹⁰ *With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.* ¹¹ *Thy **word** have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.* ¹² *Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy **statutes.*** ¹³ *With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.* ¹⁴ *I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.* ¹⁵ *I will meditate in thy **precepts**, and have respect unto thy ways.* ¹⁶ *I will delight myself in thy **statutes**: I will not forget thy word.*

C. The Principle of DELEGATED Responsibility

If the responsibility for educating children rests with the parents and in particular the father, does this mean parents have to become full-time school teachers?

Read Galatians 4:1-2 ¹ *Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;* ² *But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.*

1. According to verse 2a, a child may be placed under tutors and governors to receive education.
2. According to verse 2b, this educational process is entirely in the hands of the father.
3. According to verse 1, the principle applies for “as long as he is child.”

Fathers can scripturally delegate (give authority to another) the education of their children to others. In doing so, there are three (often forgotten) facts to keep in mind:

- Fathers may delegate but not abdicate their responsibilities. While many parents seem happy to turn their children over to the State for an “education,” the sad fact is that many Baptist Dads turn their children over to a Christian School (or their wives at home), then absent themselves from any further tangible part of the education process. Believing they have done the right thing, they have actually missed the point: the father has ultimate responsibility!
- Delegation requires that tutors and governors act in the father’s stead. Therefore, it is a SIN for any Bible-believing Baptist father to commit the education of his children into the hands of another who will not teach in harmony with Biblical goals and standards. [This applies to other areas besides just education!]

- Parents have a duty to PREPARE their children for tutors and governors. Children should never be sent to school to learn good manners, hygiene, self-control, obedience, and basic Bible related truths and morality. These things must be taught at home long before a child attends school. This is a problem in every school but especially public schools!

D. The Principle of DIRECTED Responsibility

Everyone agrees that children need to be taught the 3 Rs – reading writing, and arithmetic. But, how should Baptist parents consider the curriculum their children should be taught?

According to the Bible, there are some things which are essential to a sound education and some things to be avoided.

1. What our children need to be taught.
 - a. Our children must be taught the TRUTH. Read III John 4 (from verse 1):¹ *The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.*² *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.* ³ *For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.* ⁴ *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*
 - b. Children's education must focus on the things listed in Philippians 4:8
⁸ *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are **true**, whatsoever things are **honest**, whatsoever things are **just**, whatsoever things are **pure**, whatsoever things are **lovely**, whatsoever **things are of good report**; if there be any **virtue**, and if there be any **praise**, think on these things.*

- c. Read II Corinthians 10:5 (from verse 1) ¹ *Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:* ² *But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.* ³ *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:* ⁴ *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)* ⁵ *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; Children need every IMAGINATION made captive to obedience of Christ.*
- d. Read Colossians 3:16 (from verse 12 through 17) ¹² *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;* ¹³ *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.* ¹⁴ *And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.* ¹⁵ *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.* ¹⁶ ***Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*** ¹⁷ *And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. **Our children will attend real wisdom when the word of Christ dwells within.***
- e. Read I Thessalonians 5:21 ²¹ *Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.* Children should learn to prove all things using the word of God, and to HOLD FAST to that which is good.

2. What our children DO NOT need to be taught.
- a. Read Jeremiah 10:2 (from verse 1) ¹ *Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:* ² *Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.* Children must not learn the ways of the heathen. THIS IS CONTRARY to the humanistic idea of giving children a “rounded” education by exposing them to all kinds of points of view – good and bad!
 - b. Read Romans 16:19 (from verse 17) ¹⁷ *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.* ¹⁸ *For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.* ¹⁹ ***For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.*** ²⁰ *And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.* Curriculum we allow to be taught to our children should make them WISE concerning good and simple concerning evil (bad things).
 - c. Read Psalm 118:8-9 (from verse 5) ⁵ *I called upon the LORD in distress: the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place.* ⁶ *The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?* ⁷ *The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me.* ⁸ ***It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.*** ⁹ ***It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.***
 - d. Read Proverbs 19:27 (from verse 23) ²³ *The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.* ²⁴ *A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.* ²⁵ *Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: and reprove one that hath understanding, and he will understand*

knowledge. ²⁶ He that wasteth his father, and chaseth away his mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach. ²⁷ *Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.*

- e. Read Colossians 2:8 (from verse 1) ¹ *For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;* ² *That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;* ³ *In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.* ⁴ *And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.* ⁵ *For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.* ⁶ *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:* ⁷ *Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.* ⁸ *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.* ⁹ *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.* ¹⁰ *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:* ¹¹ *In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:* ¹² *Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*
- f. Read I Timothy 6:20 ²⁰ *O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:* ²¹ *Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.*

E. The Principle of TERTIARY Responsibility

Most Baptist parents will have a struggle with the issue of post-secondary (tertiary) education. It is a fact of life that in today's world most young men and women are going to need something more than a high school diploma to secure adequate employment. What are the general options?

- An interdenominational “religious” college or university?
- A “secular” college or university?
- A branch of the armed forces?

Each of these usual choices has its pros and cons, and there is probably not a totally satisfactory answer.

Secular institutes of higher learning often have the latest and best in equipment and research facilities – but they are hotbeds of radicalism, political correctness, socialism, feminism, evolution, etc. They are morally and intellectually dangerous to Baptists. What price must one pay to get an advanced degree from this kind of institution?

Military based education offers good discipline and practical training – but they can also be morally rough and hard places for Christians to maintain a vibrant testimony for Christ.

Religious colleges usually offer a sound tertiary education in a strictly controlled atmosphere – however, their interdenominationalism, pseudo-churchism, and often weak stand on on the Word of God, etc. are spiritually dangerous for young Baptists.

Added to these choices is the question of whether it its best to send young people far away from home and churches – or send them to a nearby college to remain under the influence of their home and church.

No easy choices BUT the Bible gives answers. There are two Biblical examples of men who attended worldly, secular universities and survived.

1. Moses

- a. Read Exodus 2:5-10 ⁵ *And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it.* ⁶ *And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.* ⁷ *Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?* ⁸ *And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother.* ⁹ *And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the women took the child, and nursed it.* ¹⁰ *And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.*
- b. Read Acts 7:22-23 ²² *And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.* ²³ *And when he was full **forty years old**, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel.*
- c. Read Hebrews 11:24-26 ²⁴ *By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;* ²⁵ *Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;* ²⁶ *Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.*
- d. What lessons can be learned about Moses' education?
- Moses received his early education from his mother.
 - Moses received his advanced education from the Egyptians
 - No decision was made by Moses or his parents about his education.
 - Moses excelled in his advanced schooling..
 - Moses survived his education because of two key decisions:
 1. He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter
 2. He chose to stand on the side of God's people.

2. Daniel

- a. Read Daniel 1:3-21 ¹ *In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.² And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.³ And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;⁴ Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.⁵ And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.⁶ Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:⁷ Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.⁸ But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.⁹ Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.¹⁰ And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.¹¹ Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,¹² Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.¹³ Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.¹⁴ So he consented to them*

in this matter, and proved them ten days. ¹⁵ And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat. ¹⁶ Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse. ¹⁷ As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. ¹⁸ Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. ²⁰ And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm. ²¹ And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.

- b. Daniel belonged to the king's seed and was a member of the royal Judean family.
- c. According to verse 4, when Daniel came to Babylon as a teenager, he was already skilled in all wisdom, cunning in knowledge, and understanding in science.
- d. Daniel and his three (3) companions were to receive their advanced education from what university? Read last part of verse 4: *... and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.*
- e. Read Isaiah 39:7 (from verse 1) ¹ *At that time Merodachbaladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah: for he had heard that he had been sick, and was recovered. ² And Hezekiah was glad of them, and shewed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in*

his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not. ³ *Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country unto me, even from Babylon.* ⁴ *Then said he, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All that is in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them.* ⁵ *Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts:* ⁶ *Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD.* ⁷ *And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.* It was NOT Daniel's parent's choice that he receive this education.

It was a common practice for conquering nations to remove the best and most talented from a conquered country – i.e. Rome

- f. Daniel's tertiary education was both grueling and ungodly. Daniel was subject to:
- Physical tampering (made into eunuchs). Read II Kings 20:18 ¹⁸ *And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.*
 - Intellectual tampering. Verse 4g (*and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.*)
 - Spiritual tampering. (verse 7 – named after pagan gods. *for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.*)
- g. Did Daniel and his three friends excel in their advanced education?
YES ¹⁷ *As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.*

- h. Daniel survived his education because he made a key decision (verse 8a):⁸
But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Principle: Baptist parents should not send their children off to a place of higher learning just because they have completed high school. The child may not be ready- in fact, he may never be ready. Baptist young adults are only ready to attend a tertiary educational institution when they have the spiritual ability and courage to make (and maintain) the same key decisions that Moses and Daniel made. THEN they can survive the moral and spiritual dangers abounding in such places – and go onto lives that can be used by God.

The conclusion for dealing with children's education is Baptist parents need to pray for wisdom. This is the most important aspect of raising Christian children in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation.

Are Christian schools the answer? Is home schooling the answer? No! Parents are the answer! Parents who will heed and follow the clear commands and principles of the Word of God and educate their children by them.

III The Education of Believers

Read II Peter 3:18 ¹⁸ *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.* Believers are expected to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. This section studies the Biblical principles for the education of believers.

A. Where are believers to be educated?

The Christian home can, and ought to, have significant part in instructing believers in the Christian walk. Read:

- **Proverbs 4:1-4** ¹ *Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.* ² *For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.* ³ *For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.*
- **II Timothy 3:14-15** ¹⁴ *But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;* ¹⁵ *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

The Lord has established another institution specifically for the education of the believers – **The New Testament CHURCH.**

1. The so-called “Great Commission” was given by the Lord to His churches (“an organized assembly of baptized believers”) in Matthew 28:18-20 ¹⁸ *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*** ¹⁹ ***Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*** ²⁰ ***Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.***

This commission outlines the three fold mission of every Bible-believing Baptist church:

- a. To TEACH (disciple) all nations
- b. To BAPTIZE all who believe
- c. To TEACH these baptized believers to observe all things commanded by Jesus.

2. This command was obeyed by the Church in Jerusalem in Acts 2:22-42

²² Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: ²³ Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: ²⁴ Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. ²⁵ For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: ²⁶ Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: ²⁷ Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. ²⁸ Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. ²⁹ Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. ³⁰ Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; ³¹ He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. ³² This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. ³³ Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. ³⁴ For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, ³⁵ Until I make thy foes thy footstool. ³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart,

and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? ³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ³⁹ For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call. ⁴⁰ And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. ⁴¹ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. ⁴² And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

- Peter preached the Gospel to the lost.
- Those who gladly received the word were baptized and added to the church.
- The believers continued **steadfastly** in the apostle's **doctrine**.

- 3.** Look up Acts 11:26 ²⁶ *And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.*

Barnabas and Saul assembled with the CHURCH at Antioch and taught much people.

- 4.** Read I Corinthians 14:12 ¹² *Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.*

The greatest use of spiritual gifts is for the building up (edification) of the church.

- 5.** Read I Timothy 3:15 ¹⁵ *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. ¹⁶ And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

The pillar and ground of the TRUTH is the CHURCH of the living God.

There are many man-made substitutes for the New Testament church today – man-founded “Church” societies, religious radio and television programs, para-Church organizations, etc.; NONE of these have the Biblical authority to teach the saints of God, and can be downright dangerous. Read:

- II Timothy 3:6⁶ *For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,*
- II John 10⁷ *For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*⁸ *Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.*⁹ *Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*¹⁰ ***If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:***¹¹ *For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*

<p>Divine authority for all evangelism, baptism, AND the instruction of disciples has been vested in the Lord's churches.</p>
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B. By whom are believers to be educated?

1. Some things are communicated directly from God.
 - a. Read I Thessalonians 4:9 ⁹ *But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.* We are taught to love one another and it is a spiritually natural thing to do. Also read I John 3:14-15 (from verse 11) ¹¹ *For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.* ¹² *Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.* ¹³ *Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.* ¹⁴ *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.* ¹⁵ *Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*
 - b. Read Titus 2:11-12 ¹¹ *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to **all** men,* ¹² *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*
2. Some things are taught by nature. Read I Corinthians 11:14 ¹⁴ *Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?* [One of many truths taught by nature.]
3. Some things are to be learned through self-study. Study II Timothy 2:15 ¹⁵ *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* ¹⁶ *But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.* ¹⁷ *And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;* ¹⁸ *Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.* ¹⁹ *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

4. Some things are taught in the home.
 - a. Parents must instruct their children. Read Proverbs 6:20 ²⁰ *My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:*
 - b. Husbands must instruct their wives. Read I Corinthians 14:35 (from verse 33 for context) ³³ *For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.* ³⁴ *Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law.* ³⁵ *And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.*

5. Many things will be taught by other believers
 - a. Read Colossians 3:16 ¹⁶ *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.* **Christians are to teach and admonish one another.**

 - b. Read Hebrews 10:25c ²⁵ *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. Christians are to EXHORT (to give urgent advice, recommendations, or warnings.one another).*

Note: These scriptures highlight the importance of faithful church attendance. They also give insight into what Christian interaction needs to be during times of assembly.

 - c. Read Titus 2:3-5 (from verse 1) ¹ *But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:* ² *That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.* ³ *The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;* ⁴ *That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,* ⁵ *To be*

discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Older Christian women are to teach younger women how to order their home life.

6. In the Church, The Principle Instructor is the Pastor Teacher.

a. Pastors are placed in the Churches by God.

- I Corinthians 12:28 ²⁸ And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.
- Ephesians 4:11 ¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

b. Pastors are to be qualified men.

- A pastor or elder must be apt to teach.
 - I Timothy 3:2g ² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, **apt to teach**;
 - II Timothy 2:24c ²⁴ And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, **apt to teach**, patient,
- A bishop must be **taught** by sound doctrine both to exhort and convince others. Read Titus 1:9 ⁹ Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers (to deny, dispute, or contradict; to speak or act against; oppose).

c. Pastors are to **Specialize** in TEACHING THE WORD OF GOD

- I Peter 5:2 (from verse 1) ¹ *The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:* ² **Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³ *Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples [example] to the flock.***
- Acts 6:4 (from verse 1 for context) ¹ And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. ² Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. ³ Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. ⁴ But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.
- Acts 20:28 (Paul speaking on a visit to Jerusalem?) ²⁸ Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, **to feed the church of God**, which he hath purchased with his own blood.
- I Timothy 4:6 ⁶ If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, **nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine**, whereunto thou hast attained.
- I Timothy 4:13 ¹³ Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.
- I Timothy 5:17b ¹⁷ Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

- I Timothy 4:11 (from verse 10) ¹⁰ For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. ¹¹ These things command and teach.
- I Timothy 6:2 (from verse 1) ¹ Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed. ² And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. **These things teach and exhort.**
- II Timothy 4:2 ² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, **exhort with all long suffering** and doctrine.
- Hebrews 13:7 ⁷ Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

Note: the Bible does not advocate blindly following ANY man. The key word is Faith – “who faith follow.” We are to loyally follow the pastor as God’s man so long as he remains Biblically sound!

- They are to be OBEYED and SUBMITTED TO in the exercise of their duties. Read Hebrews 13:17 ¹⁷ Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

d. Pastors are to serve a 3-fold purpose in Baptist Churches. Read Ephesians 4:11-16 ¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: ¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: ¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

- The perfecting of the saints (bringing them to full maturity).
- The fulfilling of the work of the ministry (The great commission).
- The edifying (building up) the Body of Christ (the Church).

The Pastor is to develop his church into a fine tuned body, ready to accomplish the work of the Lord.

Preachers are TEACHERS of God's Word. While they not personally do all the teaching, they are responsible for all the teaching that goes forth.

7. There are some restrictions as to who **may teach** in a Baptist church.

a. **Be spiritually mature.** Read Hebrews 5:12-14 ¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have

need of milk, and not of strong meat. ¹³ For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are **of full age**, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

- b. **Be a male.** I Timothy 2:12 ¹² But I suffer not a woman to teach, **nor to usurp authority over the man**, but to be in silence. ¹³ For Adam was first formed, then Eve. ¹⁴ And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. ¹⁵ Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

C. Why are believers to be educated?

1. For Stability

- a. Read Ephesians 4:14 ¹⁴ *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*
- b. Read Romans 16:17 ¹⁷ *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*
- c. Read Colossians 2:7-8 ⁷ *Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.* ⁸ *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*
- d. Read II Thessalonians 2:15 ¹⁵ *Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.*
- e. Read Hebrews 13:9a ⁹ *Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines...*

2. For Service

- a. Read Ephesians 4:15 ¹⁵ *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*
- b. Read I Peter 3:15b ¹⁵ *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*
- c. Read Hebrews 5:12a ¹² *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*
- d. Read II Timothy 3:17 (from verse 14 speaking about the end times) ¹⁴ *But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;* ¹⁵ *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.* ¹⁶ *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:* ¹⁷ *That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

3. For Sanctification

Read Ephesians 4:20-24 ²⁰ *But ye have not so learned Christ;* ²¹ *If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:* ²² *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;* ²³ *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;* ²⁴ *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

- Put off the OLD MAN (Adamic nature) – corrupt with deceitful lusts
- Put on the NEW MAN (verse 24).

D. When and how are believers to be educated?

1. Read Acts 2:42 ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Believers continued steadfastly in:

- Doctrine
 - Fellowship
 - Breaking of bread
 - Prayers
2. Read Acts 5:42 ⁴² And **daily** in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.
 3. Read Acts 20:20 ²⁰ And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you **publicly, and from house to house,**
 4. Read Acts 20:31 ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one **night and day** with tears.
 5. Read Acts 20:27 Paul was careful to teach the whole counsel of God: ²⁷
For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

The teaching ministry of a church is to be extensive and expansive. How sad that today in many Baptist churches there is precious little real teaching of the Word of God. Much of what is passed off as teaching is both superficial and shallow.

True Bible teaching is:

- Instructional (preparing Baptists to be mighty in the scriptures),
- Defensive (protecting Baptists against apostasy, and
- Motivational (producing Baptists that are fervently evangelistic).

IV The Education of Preachers

Question: What is the most common practice of educating pastors and evangelists today?

Answer: When a man surrenders to God's call to preach, he enrolls in a Bible institute or theological seminary where he receives 3 - 4 (or more) years of specialized training.

While this practice is a well established Baptist tradition, it has some serious shortcomings. For example:

- Sending men who have been called to preach away to a distant Bible college depletes the churches of some of their most dedicated workers
- Sending families away to live in a "college town" disrupts family life – jobs are often scarce and low-paying, and family members are put into situations which can make them bitter and resentful of the ministry.
- The "success syndrome" promoted in most Bible colleges creates unrealistic expectations in young preachers (struggling, non-successful preachers usually don't get asked to speak in chapel.)
- Bible college students are generally confined to a campus church or a few local area churches where the experience they receive is typically limited and very specialized (and usually don't get to preach at main church gatherings, etc.)
- Many Bible colleges employ professional educators. Too often, men graduate from these institutions no longer believing the things they were taught back in their old church by their old pastor. **Historically, theological colleges and universities have been a major source/reason for Baptist apostasy!**
- While Bible colleges draw students and seek financial support from many different churches, they are forced to play doctrinal politics to keep their financial supporters happy. They are forced to avoid teaching subjects and addressing certain issues!

- Bible colleges are at the forefront of producing Baptists factions. The old school tie runs deep. Major independent Baptists groups are usually centered around personalities, papers, programs,... and schools!

Consider the Biblical principles of educating preachers:

A. The Principle of “Passing the Torch:”

Read II Timothy 2:2 ² *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

- “... the things that thou hast heard of me” [Paul]
- “... the same commit thou..” [Timothy]
- “... to faithful men”
- “... who shall be able to teach others also.”

1. The example of Paul with Timothy.

- a. **Timothy becomes a traveling companion of Paul and Silas near the beginning of the apostle’s 2nd evangelistic journey. Read Acts 16:1-5** ¹ Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek: ² Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium. ³ Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek. ⁴ And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. ⁵ And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

b. Timothy was like a son to Paul. Read:

- I Timothy 1:2 ² Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.
- II Timothy 1:2 ² To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
- II Timothy 2:1 ¹ Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

c. Timothy was charged with keeping things which the apostle Paul committed to his trust. Read I Timothy 6:20a ²⁰ O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: ²¹ Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.**d. Timothy was to hold FAST to the sound words he heard from Paul. Read II Timothy 1:13 ¹³ Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.****2. The example of Christ with the apostles. Read Acts 1:21-22 ²¹**

Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. According to Acts, the apostles companied with the Lord from the baptism of John to His resurrection. During these 3.5 years, the Lord engaged in training the twelve in preparation for their future ministries.

3. The example of Barnabas

Barnabas was Saul's mentor (read the beginning of Chapter 9: ¹ And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, ² And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. ³ And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: ⁴ And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? ⁵ And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. ⁶ And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. ⁷ And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. ⁸ And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. ¹⁰ And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. ¹¹ And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, ¹² And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. ¹³ Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: ¹⁴ And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. ¹⁵ But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: ¹⁶ For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. ¹⁷ And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. ¹⁸ And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. ¹⁹ And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. ²⁰ And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. ²¹ But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? ²² But Saul increased the more in

strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ. ²³ And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him: ²⁴ But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. ²⁵ Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket).

a. **Read Acts 9:26-27 It was Barnabas who spoke on Paul's behalf.**

²⁶ And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

b. **Read Acts 11:25 It was Barnabas who went to Tarsus to find Paul.** ²⁵ Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:

c. **Barnabas and Saul had an important 1 year ministry at the church of Antioch:**

- **Read Acts 11:26** ²⁶ And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.
- **Read Acts 12:25** ²⁵ And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.

d. **Barnabas and Saul made up the first evangelistic team sent forth from Antioch. Read Acts 13:1-2** ¹ Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² As they ministered to the

Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

- e. **Previously scripture placed Barnabas before Saul but changes to Saul then Barnabas. This indicates the training of Paul had ended. Read Acts 13:43** ⁴³ Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.
- f. **Barnabas later invested his life in John Mark who failed in his first attempt to serve the Lord.**
- **Read Acts 15:39 (from verse 35)** ³⁵ Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. ³⁶ And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the LORD, and see how they do. ³⁷ And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. ³⁸ But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. ³⁹ And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;
 - **Because of this investment by Barnabas, John Mark went on to become a profitable servant. Read II Timothy 4:11**
Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

4. Examples from the Old Testament

- a. **Moses “passed the torch” to Joshua. Read Numbers 27:15-20** ¹⁵ And Moses spake unto the LORD, saying, ¹⁶ Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, ¹⁷ Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd. ¹⁸ And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; ¹⁹ And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. ²⁰ And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.
- b. **Eli “passed the torch” to Samuel. Read I Samuel 3:15-21** ¹⁵ And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision. ¹⁶ Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I. ¹⁷ And he said, What is the thing that the LORD hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee. ¹⁸ And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good. ¹⁹ And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD. ²¹ And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.
- c. **Elijah “passed the torch” to Elisha Read I Kings 19:19** ¹⁹ So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.

B. The Principle of “On-the-job training:”

1. Paul gave Timothy (and others) On-The-Job-Training.

- a. Paul was transparent with Timothy. Read II Timothy 3:10 (and MORE) ¹⁰ But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, ¹¹ Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. ¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus **shall suffer persecution.** ¹³ But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. ¹⁴ But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; ¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee **wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.** ¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
- b. Philippians 2:22 ²² But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel. (Paul never had Timothy do anything he wouldn't do.)
- c. Acts 20:20-21 (addressed to the pastors at Ephesus) ²⁰ And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, ²¹ Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.
- d. Acts 20:27 ²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.
- e. Acts 20:35 ³⁵ I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

2. Christ gave the apostles on-the-job-training

- a. **Jesus picked/selected (ordained) His disciples:** Read Mark 3:14 ¹⁴
And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,
- b. **Jesus taught His disciples:** Read Matthew 5:1-2 ¹ And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: ² And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
- c. **Jesus sent (directed) His apostles:** Read Luke 9:1-2 ¹ Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. ² And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.
- d. **Jesus worked with His disciples when he thought they had failed.** Read Matthew 17:19-21 (From verse 1) ¹ And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, ² And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. ³ And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. ⁴ Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. ⁵ While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. ⁶ And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. ⁷ And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. ⁸ And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only. ⁹ And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead. ¹⁰ And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? ¹¹ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. ¹² But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. ¹³ Then the

disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist. ¹⁴ And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, ¹⁵ Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. ¹⁶ And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. ¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. ¹⁹ **Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? ²⁰ And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. ²¹ Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.** ²² And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: ²³ And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.

C. The Principle of “The Great Commission:”

Read Matthew 28:20 (from verse 16) ¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe **all things** whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.,

The commission given to the Lord’s churches included the teaching of ALL THINGS. If a Baptist church is commanded to do this, then then it must be capable of doing this. That then begs the question: If a young pastor is getting

all his training at his local Baptists church, what is the need for a man-made institution to train him? (i.e., why send a young preacher to a Bible college when his local church is already providing a comprehensive education?)

D. The Principle of Pastoral Responsibility:

Read again Ephesians 4:11-16 ¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, **for the work of the ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: ¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: ¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Part of a pastor-teacher's duty is to prepare the saints for the work of the ministry (verse 12).

There are three (3) important things a pastor must train young preachers in:

- Sound WORDS. Read 2 Timothy 1:13 ¹³ Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. **A preacher MUST KNOW he HAS the Word of God.**
- Sound DOCTRINE. Read Titus 1:9 ⁹ Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. (Read all of this chapter to see how Satan attempts to marginalize Baptists). **A preacher MUST KNOW what is IN the Word of God.**
- Sound SPEECH. Read Titus 2:8 ⁸ Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. **A preacher MUST KNOW how to USE the Word of God.**

God's Law of Spiritual Reproduction**Christians produce Christians****Churches Produce Churches****Preachers Produce Preachers****Just some great scripture:**

Ephesians 4:¹⁷ This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, ¹⁸ Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: ¹⁹ Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰ But ye have not so learned Christ; ²¹ If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³ And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. ²⁵ Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: ²⁷ Neither give place to the devil. ²⁸ Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. ²⁹ Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. ³⁰ And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: ³² And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Lesson Outline

I Bible Principles of Education

- A. Principle # 1 – All Education Is Spiritual.**
- B. Principle # 2 – Education is MORE than Acquiring Knowledge.**

II The Education of Children

- A. The Principle of PATERNAL Responsibility**
- B. The Principle of IMMEDIATE Responsibility**
- C. The Principle of DELEGATED Responsibility**
- D. The Principle of DIRECTED Responsibility**
- E. The Principle of TERTIARY Responsibility**

III The Education of Believers

- A. Where are believers to be educated?**
- B. By whom are believers to be educated?**
- C. Why are believers to be educated?**
- D. When and How are believers to be educated?**

IV The Education of Preachers

- A. The Principle of “Passing the Torch:”**
- B. The Principle of “On-the-job training:”**
- C. The Principle of “The Great Commission:”**
- D. The Principle of Pastoral Responsibility:**