The Model Church – Leaders and Leadership

I started working on a lesson on leaders picking up from Nick’s last lesson with us when he spoke about the need for leaders in the church. We do need leaders and I want to present a series of lessons focused on the spiritual leaders shown in the New Testament to be working in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. The spiritual leadership roles I want us to look into are teachers, preachers/evangelists/ministers, and elders/bishops/pastors/shepherds.

**THE NEED FOR LEADERS: TEACHERS**

Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, *namely,* Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, **leading men** among the brethren (**Acts 15:22**).

This morning I want to focus a bit on teachers.

**TEACHERS**

**From Vines: Teacher, false Teachers:** (1320, didaskalos) is rendered "teacher" or "teachers" in Matt. 23:8, by Christ, of Himself; in John 3:2 of Christ; of Nicodemus in Israel, John 3:10, RV; **of "teachers" of the truth in the churches, Acts 13:1; 1 Cor. 12:28,29; Eph. 4:11; Heb. 5:12; Jas. 3:1**, RV; by Paul of his work among the churches, 1 Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:11; of "teachers," wrongfully chosen by those who have "itching ears," 2 Tim. 4:3.

The term “teaching” occurs 14 times from Acts to Revelation – some select verses

**Acts 5:25, 42, 15:35, 28:30-31, Romans 12:6-8, Colossians 1:28, 3:16, 2 Timothy 4:2**

The term “teach” occurs 21 times from Acts to Revelation – some select verses

**1 Corinthians 4:17, 1 Timothy 1:3, 3:2, 2 Timothy 2:2**

The terms “teacher(s)/teaches” occur 16 times from Acts to Revelations – some select verses

**Acts 13:1, 1 Corinthians 2:13, Galatians 6:6, 1 Timothy 2:7, 2 Timothy 4:3, James 3:1**

**1 Corinthians 12:28-29 -** It is interesting to me that preachers and elders are not mentioned in this passage. However the passage shows us the importance of teachers in the Kingdom!

**Ephesians 4:11 -** In this verse we see the mention of teachers as being important “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying (building up) of the body of Christ” (**Ephesians 4:12**).

**Titus 2:1-10** – Notice all of the teaching by men and women involved here!

**CONCLUSIONS**

* Teaching the gospel is an essential work of any church
* Teaching is involved in the work of preaching, evangelizing, and in the office of elders
* The NT emphasizes the importance of having men and women teachers
* We need to be developing teachers
* We need to be thankful, encourage, and help the teachers we have
* We all teach either in example, privately, or publically – Let us all take seriously the teaching that the Lord expects of each one of us! We do not want to be in the situation mentioned in **Hebrews 5:12.**

What about you this morning? Have you been taught the gospel and know you need to believe in the Lord Jesus, confess that He is the Son of God, repent or turn away from your sins and your life of sin, and be buried in the waters of baptism? If you have been taught these things, why are you waiting? Why not be converted to Jesus Christ today? Teaching the gospel saves souls! Notice **Matthew 28:18-20.** If we can help you now, please come forward while we stand and sing!