

Judged More Strictly

11-30-25

James 3:1 (ESV)

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

In the kingdom of God there are many gifts and responsibilities. Likewise, teaching is a gift that comes with divine responsibilities for which the teacher will be held accountable. Therefore, not many should become Biblical teachers, because they will be judged more strictly for the things they teach to God's people. Teachers like Elders who are required to teach have a similar responsibility. Thus, the following direction to Elders also applies to Biblical teachers.

Acts 20:28–30 (ESV) NO/OH

²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which HE obtained with HIS own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Note: first of all, teachers must pay careful attention to their own walk with Jesus before they teach any of God's people. The teacher should keep a pure heart by confessing his sins and hearing from God. Only then should a teacher instruct the people that God obtained with HIS own blood. Teaching is not just idle words.

Biblical teaching is proclaiming the transforming Word of God, the sword of the Spirit. Power filled Biblical teaching is necessary to fight off the fierce wolves that come in to destroy the flock by twisting the Word of God. Often these wolves come from within the church. Teachers that fail to equip and protect the flock will be judged more strictly.

Romans 16:17–18 (ESV) NO/OH

¹⁷ I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.

¹⁸ For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.

Satan who knows Scripture well disguises himself twisting the truth as do his human servants.

2 Corinthians 11:13–15 (ESV) NO/OH

¹³ For there are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.

Biblical teachers are protectors. Thus, they will be judged more strictly. Biblical teachers are responsible to teach and stand on the inerrant, God Breathed, Word of God, the Holy Bible.

2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, “rightly handling” the WORD of truth.

Do your best to show yourself approved. “Who does not need to be ashamed.” This is literally one word, used only here in the NT. “Rightly handing” likewise only here in the NT which means “holding a straight course” in the word of truth. Literally, Teachers must make every effort to show themselves approved. Thus, not being put to shame by holding a straight course in the Word of truth.

Paul is encouraging Biblical teachers to work at teaching the Bible and also warning them against taking the devious paths of deceiving interpretations promoted by others. Biblical teachers have one foundation, the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV)

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Biblical teachers should teach the Breathed-out Word of God with conviction that originates from a hunger and thirst for the Word of God like Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 15:16 (ESV)

YOUR WORDS were found, and I ate them,
and YOUR WORDS became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by YOUR NAME,
O LORD, God of hosts.

God requires Teachers to hold the Bible in fearful, holy awe, when they teach. God says:

Isaiah 66:2 (ESV)

But this is the one to whom I will look:
he who is humble and contrite in spirit
and trembles at MY WORD.

The Biblical teacher's hunger and thirst for the Word of God should also produce a deep concern for the people of God. A Biblical teacher will have abundant joy knowing that those he has taught are doing well and walking in the truth.

3 John 4 (ESV)

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

A Biblical teacher will be more strictly judged. Therefore, and he is bound to preach Christ crucified as the foundation for all truth.

1 Corinthians 2:2 (ESV)

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.