

The Role of Men in Giving us the Bible: Teachers

As men wrote the Bible and saw to its preservation, so they became its teachers.

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What do human teachers have to do with the character and composition of the Bible? Chiefly this: the meaning of books and the messages of literature are forgotten over the years. A work of the finest standards can gather as much dust as a work of the poorest sort if it is neglected. The mere fact of the Bible's origin does not negate this general principle. By its very character the Bible requires a teaching ministry; and when this ministry is faithful to the composition, the Bible is given its proper place in our lives and is allowed to exert its fullest influence. Without teachers concepts of biblical truth may be laid aside and the Bible may become "just another book." Church history is full of such illustrations.

There is, in fact, an illustration in the Bible itself (Acts 8). A prominent and learned Ethiopian was reading the Old Testament Scriptures when met by Philip, the evangelist. When Philip inquired concerning his understanding, the reader could only reply: "How can I unless someone comes and teaches me?" His question was a natural one. It did not mean that one could not learn without a teacher, but implied that it was unnatural. Of course, the Ethiopian did not have the guidance of God's Spirit (the Spirit led Philip to him to fill that void), but he is typical of the great masses who need the knowledge of truth.

This subject is often misunderstood. Some think that since the Bible is from God, men have no place as its teachers. At the other extreme some consider the