

2. Some feel that only learned persons may be teachers of the Word. Professional teachers, skilled in education, become the final source of authority. This is the same error as just discussed in a lesser degree. At Biblical we encourage education, but not with the idea that it is an end in itself. Nor do we think that one of little education is unqualified to be a teacher. A man's training may be used very effectively by God in teaching the Word, but sometimes it may become a liability. It is especially wrong to regard training as a substitute for genuine understanding of the Scriptures and for true piety.

3. Others feel there should be no human teachers at all. With no regard for context they cite 1 John 2:27 as their proof text. But John is not decrying teachers so much as he is the idea that humans try to set aside God's Word for their own ideas and substitute falsehood for truth. There are some areas where the voice of a teacher is not needed because of the obvious character of that which is seen. We need no teachers to teach us when it is light and when it is dark. The obvious character of these qualities defies teaching. This is the meaning of John.

When there are no teachers, the Bible is not taught. Its message does not change, its character is not blemished, its composition is not negated; but it is not meaningful. God has given us the Bible, and our role is to teach it and keep its message active.

Believers will be spared erroneous thinking on this matter if they remember that the Bible is for *US*. There are books that are "sealed," that is have special meaning only for a few with the right code. But the Bible is God's message for man; it teaches the means of salvation, how to attain the knowledge of God, and how to know and enjoy His will. It is not written abstractly but practically. Of course, it has its rules of understanding and interpretation, and