

these are understood only by those who have the Spirit of God (believers); but the purpose in the Bible is that men might *know* and *believe*. Teachers are required to present the message, but they are not superior to the message.

Men, as teachers, have given us the Bible in several ways. Here are a few noteworthy ones:

1. By their *teaching*. That is, by their interpretation and explanation of the Word of God. All that was said before is still valid (on authority); their words must come up to the scriptural ideal. But when they do, they have the effect of making the Word available to more and more people. The insight godly men have had into the Scripture is a great help to us today.

2. By their *living*. Specifically we see how the Bible has affected their lives as well as their souls, and by example they have shown us the truth of God's Word. The man who wishes to "see a sermon rather than hear one" has a good point, and there are many such "seen sermons" in the lives of Bible teachers.

3. By their *ministry*. By this we mean the outreach of their testimony, which demonstrates the effect of the call of Christ. Many saints have labored tirelessly in areas far from the normal callings to lead souls in Christ. The message moves with the messenger. In their outreach they have demonstrated the command of Christ and so have "given" us the Bible.

Obviously teachers have had a great deal to do with the character and composition of the Bible. But if God had not spoken — the words of men would be of no effect.

We are not overlooking the most important teacher — the Holy Spirit. This discussion is about the role of *men* in giving us the Bible. The Spirit is the infallible teacher, and He teaches individually as you pore over the Word or as you hear it expounded by another