

Great Attitudes Toward Teaching

by John Isaac Edwards

As teachers, how long has it been since we had a checkup on our attitudes? Students need teachers with great attitudes! Can we expect them to have attitudes greater than our own? Let's see how we measure up to these Scriptural statements:

1) ***“I Will Prepare My Heart To Seek The Law Of The Lord, To Do It, And To Teach.”***

Remember Ezra's purpose? Ezra 7:10 reports, “For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.” As teachers, we must make proper preparation! Notice the order: Ezra sought, did, and then taught! So must we!

2) ***“I Will Teach Them That Know Not The Laws Of God.”***

Ezra was charged to appoint magistrates and judges who know God's laws to govern the people, “...and teach ye them that know them not” (Ezra 7:25). How will those who are ignorant of God's laws come to know them unless we teach them? Jesus said, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (Jn. 8:32). What greater service can we render to another human being than to educate them in the truth that makes men free?

3) ***“I Will Teach You By The Hand Of God: That Which Is With The Almighty Will I Not Conceal.”***

Job uttered these words in Job 27:11. Young and old alike need to be impressed with God's great power! They need to know about “...the God in whose hand thy breath is...” (Dan. 5:23). Let us not hide anything concerning the Almighty, but be like Paul who said, “...I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you...” (Acts 20:20).

4) ***“Come, Ye Children...I Will Teach You The Fear Of The Lord.”***

So said the Psalmist in Psalm 34:11. This is where it begins! “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...” (Ps. 111:10) and “...the beginning of knowledge...” (Prov. 1:7). By teaching the fear of the Lord, we are helping add years to people's lives! “The fear of the Lord prolongeth days...” (Prov. 10:27). What is that worth?

5) ***“Purge Me...Then Will I Teach Transgressors Thy Ways...”***

Psalm 51 is the outpouring of David's broken heart and contrite spirit after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Read a few lines: “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me

not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee” (vv. 10-13). Even though we are imperfect, God still has use for us! Do not let your past sins keep you from teaching God's ways. Make whatever corrections need to be made. Then, share the joy with others!

6) ***“I Will Teach Them The Difference.”***

Of the priests it was said, “And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean” (Ezek. 44:23). We must teach people the difference between: holy and profane, unclean and clean, good and evil, truth and error, right and wrong, lawful and unlawful marriage, denominationalism and the church of Christ, God's plan for saving man and human schemes, the theory of evolution and the facts of divine creation, the Old and New Testament, and so on! If we do not teach them the difference, they may never know! What a great privilege to be a difference-maker!

7) **“Daily I Will Cease Not To Teach.”** Observe what is written of the apostles who were “beaten” and “commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus” (Acts 5:40): “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ” (Acts 5:42). Ever experience ‘burn out’ as a teacher? That’s when you are completely consumed and no longer aflame, like the candle in the saucer that has burned out. Remember this example! Even in the face of severe persecution, they kept on teaching! Don’t let abuse,

adversity, harassment, maltreatment, or resistance bring your teaching to an end!

8) **“I Will Be Apt To Teach.”** Are we servants of the Lord? If so, we must be “apt to teach” (2 Tim. 2:24). One who is ‘apt to teach’ is ‘skilful in teaching.’ Teaching others effectively is a skill that can be learned! We must work at it! “If at first you don’t succeed, Try, try, try again.” Paul urged Timothy, “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach

others also” (2 Tim. 2:2). We must ever be working to improve our teaching ability!

In his book, *Teaching In School And College*, William Lyon Phelps said, “I love to teach as a painter loves to paint, as a musician loves to play, as a singer loves to sing, as a strong man rejoices to run a race” (*Introductory, p. 1*). What a great attitude toward teaching! How passionate are we when it comes to teaching the word of God which is able to save souls? (2 Tim. 3:15; Jas. 1:21).

Texts To Stimulate Teachers To Teach

Matthew 28:19: “Go ye therefore, and **teach** all nations, baptizing them... **Teaching them** to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

John 6:45: “It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all **taught** of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”

2 Timothy 2:2: “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to **teach others** also.”

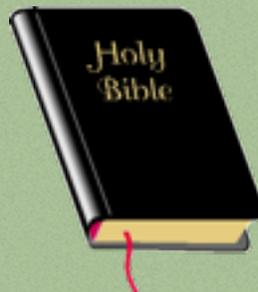
Hebrews 5:12: “For when for the time **ye ought to be teachers**...”

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