

## Books...Books... and more Books!

There are many “How To” books on the market today; “how to do this”, “how to do that”, “how to fix this”, “how to get out of dept”, “how to get rich”, “how to find you soul mate”...and the list goes on and on. I am not suggesting that any of these are wrong, but you must admit that there is an over abundance, well at least here in the U. S. I think that most of these are fine, but when it comes to the things of God, what makes a man, (apart from being filled with the Holy Spirit of God) the expert or sole authority on a given subject. Take for instance; there are books on “how to have revival”, “how to grow your church”, “how to evangelize” “how to walk in prosperity and the favor of God”. I mean, come on people, all of these subjects are covered in the word of God! Why not just give folks the scripture references and allow them to go from there! But you see, the problem is, is that there are too many men and woman of God who are looking for notoriety and fame for themselves! There are too many who want the higher seats in our Churches and the praises of men, too many looking to cash in at the expense of neglecting the preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Even Solomon, the son of David, King of Israel said in Ecclesiastes chapter 12:12; *of making many books there is no end;*

Some of these self help materials are helpful, but the word of the LORD should be the believers only and sole authority for instruction, guidance and doctrine. And what about the Holy Ghost, or Holy Spirit? Where does He fit in in all of this, I mean Jesus said that He would send back the Spirit of Truth who would lead and guide us into all truth, and that He would be the one to teach us as we apply ourselves to the word of the LORD.

“So are you saying that we should not be taught by men”? Not at all! That would be against scripture. We are told in 1 Corinthians 12:28; *And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, **thirdly teachers**, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.*

Also in Ephesians 4:11; *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and **teachers**;*

Acts 13:1; *Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and **teachers**; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.*

So you see, it is the design of the Lord that men are used to teach and instruct new believers in Christ. And to present to them the whole counsel of the LORD, and not personal opinions or even traditional denominational teachings. Paul warned the believers just before his departure in Acts 20: 29-32, that wolves would come in to devour the flock, and that even from among themselves, some will rise up with false teachings to make disciples after themselves.

*29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.*

*30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.*

*31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*

How is it that the scriptures warns us about the deceit that lurks in the heart of men, but we seem to be oblivious to it! I mean we are quick to grab hold to verses promising blessings and prosperity, but when it comes to admonishing of being alert to false brethren and false prophets, we take the attitude that that does not apply to us for today. Well it does, and I believe that the reason we quickly brush those scriptures off is that most writers and popular preachers appeal to our fleshly nature, and let's face it; some of us "Christians" or carnal in nature.

Well, what are we to do then? I would say this. Take everything that you read from man; (even me) very lightly and do as those of Berea did; search the scriptures to see if those things truly line up. Pray and always seek the leading of the Holy Spirit of God. The LORD wants us to know the truth, He desires that we walk in truth, and not in cleverly devised fables and doctrines of men and seducing spirits.

B-Blessed;  
Brother Michael Williams Sr.