**Changed Into His Image**

***Lesson Eleven: Being a Word-Filled Teacher – Deut. 6:5-7***

**Introduction**: All of us are teaching all the time. We teach by our example, as we considered in the last lesson. We also teach whenever we speak to give advice, comment, or instruction. God’s concern is not just that we teach, but that we might be Word-filled teachers. Moses instructed the parents of his day to saturate their hearts with truth so that they might be able and eager to saturate the minds of the next generation with the same.

By the end of this lesson you should be able to:

* Explain the four key functions of the Word from II Timothy 3.
* Understand how to use the Word to help someone who is hurting.
* Recognize the element of unbelief that underlies disobedience to God.

1. **Get Ready for Dangerous Days (II Tim. 3:1; 16-17)**
   1. Paul warned Timothy that false teaching and teachers would be prevalent.
   2. Timothy would need to remain assured of the truth because it was his only protection against faulty thinking and error.
   3. Paul wanted to bolster Timothy’s confidence in the things he had learned so he reminds him that the Scriptures have a particular nature that sets them apart from other kinds of knowledge.
      1. The Bible teaches us what is right for us (Doctrine).
      2. It teaches us what is wrong with us (Reproof).
      3. It teaches us how to make it right (Correction).
      4. It teaches us how to keep it right (Instruction).
   4. A Word-filled teacher will skillfully use the Scriptures for these purposes in the lives of those they disciple.

1. **The Scriptures Teach Us What Is Right**
   1. The Scriptures are inspired.
   2. The Scriptures are infallible.
   3. The Scriptures are authoritative.
      1. It is the final authority on the matter of salvation. (Acts 4:12)
      2. It is the final authority in matters of sanctification.

(2 Pet. 1:3)

* 1. Man can make discoveries that are helpful, but nothing outside of the Bible is essential for his godliness.
  2. Since the Bible teaches us that which is right, it provides help in every area of life.
  3. For example, the Bible is the solution for those who are hurting.
     1. There are many who are hurting in our world.
     2. “Most of the Bible was written to hurting people” (Berg 232).
        + 1. It follows the history of Israel in the Old Testament. They were often oppressed due to their own sin as well as the persecution of sinful people.
          2. The New Testament traces the history of the persecution of early believers.
     3. Hurting people need truth. Peter exhorts the hurting people

of his day to be careful in the way they are thinking (1 Pet. 1:13-14). They should increase their intake of the Word (1 Pet. 2:2). By being Word-filled, you grow through times of adversity.

1. **The Scriptures Teach Us What Is Wrong**
   1. We must be godly in the way in which we confront others with the truth of God’s Word.
      1. Confronting requires prayerful self-examination.

God does not give us permission to remove splinters from the eyes of others until we have done some spiritual “lumberjacking” ourselves. (Matt. 7:3-5)

* + 1. The rebuke must be done in such a way that the loving heart of the rebuke is evident.
  1. Through His Word God deals not only with our outward sin, but with the fact that sin originates in a heart of unbelief. Sin is a manifestation of a heart of unbelief.
     1. God often reproved His people in the Old Testament for their unbelief, even though the more obvious problem seemed to be their complaining, covetousness, fear, or immorality.
     2. God did not rebuke Moses for his anger, but rather his unbelief. (Num. 20:1-13)
     3. The same pattern unfolds in the New Testament.

(Matt. 14:31; Mark 4:40; Luke 24:25)

“Faith – this eye that sees the invisible – is at the heart of godliness. It should come as no surprise then that God’s people are rebuked more for their unbelief – their failure to see God in their circumstances – than for anything else” (Berg 238).

1. **The Scriptures Teach Us How to Make It Right**
   1. Correction means to make something stand up again or to restore to a place of being right.
   2. Part One of Correction: Confessing
      1. Confession involves agreeing with your accusers – God or any other person you wronged.
      2. Confession involves taking responsibility – one can be sorry that something happened, yet not assume any responsibility for it.

It is best to say, “I was wrong when I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Will you forgive me?”

* 1. Part Two of Correction: Forsaking
     1. Forsaking is the willingness on the part of the offender to make restitution.
     2. Accepting every consequence without protest.

Example: Compare King David and King Saul. David accepted responsibility. Saul tried to blame the people. David accepted the consequences. Saul tried to negotiate to find a way out of the consequences.

1. **The Scriptures Teach Us How to Keep It Right**
   1. Instruction has to do with training.
      1. Training requires instruction.
      2. Training requires correction.
      3. Training requires encouragement.
      4. Training requires accountability.
      5. Training requires discipline.
   2. The focus of God’s Word is to make one skillful in righteous living.
2. **Application for Life Change**
   1. Respond by appreciating and loving the Word of our God.
   2. Respond by setting aside regular time each week for in-depth study of the Word of God for yourself.
   3. Respond by demonstrating a greater confidence that the Word of God has the answers to the problems of living.