

## A TEACHER COME FROM GOD

"Thou art a Teacher come from God." John 3:2

"Art thou a Teacher and knowest not these things?  
John 3:10

It is a Summer night in Bethany. Two teachers stand face to face discussing the greatest question known to man.

One is the finished product of a proud and religious nation...the other is an ambassador from the courts of heaven to the courts of this world.

One is trained in the universities of Jewry ...and the other is schooled in the wisdom of God

The first text is a compliment that may have connotations of flattery...the other is a rebuke for not knowing the basics of eternal truth.

Jesus Christ was in His greatest glory as a teacher when his congregation was only one individual and He, by His master method of interrogation, rung true confessions and commitments from their hearts.

It was through ~~uninterrupted~~ <sup>Painted</sup> interviews with individuals that He made the greatest indentures relative to the changing emphasis of religious thought in that day.

...With Nicodemus, hidden <sup>Beneath</sup> ~~in~~ the dark curtains of the night, he established the practicality and expediency of the New Birth.

With the outcast of Sycar at high noon ~~in the vicinity of~~ <sup>at</sup> Jacob's well, He turned the love light of New Testament religion on the haughty, disdainful racial, prejudice that had held sway

for 500 years and in the heat of that earnest interview, it melted like mist before the morning sun.

The time of His ministry constituted the greatest transition period in religion, thought and conduct of all human history. The common comment ~~to that~~ world of wisdom was "never man spake like like this man."

The usual and most obvious interpretation of this statement is that His teaching was charged with such power and authority that it was in sharp contrast to anything they had ever heard. But ~~to my mind~~, that is not the only reason. The thing that literally staggered the brilliant lawyers who dared match wits with this master teacher was the everlasting fitness of what He said.

He came to the heart of every problem, with a marvelous discrimination~~of~~ knowledge of moral and spiritual values; He recognized the disintegration of ancient foundations. But instead of mourning the passing ~~the passing~~ of antiquated landmarks, He rose up to establish new standards to inaugurate a better system of worship, to interpret the capitols of justice and mercy in the light of ~~it~~. Calvary rather than in the terrible thunder of <sup>MT</sup> Sinai.

He not only dealt with the propounded questions of Pharisees and lawyers, but he anticipated the unmasked interrogations of their hearts and his answers were so fitting, so satisfying, so utterly complete until they could only exclaim: "Never man spake like this man!"

The powers of established religion nailed Jesus Christ to the Cross because they could not and would not accept his pattern of thought which changed the emphasis of religious experience and life.

We have only to scan the pages of Christian history for the past two thousand years to see ~~who was right and who was wrong.~~ That He was <sup>Right.</sup>

The only thing that can be said about the ancient powers who rejected the progressive teaching of the man of destiny is that the glory that was Israel faded. All they have left today are the tattered fragments of a rent veil and the antiquated relics of a broken law.

But the man who dared to die for the principle of his new theology has re-written human history and has set the pattern of real progress for the past two thousand years.

Time does not follow a straight line, but always a cycle and at certain points in the cycle it is more transitory than others. For instance: you will recall the Renaissance of Europe, from the 14th to the 16th centuries, the period that marked the transition from Medieval to modern history.

The medieval world began to stir like a sleeping giant out of the lethargy of the silent past. Architecture, art, literature, underwent a drastic change. Modern History records constant change; ~~since then,~~ <sup>Following that</sup> there was the industrial age, the machine age, and now the age of Radar atomic energy, and whirling satellites.

These periods of change effect every strata of human society and lay their hand upon every phase of public and private life.

~~As much as we like to think of the unchangeable foundations of our holy religion, we must recognize the change of application and emphasis and bow to the march of unalterable destiny.~~

~~Change is necessary to progress. Without it, society would stagnate and humanity would petrify.~~

I think that no period of history has been ~~of~~ more treacherous and dangerous for the formative years of an infant church than the past 60 years. Cast in the mold of 20<sup>th</sup> century progress, baptized in the blood and gore of two world wars, exposed to the most staggering inventions of all time and subjected to the most drastic transition of moral and spiritual values, the Pentecostal Holiness church has been hard put to it to maintain its spiritual equilibrium and to save itself from the undertow of this generation.

But in spite of the disadvantage and handicaps the church with its auxiliary departments has made an indelible indenture upon American ~~society~~ <sup>life</sup> and is now rising like a formidable giant to challenge the problem of a changing emphasis in moral standards and social and spiritual values.

In the last four years we have made greater progress than any other church in America.

To ignore the symptoms of a deadly disease will not lessen its destructiveness or prolong a life before its withering blast. To deny that there is a change of emphasis in preaching, thinking, and living does not change the fact and to ignore it is to suffer the irreparable loss of losing step with progress and becoming ~~some~~ <sup>ing</sup> ~~what~~ of a dangerous derelict adrift on life's sea.

Some of the good and great of every generation have done just that and have developed a negative attitude toward life--thereby losing the effectiveness of their ministry and annulling the usefulness of their lives.

The death groans of a Jewish nation that has echoed down the corridors of the ages subs with aching pathos that testifies to us tonight of the folly of the wrong reaction to the march of God.

John Ruskin is an example of those who develop the negative attitude toward change. He told England that if she would destroy all her railroads and coal mines and return to the simple life of the Elizabethan age that he would show them how to live.

Ghanda told India "Turn your back on all the machinery of Western civilization, march back 200 years to the spinning wheel, the loom and the distaff and I will teach you how to live.

*There are some who*  
Many ~~of the old-timers~~ look over their shoulders today and say...go back to the horse and buggy days to the days of small wooden churches, when persecution was strong and when holiness was a despised few and I'll show you how to live.

But what we need today is somebody to come on the scene who will see things as they are, recognize the vices and virtues of a changing system, who will say, "You don't have to go back a thousand years...you don't have to revert to a past generation...you don't have to make any provision for a vantage point. But just where you are, in a world of change, sin, and ultra-modern manner of life. If you will listen to me, I can tell you how to live to get the most out of life.

*ask no odds*  
David, before Goliath, said..."I'll take him with my disadvantage.

Sixty years since Pentecost and what a different picture. 60 years of changing emphasis and 60 years of progress. 60 years and the whole system has undergone a change.

Whether we admit it or not, it is so. Whether it is profitable or fatal will be determined by our reaction to it. ~~We have changed our methods, our approach, and our objective.~~

There was a time when we specialized <sup>only</sup> in rescuing the down and out...but today we are trying to save them before they get down or out.

We once specialized in saving the drunkard...~~now~~ now we are trying to save the child before he takes a drink.

We once emphasized the power of the gospel to straighten out a crooked life...now we are trying to get that life before it is warped and twisted by sin.

In a word, we have changed the emphasis from cure to prevention. <sup>care</sup> We are not only concerned in salvaging souls but in saving lives. To this worthy end, we are majoring in S.S.

The S. S. teacher whose objective was once to intertain a group of youngsters for 30 minutes and then forget them for the next six days, has become an indispensible figure...a mighty important person in the scheme of building the Kingdom of God.

<sup>she</sup> Second to none in importance, <sup>the</sup> the S.S. teacher holds the highest callin g on earth.

The highest form of preaching is teaching

To you, teachers: let me say: "THOU ART A TEACHER COME FROM GOD." Yours is a position and responsibility unequaled in earthly profession... with one hand on the heart strings of a child and the other on the latch-string of that house of many mansions.

It is only a step from childhood into the Kingdom of God. With a group of little children before you and an open Bible on your desk, you have your fingertips on the raw material of the eternal kingdom of our God and His Christ.

We have a high standard of requirement for Church membership. Sometimes it is higher and more exacting than the Kingdom of Christ itself.

It is often much easier to get into the kingdom of God than into some of our churches.

~~In the main, however,~~ we must maintain a high standard for church membership...but by the S.S we can and we must graduate the ascent from the cradle roll to the Amen Corner.

The days have long since passed when we were satisfied with saving the drunkard, the adult, the business man, the woman of the street, the middle-aged man and woman to get them into the church and then undertake the long arduous task of teaching them Christian Stewardship.

We have changed the emphasis, through the mighty arm of the S.S. We are training the child to pay tithes, teaching them the doctrines of the church, drilling into them the high principals and holy doctrines that has made our church great

My three girls pay tithes. When I was a child I didn't know what tithe was.

Standing between the child and the finished product of a Pentecostal Holiness Church member is the Cradle Roll teacher, the primary teacher, the junior teacher, and the intermediate teacher.

We have been ~~handicapped~~ <sup>retarded through</sup> across the years by a lack of loyalty. This in the main has been due to a failure to train the child in Christian stewardship.

*Danger!!!!* *Training will not solve the*  
*plow of the new birth & sanctification*  
When a catholic child is born into a catholic home, the catholic church enters another name on their church roll. The same with the Lutherans, and Episcopal...and in a great measure Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist.

We need to claim the children for God and our church.

Perhaps nearer than the Public School teacher nearer than the Pastor, nearer than the church stands the S.S. teacher.

Echoing down the corridors of the ages comes the searching question of Jesus: "Art thou a teacher and knowest not these things?"...or the assertion of Nicodemous, "Thou art a teacher come from God."

There was a time when the S.S. was called a sleeping giant...but now to paraphrase the world of Clarence Benson..."The S.S. is in action."

To promote this idea, pastors, teachers, and workers, walk the street, telephones buzz... typewriters click...newspapers carry it in headlines...buses run, radion station speak out and the mighty emphasis has swung to its proper place for these times to the S.S.

By the power and influence of our efficient Sunday Schools, we can get our hands on the heart strings of the next generation and at the proper time, we can lash them to the altars of the P. H. Church.

To the loyal men and women across this nation who compose that royal society and who hold that strategic position of S. S. teacher from the cradle roll to the adult Bible class; I have this to say?

YOU are a teacher come from God, and the spiritual and cultural pulse-beat of the P.H. church in the Next generation will be determined by what you do for the boys and girls who answer to the roll call in your class room every Sunday morning.

John Dilinger - Thomas A. Edison



Yours is that high privilege of teaching them the beauty and necessity of the new birth, yours is the privilege of molding into their thinking the mighty doctrine of Sanctification, Pentecost and divine healing. *Help Chris to get the blessing*

Yours is an unprecedented advantage to teach them the eternal principals of right and wrong. To magnify the Pentecostal Holiness Church... to instill a loyalty to God... to principal.. and to the church, and finally to lead them into that heart-warming experience of a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Yours...not to drive--but to lead; Yours... not to condem, but to understand; Yours...not to rule but to serve;...Yours, not to receive but to give...Yours not to salvage, but to save.. Yours not to be forgotton, but to join the immortals in the glory...

...to take your stand by the throne of God and greet your S. S. pupils as they come marching home.

Finally, ~~in~~ these immortal words of the carpenter from Nazareth: "Art thou a teacher and knoweth not these things?"