

“How to be a helpful teacher”

“When he [Apollos] arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed.” (Acts 18:27 NIV11)

"How to be a helpful teacher"

Exploring why personal development as a teacher matters, the benefits of collaborating & how to feed our learning into the local church

27 November

2002 JAMES 1:1

1 James, a servant of God^a and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes^b scattered^c among the nations: greetings.

AS CHRISTIAN OPTIMISM IS THE GREATEST PRIVILEGE FROM CHRIST

Extreme Optimism

Mature Complete

Joy -> Trials -> Perseverance -> Faith

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt,⁷ because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 8 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord: ⁹ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

Welcome to this teaching event. We are very grateful that you have put the time aside to share this special time with us. Our prayer is that the Spirit will inspire us to greater depth and effectiveness in our teaching. May we all learn to grow as teachers helpful to our local congregations and those lost and far from God.

The organisers: Andy B, Andy E, Chris, Douglas, Malcolm, Rob

Theme scripture: “We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labour, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.” (Colossians 1:28–29 NAS95)

Schedule

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| 10 am | Singing, Prayer, Welcome |
| Session 1 | Dr Douglas Jacoby: “Teaching Matters / Jesus’ Vision for Teaching” |
| Session 2 | Dr Andy Boakye: “The Characteristics of Christian Teachers in Acts” |
| 11:30 am | Coffee break |
| Session 3 | Malcolm Cox: “The value of the teaching community & collaborative teaching” |
| Session 4 | Panel Q & A |
| 1 pm | Lunch |

LESSON 1: TEACHING MATTERS / JESUS' VISION FOR TEACHING
D. A. JACOBY, EDINBURGH

1. Five reasons teaching is crucial

- a. It feeds the flock (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:1-3).
- b. It fortifies against error (2 Tim 4:3-5; 2 Pet 3:17).
- c. It anchors us in the Word (Matt 7:24-27)
- d. It honours God and his Word (Ps 138:2)
 1. Crossroads-Boston-ICOC – weakening of biblical training
 2. MTA programs: good, but too basic
- e. It fosters genuine spiritual growth (1 Pet 2:1-3).

2. Jesus' vision for teaching

Who understood these principles best? The Lord Jesus Christ. He knew how to teach!

- a. Matt 7:28; 22:23 – Dazzling.
- b. Matt 23:8 – He is the *one* teacher, unique.
- c. A vision of breadth and depth!
 1. Matt 13:52 – the old and the new
 2. Matt 15:9 – not just human rules, but God's Word
 3. Healthy teaching
 - a. Matt 23:15 – there is such a thing as *destructive* teaching
 - b. 'Sound doctrine' (as in the Pastoral Epistles)
 - c. Rev 2-3: Balaam, Nicolaitans, Jezebel, Satan's deep secrets
 - d. Not technical theology (*Informed*)
 - e. Matt 28: collective responsibility. Obedience to be taught (John 8:31; 14:23).
 4. Matthew as early church's favourite gospel, SOM as compendium.
 - a. Notice what's included:
 - i. 5:3+ = who we are / character
 - ii. 5:17+ = how we view and treat others
 - iii. 6 – heart religion, trust
 - iv. 7:1-5, 12 – Do we expect special treatment?
 - v. 7 – Seek God and his will
 - b. *Notice what's left out:*
 - i. Giving, apart from alms
 - ii. Meetings /church
 - iii. Agreement on the finer points of theology
 - iv. Outreach—although 5:13-14
 5. Acts 2:42-47
 - i. Root and fruit
 - ii. Attempting to reverse this = the 'flesh'.

3. Thought questions

- a. If someone lived by the SOM, would he or she be a real Christian?
- b. What might this imply for our own theology?
- c. What might this imply for our practice of ministry?

Lesson 2: The Characteristics of Christian Teachers in Acts

Andy Boakye, Manchester

Key Idea: Jesus model of teaching is replicated in the early Christian teaching practices. It was normative for Luke to model the heroes of Acts on Jesus. For example, see below on the martyrdoms of Stephen and Jesus:

Motif	Jesus (Luke)	Stephen (Acts)
Filled with the spirit	4:14	6:5
Opposed by their own people	4:29	6:9
Their opponents cannot stand up against them	20:1-40	6:10-14
Accused of blasphemy	5:21; 22:71	6:11–13
Accused of speaking against the temple	21:5–6; 23:2	6:13-14
Victims of kangaroo courts	23:18–23	7:54–58
Forgive their killers	23:34	7:60
Commit their spirits to the Lord	23:46	7:59

Teaching forms an *inclusio* (literary bookend) in Acts:

The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach... (Acts 1:1)

... and **teaching** things about the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered (Acts 28:31).

Three keys for Christian teachers:

1. **The willingness to invest time**
2. **A commitment to telling the Christian story**
3. **The courage to push boundaries**

Lesson 3: The value of the teaching community and collaborative teaching

Malcolm Cox, Watford

1. Teachers working together in Scripture

- a. In the Old Testament
 - a. The company of prophets: 2 Kings 4:1: 6:1
 - b. Ezra & the Levites: Nehemiah 8:7-8
- b. In the New Testament
 - a. The “apostolic college”: 2Peter 3:2
 - b. Inter-congregational collaboration: Acts 15:22, 30-31
 - c. Household co-teaching: Priscilla and Aquila, Acts 18:26
 - d. Partnership teaching: Paul & Barnabas, Acts 13:42-43; 14:1-3; 15:35

2. Teachers working together today

“None of us know as much as all of us”

- a. Within congregations: Identify those who think about scripture the way you do
- b. Inter-congregationally: Find your peers

3. The benefits of collaborative teaching

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Discussion questions

1. Who is, or could be, your teaching tribe?
2. What could collaborative teaching do for your teaching?
3. How might you identify people in your own congregation to collaborate with?
4. How might you identify people outside your own congregation to collaborate with?

Suggestion

Why not sign up to Douglas' newsletter, podcast and the premium subscription to his website here: www.douglasjacoby.com.

Feedback Survey

We would be very grateful if you could give us some feedback. It will help us with planning future events.

1. Teaching: What was the most helpful thing you learned today and why?
2. Teaching: What would you like to hear more teaching about and why?
3. Format: What was it about the set up and the schedule that worked best for you and why?
4. Format: What was it about the set up and the schedule that didn't work so well for you and why?
5. Future: What suggestions do you have for future events, and why would they be important to you?

If you cannot fill it in today, please email your responses to Malcolm at tvcochrist@gmail.com.