

# *The Lakeview Lamp*

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” -  
Psalm 119:105*

*November 21, 2004*

## *Why Some Fail to Teach*

John Isaac Edwards

Each of us is responsible to “teach others” (**2 Tim 2:2**). The shortage of teachers in the church says that some are neglecting their duty to teach. Why do some fail to teach the Word of God to others?

**1) Some are too *busy* to teach.** It is not uncommon to hear someone say, “I’m too busy” or “I don’t have time.” All of us have the same amount of time - 24 hours a day. Why is it that some find time to teach and some do not have time? Most people waste a lot of time! All of us need to ask, “What am I doing with my time?” It is possible that we are too busy! You may need to cut some things out of your schedule to make room for what is really important, like teaching. First things first, right (**Matt 6:33**)?

**2) Some are too *lazy* to teach.** Becoming an effective Bible teacher is hard work, and some are just too lazy to exert themselves in being the kind of teachers God expects. Paul taught the Romans, “*Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord*” (**Rom 12:11**). There is a real need for a change from laziness to diligence!

**3) Some do not *know* how to teach.** Teaching the Word of God requires know how. The Colossian Christians were instructed, “*Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one*” (**Col 4:6**). Has it ever occurred to you that some are not teaching because they just do not know how? This is why teacher training programs are needed - to train

men and women how to effectively teach the Word of God to others.

**4) Some are *afraid to teach*.** No doubt, fear keeps some folks from doing (**Matt 25:25**). Some may be hiding their teaching talents because they are afraid - afraid they do not know enough, afraid they might make a mistake, afraid of what others might think, and so on. Fear often comes from a feeling that we are inadequate to meet a situation. Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” The best cure for fear is *action*!

**5) Some do not *want to teach*.** 95% of people do what they want to do 95% of the time. When there are those not teaching, it is an indication that they do not want to teach. Some do not feel a sense of duty to teach. Some may not want the awesome responsibility that comes with teaching (**James 3:1**). Teaching the gospel of Christ is the greatest work you can ever do for another! It is rewarding, when they obey the gospel, to know that you played a part in their obedience to Christ.

*“His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun.”* –  
**Psalm 72:17a**

### *My Worst Enemy*

Rick Duggin

Someone said, “At age 20 we worry about what others think of us. At 40 we don’t care what they think of us. At 60 we discover they haven’t been thinking of us at all.” A greater problem is not what others think of us, but what we think of ourselves.

We can be our own worst enemy. Our attitude determines our destiny. No wonder the Bible warns us to treat ourselves properly.

**1. We must take heed to ourselves.** Moses instructed Israel, “*Only take heed to yourself and diligently keep yourself lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life...*” (**Deuteronomy**

**4:9).** If the Lord loves us enough to communicate His will to us, let us not be forgetful hearers. We must keep an eye on ourselves.

**2. We must come to ourselves.** The prodigal son came to himself (**Luke 15:17**). It was as if he had been as far from himself as he had been from home. When someone has been stunned and then recovers, we often say “he came to.” Sin also stuns its victims.

**3. We must think properly of ourselves.** *“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith”* (**Romans 12:3**). Some judge people according to rank, wealth, eloquence, or office. These standards must never prevail among people of God.

**4. We must examine ourselves.** *“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith”* (**2 Corinthians 13:5**). “The unexamined life is not worth living.” Self-examination requires brutal honesty, but yields much fruit.

**5. We must deny ourselves.** *“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow Me’”* (**Matthew 16:24**). The biggest battle we must fight is against our selfish desires. It’s hard to say no to self, but we cannot be saved in any other way.

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"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"  
(Psalm 118:24).