

Elder Bobby Willis



Proverbs 22:20-21, **“Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?”**

It is really hard to teach something you do not know. One of the first things we learned about teaching students was to know the subject we were teaching. When I first began teaching, I took that to heart and tried to make sure I knew the lesson I would be teaching.

Ministers cannot and should not attempt to preach on a subject they know nothing about or have not studied to a certain amount of clarity. Certainly, no man knows it all though there are a few in life who act like they do. II Timothy 2:15 says, **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”** Solomon had written **“excellent things in counsels and knowledge”** for the benefit of the Lord’s people. They needed to **“know the certainty of the words of truth.”** Solomon was relating that old truth of *‘you can’t teach what you don’t know.’*

There had to be a good reason why Solomon said what he did way before the time of Paul and Timothy. There was! God’s children needed to know how to answer those who came unto them seeking words of truth. It is always best to pray before giving an answer, but that is not always feasible audibly, however we can pray in our thoughts and mind where-ever and when-ever the need arises. We are NOT apostles and therefore what we are to say is to come from the word of God while relying on the leadership of the Spirit.

Solomon wasn’t writing to preachers. He was writing to people just like you and I and our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. John the Baptist was asked if he was Elias or **“that prophet”** (John 1:21). Notice the question that was asked of him, **“Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us?”** (John 1:22) These men did not yet understand who John was and needed to know so they could return to those who sent them with knowledge about him. Should we

not then go to the source of all knowledge if we are to know more about our Lord?

Peter gives the instruction we need to take to heart in I Peter 3:15, **“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:...”** If someone comes asking about the truths of God’s word and are seeking to know more about Him, it is because the Lord has already called and quickened them by His Spirit and implanted His love in their heart. It would be good if we knew how to answer them as Solomon desired of those who had read of his counsels and knowledge (writings) so **“that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee.”** May God give us grace to do likewise. *Think About It!*