

Is It Time for You to Be a Teacher?
By Bob Young

Should you be a teacher? Should you not be a teacher? Who should teach? Who should not? We must learn to read the Bible in context. How did you respond to my questions?

Did you think of James 3? “Not many of you should be teachers.” What is the context? In the first decade of Christianity, the Christian gatherings were different than today. The instruction in James likely relates to assemblies where many different people could speak up. Limit your “teaching”—not everyone should try to speak up, share, and teach during the assembly. Remember: “decently and in order.”

If you thought of Hebrews 5, you arrived at a different conclusion. What is the context? The writer addresses a group of Christians (not only leaders). The recipients of the letter have failed to mature spiritually. It was beyond time for them to be teachers, yet they still needed to be taught. They were unskilled in the word. They had not studied enough to become discerning. They could not teach. The church was struggling for lack of mature teachers.

Application time! The contemporary church is hobbled, even crippled, for lack of capable teachers. For lack of spiritually mature, capable Christians, the word is not shared broadly, the church struggles with edifying itself and the church struggles with evangelizing the lost. Let us each resolve to “grow up” spiritually in Christ and become teachers (in the Hebrews 5 sense)! Let us avoid the tendency toward unspiritual self-aggrandizement which can be a temptation for those who teach!