

The Role of Teaching in God's Work

 Notes

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said:

“To teach effectively and to feel you are succeeding is demanding work indeed. But it is worth it. We can receive ‘no greater call.’ . . .

“For each of us to ‘come unto Christ’ [D&C 20:59], to keep His commandments and follow His example back to the Father is surely the highest and holiest purpose of human existence. To help others do that as well—to teach, persuade, and prayerfully lead them to walk that path of redemption also—surely that must be the second most significant task in our lives. Perhaps that is why President David O. McKay once said, ‘No greater responsibility can rest upon any man [or woman], than to be a teacher of God’s children’ [in Conference Report, Oct. 1916, 57]” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1998, 31; or *Ensign*, May 1998, 25).

The Foolishness of Teaching

Elder Bruce R. McConkie of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said:

“Now let me point to the source of my text and my title, ‘The Foolishness of Teaching.’ It is a paraphrase of Paul’s words. ‘For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel’ (1 Corinthians 1:17). And I will use *preach* and *teach*, for our purposes, as synonyms.

Preaching is teaching and teaching, in many respects, is a perfected form of preaching. . . .

“‘For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.’ (1 Corinthians 1:21.)

“Now I turn it to the teaching aspect:

“‘It pleased God by the foolishness of [teaching] to save them that believe.’” (*The Foolishness of Teaching* [address to religious educators, 18 Sept. 1981], 2–3).

A Godsend for the Salvation of Modern Israel

Elder Boyd K. Packer, then a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, said:

“In the history of the Church there is no better illustration of the prophetic preparation of this people than the beginnings of the seminary and institute program. These programs were started when *they were nice but were not critically needed*. They were granted a season to flourish and to grow into a bulwark for the Church. They *now become a godsend for the salvation of modern Israel* in a most challenging hour. We are now encircled. Our youth are in desperate jeopardy. These are the last days, foreseen by prophets in ancient times” (*Teach the Scriptures* [address to religious educators, 14 Oct. 1977], 4; italics added; or *Charge to Religious Educators*, 3rd ed. [1994], 88).