

# The Shepherd-Teacher

Paul, the man whom God used to pen thirteen out of the twenty-seven New Testament books, said: *“I am an appointed herald and an apostle.....a TEACHER of the Gentiles in faith and truth.”* (1 Timothy 2:7) This man realized that at a point of time in history, he had been ordained by the Heavenly Father to be a minister and that this responsibility was totally a gift of grace. To be a preacher, Keruz (Κερυζ) meant that he was a communicator of the King, the Lord Jesus Christ. He also refers to himself as a TEACHER. Didaskalos (διδασκαλός)

Some Shepherd-Teacher’s responsibilities and privileges:

1. The word “TEACHER” AS IT IS USED IN THE New Testament: Didaskalos (διδασκαλός) – *skillful in teaching* (I Timothy 3:2; II Timothy 2:24).

Didaktos (διδακτοός).....teachable 1 Corinthians 2:13

Didaskalia (διδασκαλία).....teaching, instruction, and doctrine content (I Timothy 4:13, 16; II Timothy 3:16)

Didaskalos (διδασκαλός).....teacher, communicator, and instructor

John the Baptist called teacher (Luke 3:12)

Leaders in the Temple (Luke 2:46)

The word “doctors” in the King James is “teachers”

Pastors today called teachers (Eph. 4:11)

Jesus was called Master (Teacher) (Matthew 8:18, 19; Matthew 19:16)

2. God has designed the Church today to be the classroom for born-again believers to *“Grow in Grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* (II Peter 3:18) *“As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word that ye may grow thereby.”* (I Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:13, 14; Proverbs 8:33; Proverbs 9:9; Proverbs 23:12; Proverbs 24:3-5)

## The Shepherd-Teacher (Continued)

3. God has appointed certain men and placed in their lives the GIFT OF THE MINISTRY and has given to them students who respect this God-given authority and position. (Eph. 1:1; 4:11; I Timothy 1:1; 2:7) The Shepherd-Teacher has a very heavy responsibility before God to be true to the people whom God has placed in his flock. (Hebrews 13:7, 17) The Shepherd-Teacher must realize that God will bless him if he is obedient and God is very capable of disciplining if disobedient. The Shepherd-Teacher must:
  - a. Be objective and fair to everyone.
  - b. Be academically honest.
  - c. Have courage to stand for God and His message in spite of non-perception and hostility.
  - d. Not make an issue of himself.
  - e. Not make an issue of his students.....individually or collectively.
  - f. Be a faithful proclaimer of the Word no matter how he feels.
  - g. Protect those who want to learn and grow from those who don't and would, if allowed, disturb, distract and derail the learners.
4. The Shepherd-Teacher is also known in addition to TEACHER as an ἐπισκοπός (episkopos), over-looker; guardian. (Acts 20:28; I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:7; Phil. 1:1)
5. The Bible refers to those who are learning from a Shepherd-Teacher as “DISCIPLES.” μαθητεῖς (mathetes) – learner, pupil, apprentice (Luke 6:40; Acts 18:23; Acts 20:30)
6. Only those who have been taught consistently and who have grown and who have been equipped properly can be effective, producing Ambassadors for Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 5:11-14; I Corinthians 3:1-3; Galatians 3:1-6; 5:1; 6:1-8)
7. The Shepherd-Teacher must be aware that God has given various gifts to His children and desires that those gifts be functional. (I Corinthians 12:27-31) The individual gift will operate properly or improperly, dependent upon spiritual growth and maturity. (I Corinthians 13:1-13; Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 4:1-3) There can be effective service without the service being the issue.....The Lord must be first!