**Keep It Simple**

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 The above statement is the “mantra” of a friend of mine. When it comes to the preaching and teaching of God’s word, he tells me often, “***Keep It Simple***.” This sentiment was impressed upon my mind even further when a sister told me, “The main problem that high school students have today is not which church to go to, but whether or not to believe in God in the first place.” Think about it: we live in a society that has so pushed God aside that high school students need to be convinced about the very existence of God!

 This sister’s observation told me that, I need to “***keep it simple***” as I preach. It also tells me that I need to be preaching and teaching these “simple” sermons not only to the teenagers, but also to the PARENTS of teenagers! After all, children are the students of their parents. Therefore, if parents do not expose their children to God, the Bible, to truth, etc., then how can we expect them to know these things? God has placed the responsibility of teaching with parents (**Genesis 18:19; Deuteronomy 6:6-9, 11:18-21; Ephesians 6:4; 2 Timothy 1:5**).

 Yet, “***keep it simple***,” does not mean make things simplistic, or speak down to people. Rather, it places responsibility on the teacher to make sure things are said in a way that folks can understand. Brethren have said for many years that one does not need to be a “Greek scholar” to go to Heaven. True. We do not need to have Ph.D.’s in order to understand the Bible! The apostle Paul said, ***“Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ”*** (**Ephesians 3:4**). Jesus encouraged reading and searching the Scriptures, for He knew that in so doing, mankind can understand the truth and follow it (**John 5:39, 17:17; Revelation 1:3**). Not only did He state this truth, but He lived it (**Acts 1:1**)! When Jesus spoke, ***“the common people heard Him gladly”*** (**Mark 12:37**). Those who listened to Jesus were often the “unknowns,” the “rejected” or “general population.” The social “elites” and their ilk did not like Jesus. In fact, they conspired against Him to keep Him from preaching (**John 11:47-53**). After Christ’s death, burial, resurrection and ascension, the apostles continued preaching His simple message (**Acts 2**, etc.). When they preached that simple message, the “elites” marveled at their words, noting, ***“...they had been with Jesus”*** (**Acts 4:13**).

 Therefore, to “***keep it simple***” means to preach like Jesus and the apostles. Can we think of any better examples to follow than Christ and His apostles when one wants to communicate God’s will in the best way? I can’t! When we determine to preach and teach as Christ, we will “***keep it simple***” for all listening to the truth. Let no man get so caught up in his own ability and talents that he forgets to “hide behind the cross” when preaching! Keep it simple so that the “common people” can hear the truth, believe it and obey it! Start at home! (Poudre Valley E-bulletin)