

February 2007

Teach Believers

To all the Saints,

Grace to you and peace!

Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity. Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching. ... Cultivate these things. Immerse yourself in them. The people will ...see you mature right before their eyes! Keep a firm grasp on both your character and your teaching. Don't be diverted. Just keep at it. Both you and those who hear you will experience salvation (1 Timothy 4:13-16 The Message)

These words, which I shared at the Lehigh County Conference of Churches' Ash Wednesday service, have shaped my thinking about what it means to be the "teaching presbyter." But my charge to that assembly, as it is to you, is not to think that these words apply only to pastors. Pastors are blessed in that talking about God is their job, but as Presbyterians keyed to the priesthood of all believers, we understand in a particular way that "whatever you do, in word or in deed, you are to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus," that as much as any pastor, **you** are to teach believers with your life.

Then you, and those who hear you, and Christ within you, will experience salvation.

Blessed Lent,

Steve

Steve Shussett

Teaching Presbyter