

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Understand**

"If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough." – Albert Einstein

"A child of five would understand this. Send someone to fetch a child of five." – Groucho Marx

"Those that know, do. Those that understand, teach." – Aristotle

"All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them." – Galileo Galilei

"A person hears only what they understand." – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

It is troubling in the field of preaching because you want folks to understand what you are saying. "So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading" (Neh. 8:8).

Have you ever heard a sermon that was "over your head"? It sounded like someone went to the *Reader's Digest* and used words found in the section known as, *Word Power*. And who benefited from it? "So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air" (1 Cor. 14:9).

A number of years ago, sitting in a homiletics' class, wise words were spoken. "Boys, put it down on a level where the cows can graze."

On one occasion, an angel of the Lord instructed Philip to go south on a road from Jerusalem to Gaza. There was an Ethiopian riding in a chariot and the Spirit of God instructed Philip to overtake the chariot. "So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' And he said, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?'" (Acts 8:30-31). The opportunities to share the Word of God are numerous. But can we truly cause another to understand what they are reading?

The words of the Psalmist almost sound like they were written for today, as though he were looking at mankind. "They do not know, nor do they understand; they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are unstable" (Psa. 82:5). So many today aimlessly walk about searching for the truth, but it eludes them. Then we have Christians who know the truth, but are not prepared to share it. Peter admonishes, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (1 Pet. 3:15).

Let's help folks to understand the truth!