

**“MY BRETHREN, BE NOT MANY MASTERS [*Bible teachers*]
KNOWING THAT AS SUCH WE INCUR A GREATER
CONDEMNATION [*judgment*].”**

JAMES 3.1

Be Cautious about Becoming a Teacher

James gives an extremely strong warning about accepting or seeking a job as a Bible Teacher. Unchurched friends feel they have a right to criticize leaders of the church as well as Bible teachers if they find the slightest flaws in their lives or theology. So be diligent and do your homework. Compare one passage of Scripture with others similar to it.

Please let me give an example of handling the Word of God carefully or carelessly.

There are at least three “last trumpets” in the New Testament. They are recorded by three different authors in three different books. For most of us, when we hear about the last trump, we think of I Corinthians 15:52 (*or Thessalonians 4: 16*) which speaks of the return of Jesus Christ at the Rapture, the end of the Church Age.

Matthew and John also speak of trumpets.

John’s is blown by the 7th angel sometime in the middle of the tribulation and is the last of 7 angels with trumpets.

(The first six trumpets, Rev. 8:6,7,8,10,12; 9:1,13; and 11:15 last of the seven angels with trumpets])

Matthew’s account does not call it a last trumpet, but an angel blows it at the end of the tribulation (Matt. 24:31) and the angels gather the elect and usher them into the millennial kingdom. It is actually the very last trumpet we know about.

All of these trumpets occur during the end times, but clearly seem to happen at different points in time.

You’re a teacher of the most special book in the world. Treat it as carefully and reverently as you can.

AS A BIBLE TEACHER. . .

- Your reading carefully must be done with excellence.
- Your obedience to Christ must be with diligence.
- Your subjection to authority must be impeccable.
- Your home must be a place where Christ reigns.
- Your bank account does not have to be large, but every penny must belong to God.
- Your reputation at work must be clean.
- Your efforts to bring others to Christ must be consistent.
- Your desire to pass the baton on to your children must be clear.
- Your “criticism quotient” must decrease annually.
- Your intimacy with Christ as His friend must keep deepening.
- Your humility must increase incrementally.

Yes, it is scary to be a Bible teacher, but the benefits and blessing in seeing other growing are beyond compare. Don’t fear, but be diligent.