

CLASS NOTES - THE PREACHER, HIS LIFE AND WORKS

Taught by Robert Stapleton



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THE PREACHER, HIS LIFE, AND HIS WORK

Robert Stapleton

CLASS DESCRIPTION:

1. This class seeks to give a proper perspective to the life and work of the preacher.
 - A. We will seek to study the biblical principles and practices concerning the preacher, his life, and his work.
2. The following points will be covered:
 - A. The Preacher and “The Faith.”
 - B. Marks of A Good Preacher.
 - C. The Right Attitude of The Preacher Toward His Work.
 - D. The Preacher Must Love.
 - E. The Preacher as an Example.
 - F. The Work of the Evangelist.
 - G. The Preacher's Prayer Life.
 - H. The Preacher and the Sermon.
 - I. The Preacher, Preaching To Please God.
 - J. The Preacher in Suffering and Perseverance.
 - K. The Preacher and Some General Church Problems.
 - L. The Preacher - His Life and Personal Problems.
 - M. The Preacher and the World.
 - N. The Preacher Is A Servant, Not A Boss!
 - O. The Preacher and His Family.
 - P. The Preacher and Conducting Funerals.
 - Q. The Preacher and Conducting Weddings.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. During the quarter each student is to read the book The Life And Work of A Gospel Preacher by Maxie B. Boren.
 - A. Instructions concerning log.
 1. Keep a typewritten log of your reading, with dates and chapters read.
 - A. Your log should be turned in to instructor no later than the beginning of class day during the finals week – late papers count one grade per day off.
2. Tests:
 - A. Two scheduled tests will be administered.
 1. Each will account for 40% of your total score.
 2. Additional credit will be at the instructor's discretion.
3. Memory Verses:
 - A. The following verses are to be committed to memory:

Matthew 6:33
John 8:32
John 13:34, 35
Acts 2:42

2 Timothy 2:2
2 Timothy 2:15
2 Timothy 3:16, 17
2 Timothy 4:2
1 John 2:15-17

- B. Memory work should be done in the *ASV*, *ESV*, *KJV*, or *NKJV* unless the instructor grants permission to use another version.
4. Each student is to develop a sermon outline on the life and work of the preacher and submit no later than the beginning of class day during the finals week.
- A. Your outline should be between three and five single-spaced typed pages, Times New Romans 12 Font, and will count for 20% of your grade.
5. Recommended reading:
- A. The Work of The Gospel Preacher, Thomas B. Warren.
B. How To Make It As A Preacher, J.J. Turner.
C. Bigger Men For Better Churches, Cleon Lyles.
D. The Preacher And His Work, Jack Meyers, Sr.
E. Don't Take It Personally But..., Jack D. Duty.
F. Preaching To Preachers About Preaching, John Waddey.
G. That's The Preacher's Wife, Diane Singleton.
H. If You Want to Preach, Don DeWelt
I. Man of God, Shawn Mathis, Editor
J. Thirty Minutes to Raise the Dead, Bill Bennett
K. The Minister and His Work, Michael Weed
L. Why Johnny Can't Preach, T. David Gordon

THE PREACHER AND “THE FAITH”

INTRODUCTION:

1. As preachers of the gospel it is important to understand your responsibility to the faith that is outlined within the New Testament.
 - A. When that responsibility is overlooked, false doctrine ends up being proclaimed.

BODY:

1. THE PREACHER AND TEACHERS OF ERROR:

- A. Teachers of the law, as opposed to the gospel.
 1. Any whose teachings make shipwreck of the faith is to be opposed by him - 1 Timothy 1:18-20.
- B. Those who teach a doctrine different from that given by God are to be dealt with - 1 Timothy 6:3-10.
- C. Traits and shortcomings of false teachers - 2 Timothy 3:1-9.
- D. Factious men, and how to treat them - Titus 3:8-11.
- E. The preacher and denominational groups:
 1. What should the preacher’s attitude be toward such preachers and teachers? - Romans 16:17, 18; 2 John 9-11.
 2. Should the preacher join in an alliance with denominational preachers? - 2 Timothy 2:1-13.

2. THE PREACHER AND “SOUND DOCTRINE” - BOOK OF 2 TIMOTHY:

- A. Hold the pattern - not ashamed of it - chapter 1.
- B. Teach it - chapter 2.
 1. Do not become entangled in other things - vrs. 1-13.
 2. He should be a workman that is not ashamed, but capable, not striving, but gentle - vrs. 14-26.
- C. Abide in it in the face of false teachers or temptations - chapter 3, vrs. 14-17.
 1. The reason for this is that the scriptures are “God breathed.”
- D. Preach it “in season and out of season” - chapter 4.

3. THE PREACHER AS TEACHER OF THE CHURCH:

- A. He is to, with all authority (1 Timothy 4:6; 2 Timothy 2:15), put the brethren in mind of...
 1. ...Prayer and its universal scope - 1 Timothy 2:1-7.
 2. ...The conduct of men and women, and of their place in the work of the church and worship - 1 Timothy 2:8-15.
 3. ...The prevalence, imminence and danger of apostasy - 1 Timothy 4:1-5.
 4. ... The warning to strive not about words - 2 Timothy 2:14.
 5. ...Be subject to rulers, and the basis for this conduct - Titus 3:1-11.
- B. He is to teach on the following responsibilities and relationships of Christians...
 1. ...Attitude toward and relation to various classes of members - 1 Timothy 5:1, 2.
 - A. In all purity - Titus 2:1-8.
 2. ...Concerning the church and its widows, old and young - 1 Timothy 5:3-16.

3. ...Concerning masters and servants - 1 Timothy 6:1, 2; Titus 2:9-14.
4. ...The rich in the congregation - 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

MARKS OF A GOOD PREACHER

INTRODUCTION:

1. As we are aware the N.T. plainly sets forth the qualifications of elders and deacons - 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11.
 - A. However, no such list exists relative to the qualifications for preachers.
 - B. Nevertheless, one can see that the N.T. does set forth certain “marks” which indicate that a man is serving as a good preacher.
2. 1 Timothy 4:6-16 provides a summary list of the preacher’s life and work.
 - A. The preacher who conforms to this list will be a good minister.

BODY:

1. A GOOD MINISTER IS FIRST OF ALL A SERVANT:

- A. Primary meaning of the term “diakonos”.
 1. The preacher serves God, the church and his fellow man.
- B. Jesus taught that the one who would become great would be a servant - Matthew 20:26, 27.
 1. One who seeks glory, honor and special treatment should not be in the pulpit.

2. A GOOD MINISTER WILL PUT HIS BRETHREN IN MIND OF GOD’S TRUTH:

- A. The Greek, in 1 Timothy 4:6 a, suggests not to issue orders, but to counsel and advise.
- B. Paul recommends the opposite of the army sergeant who barks his orders.

3. A GOOD MINISTER FINDS HIS OWN SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT IN THE GOSPEL WHICH HE ALWAYS FOLLOWS:

- A. 1 Timothy 4:6 b.
- B. No teacher can effectively give out without first taking in.
- C. A good minister is a habitual student, feeding and strengthening his soul.
 1. The word “nourished” is a present participle and suggests continuing activity.
- D. The day the preacher ceases to study he begins to spiritually die.

4. A GOOD MINISTER REFUSES THE PROFITLESS THEORIES OF FALSE TEACHERS:

- A. 1 Timothy 4:7 a.
- B. This means that the good minister has no time for myths and speculations.
 1. Human traditions are vain - Matthew 15:9.
 2. Human philosophy is deceitful - Colossians 2:8.
 - A. Such have no vital relationship to salvation.

5. A GOOD MINISTER EXERCISES HIMSELF UNTO GODLINESS:

- A. 1 Timothy 4:7 b.
- B. As an athlete trains his body so the preacher trains his soul.
 1. Even Paul had to discipline himself to keep his body in subjection lest he be rejected - 1 Corinthians 9:27.
- C. Spiritual growth never just happens.
 1. It must be conscientiously developed.

- 6. THE GOOD MINISTER SETS HIS HOPE ON THE LIVING GOD:**
- A. 1 Timothy 4:10.
 - B. A preacher who sets his hope on financial gain, popularity, or power needs to revise his values.
 - 1. It must be remembered that our citizenship is in heaven - Philippians 3:20.
 - A. Likewise so is our hope.
- 7. THE GOOD MINISTER LABORS AND STRIVES IN HIS MINISTRY:**
- A. 1 Timothy 4:10 a.
 - B. The word “labor” suggests working energetically to the point of weariness.
 - 1. A lazy man has no business in the ministry.
 - C. Paul spoke of “the work of an evangelist” - 2 Timothy 4:5.
 - 1. The public delivery of sermons and classes is but the culmination of a week of study and preparation.
 - 2. Add to this visiting, evangelism, problem solving, exhorting, consoling and counseling and one begins to appreciate the work of a good minister.
- 8. THE GOOD MINISTER COMMANDS RESPECT BY EXEMPLARY CONDUCT:**
- A. 1 Timothy 4:12.
 - B. Some might “despise” the youth of a young preacher.
 - 1. But his mature Christian conduct will command respect.
 - C. Plato responded to false accusations by saying, “Well, we must live in such a way that all men will see that the charge is false.”
 - 1. Most attacks are best answered this way.
 - D. A good minister is an example in word.
 - 1. His speech will always be “with grace, seasoned with salt” - Colossians 4:6.
 - E. His manner of life will “be worthy of the gospel” - Philippians 1:27.
 - F. Toward all he will reflect agape love, i.e. an unconquerable benevolence that seeks the good of others.
 - 1. This is true regardless of how he is treated by others.
 - G. His moral life will exhibit purity and allegiance to Jesus’ standards.
 - 1. The Roman governor Pliny wrote to emperor Trajan of his Christian subjects, “They are accustomed to bind themselves by an oath to commit neither theft, nor robbery, nor adultery, never to break their word, never to deny a pledge that has been made when summoned to answer for it.”
 - 2. The world will have little use for Christianity until it produces the best people of society.
 - A. A good minister will be the best citizen in his community.
- 9. A GOOD MINISTER GIVES HEED TO READING, EXHORTING AND TEACHING:**
- A. 1 Timothy 4:13.
 - B. Paul has reference here to the public teaching of the church.
 - 1. Scripture should be publicly read as in the synagogue.
 - 2. Men should be exhorted to obey its precepts, and doctrines should be taught and explained.

- C. A good minister will never scrimp on the amount of scripture used in his lessons.
 - 1. Good sermons don't just happen; rather they are the result of giving much heed.

10. A GOOD MINISTER DOES NOT NEGLECT HIS GIFTS:

- A. 1 Timothy 4:14.
- B. At the time Paul wrote these words there were two kinds of gifts:
 - 1. Natural
 - 2. Supernatural
- C. Today the good minister is careful to not neglect his common gifts from God.
 - 1. The gifts relate to such things as his service, teaching, and exhortation - Romans 12:6-8.
 - A. Talents taken for granted wither and die.

11. THE GOOD MINISTER EARNESTLY AND DILIGENTLY GIVES HIMSELF WHOLLY TO HIS WORK:

- A. 1 Timothy 4:15.
- B. A good minister has one grand aim in living - preaching the gospel!
 - 1. Any less commitment results in mediocrity.
- C. In 1 Kings 20:35-40, we read of a "servant who was busy here and there" and allowed his prisoners to escape.
 - 1. Many preachers have failed in their responsibility to God because they have been too busy "here and there" with trivial matters.
 - 2. Good preachers cannot be the errand boys and maintenance men of the congregation.

12. THE GOOD MINISTER'S PROGRESS IS EVIDENT TO ALL:

- A. 1 Timothy 4:15.
- B. Preachers must grow or they will fossilize.
 - 1. A congregation will outgrow a static preacher.
- C. If a preacher, on the other hand, continually grows in his knowledge and ability, the congregation must be willing to cooperate by helping him do so.

13. THE GOOD MINISTER TAKES HEED TO HIMSELF AND HIS TEACHING:

- A. 1 Timothy 4:16.
- B. Self examination and approval are essential to faithful service – 2 Corinthians 13:5.

14. THE GOOD MINISTER SAVES SOULS FOR THE LORD:

- A. 1 Timothy 4:16.
- B. Everything the preacher does looks to one thing.
 - 1. Are souls being brought to salvation?
 - A. Without this, nothing else matters.
- C. Great speaking power, knowledge of Bible languages, and other such things are but sounding brass and clanging cymbals if in the end no sinners are brought to repentance.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. May God help every preacher to be a good minister in your sight, and help every Christian to encourage him to that end.

THE RIGHT ATTITUDE OF THE PREACHER TOWARD HIS WORK

INTRODUCTION:

1. We will seek to learn from Paul's attitude toward his work as revealed in 2 Corinthians.
 - A. We will seek to look at the heart of this great apostle as seen in this book.
 - B. We see his motives, his anguish, his joys, his fears, his hopes, his wounded feelings, and his great love.
 1. All of these things relate to his life as a preacher.
2. In this lesson we will concentrate on the spirit and attitude of Paul toward his work and, therefore, see what our spirit and attitude should be.
3. Class assignment - Read 2 Corinthians.
 - A. Note:
 1. The place Paul gives to God in everything.
 2. Paul's spirit toward his work.
 3. Paul's attitude toward them with whom he works.

BODY:

1. INTRODUCTION - 2 CORINTHIANS:

- A. The salutation and thanksgiving - 1:1-11.
 1. Thanksgiving for comfort - 3-7.
 2. Thanksgiving for deliverance - 8-11.
- B. The explanation - 1:12-2:11.
 1. The changed plan - 1:12-22.
 2. The delayed visit - 1:23-2:4.
 3. The penitent offender - 2:5-11.

2. PAUL'S PRINCIPLES OF ACTION - 2:12-7:16.

- A. The nature of Paul's ministry - 2:12-6:10.
 1. Triumphant - 2:12-17.
 - A. Paul is a part of God's procession.
 2. Accredited - 3:1-3.
 - A. Best credentials of the preacher are found in the lives and characters of the people he serves.
 - B. They prove the quality of his work.
 3. Glorious - 3:4-18.
 - A. Here Paul describes his ministry.
 - B. Does so by comparing it with the ministry of Moses, by comparing the gospel with the Law.
 4. Honest - 4:1-6.
 - A. Paul accused of dishonesty.
 1. Reminds the preacher that he, too, will be accused.
 - B. Paul refutes the charge.
 5. Suffering - 4:7-18.
 - A. Paul turns from the glory of his ministry to the suffering of it.

1. Note that the sufferings are sustained by the hope of glory.
 - A. As preachers we need to learn from this.
6. Hopeful - 5:1-10.
 - A. Glorious - suffering - hopeful.
 1. The hope looks to the resurrection and eternal life.
 - B. Preachers need to remember that not all of their reward for their service comes in this life.
7. Devoted - 5:11-17.
 - A. Paul reaches the highest point of his defense.
 1. He discloses the secret of his life - "The love of Christ constraineth me."
 2. Not Paul's love for Christ, but Christ's love for Paul.
 3. Resulted in him being a new creature - v. 17.
8. Reconciling - 5:18-21.
 - A. There is no place for self-confidence or boasting on the part of a minister.
 1. His message is one of reconciliation - and that of God.
9. Approved - 6:1-10.
 - A. Paul shows that his experiences served to vindicate his claims of being genuine.
- B. The appeal - 6:11-7:4.
 1. For sympathy - 6:11-13.
 - A. Much depends on the preacher having the confidence and love of the church.
 1. Paul had established these.
 2. For separation - 6:14-7:1.
 - A. Paul stresses a moral and spiritual separation from the world.
- C. The assurance - 7:5-16.
 1. Of comfort - 7:5-12.
 - A. Here Paul continues the narrative of what befell him in Macedonia, where he met Titus and received the favorable news from Corinth.
 2. Of confidence - 7:13-16.
- 3. PAUL AND CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS - CHAPTERS 8, 9.**
 - A. The example - 8:1-6.
 1. Liberality is the term, which states the theme of the 8th and 9th chapters.
 - B. The exhortation - 8:7-15.
 - C. The messengers - 8:16-9:5.
 1. Here we see Paul's care in "taking thought for things honorable."
 2. This is an example that every preacher should follow.
 - D. The encouragement - 9:6-15.
 1. Carefully consider the place given to God by the apostle in this text.
- 4. PAUL'S DEFENSE OF HIS APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY - CHAPTERS 10-13.**
 - A. The divine power - chapter 10.
 1. Its exercise - 10:1-11.
 - A. False teachers had accused Paul:

1. Of cowardly weakness and lack of effectiveness.
 2. Of not possessing a full knowledge of Christ.
 3. Of accepting no salary because he was aware he was an impostor.
- B. Paul answers these charges in order:
1. He claims divine power, which he will exercise if needed - chapter 10.
 2. He defends the pure gospel - 11:1-6.
 3. He gives his reasons for not accepting a salary for his labors - 11:7-15.
2. Its measure - 10:12-18.
- B. The godly jealousy - 11:1-15.
1. Of false teaching - 11:1-15.
 2. Of feigned generosity - 11:7-15.
- C. The enforced boasting - 11:16-12:10.
1. The necessity - 11:16-21.
 2. The grounds - 11:22-12:10.
- D. The signs of an apostle - 12:11-18.
- E. The final warnings and conclusion - 12:19-13:14.

CONCLUSION:

1. From what we see in 2 Corinthians we are able to understand the type of attitude that the preacher must have toward his work in order to be successful.

THE PREACHER MUST LOVE

INTRODUCTION:

1. Since Christ dwells in our hearts by faith we should be "rooted and grounded in love" - Ephesians 3:17.
 - A. We should walk in love and speak the truth in love - Ephesians 5:2; 4:15.
 1. Our love should be genuine or sincere - Romans 12:9.
 - A. Not put on or fake.

BODY:

1. WE MUST LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD - Luke 10:25-28.

- A. But why?
 1. Because He first loved us - 1 John 4:19.
 2. Because all things will then work together for our good - Romans 8:28.
 3. Because God has prepared many wonderful things for those who love Him - 1 Corinthians 2:9-10.
- B. God has prepared a kingdom for us to inherit - Matthew 25:34.
 1. The mysteries of this kingdom have been revealed - Matthew 13:11.
 - A. The one body or church on earth is that kingdom - Matthew 16:18, 19.
- C. We who love God are chosen heirs of this kingdom - James 2:5.
 1. What a blessing...for many are called, but few are chosen - Matthew 22:14.
 - A. ..."if any man loves God the same is known of Him" - 1 Corinthians 8:3.
 - B. ..."the Lord knows them that are his" - 2 Timothy 2:19.
- D. God has promised a "crown of life" to them that love Him - James 1:12.
 1. But we must depart from iniquity and be faithful unto death to receive that crown - Revelation 2:10.
- E. We should also love the Lord our God for a negative reason...
 - A. The Holy Spirit says, "if any man love not the Lord..."
 1. He will be accursed when the Lord comes - 1 Corinthians 16:22.
- F. The next question is how do we love Him?
 1. The answer is simple but profound.
 - A. We love Him by keeping His Word - John 14:15, 21-24.
 - B. We perfect or make our love complete by keeping His Word - 1 John 2:5.
 - C. Jude commands us to keep ourselves in the love of God - Jude 21.
 - D. "This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments..." - 1 John 5:3.

2. WE MUST LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR - Romans 13:8-10.

- A. Who is our neighbor?
 1. Jesus taught that our neighbor is anyone upon whom we show mercy - Luke 10:36, 37.
- B. Why should we love our neighbor?
 1. To fulfill the royal law - James 2:8, 9.
- C. How are we to love our neighbor?
 1. By seeking the best for him (AGAPE) - Matthew 5:43-47.

3. WE MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER - John 13:34.

A. Why?

1. So that the world will know we are Christ's disciples - John 13:35.
2. God teaches us to love one another - 1 Thessalonians 4:9, and our love will fulfill the law - Romans 13:8.
3. The Apostle of Love gives us many more reasons why we should love one another.

A. See 1 John 2:10, 11; 3:10, 14, 15; 4:7-12, 20, 21.

B. How do we love one another?

1. We know we are to love each other as Jesus loved us - John 13:34.
2. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" - John 15:13.
3. Peter tells us to "love as brethren" - 1 Peter 3:8, 9.
4. Brethren should be "kindly affectioned one to another, in honor preferring one another" - Romans 12:10.
 - A. We should forbear or put up with one another in love - Ephesians 4:1-3.
 1. To do this we must "love one another with a pure heart fervently" - 1 Peter 1:22.
 5. Our love should cause us to "serve one another" - Galatians 5:13; 1 John 3:16-18.

3. WE SHOULD NOT LOVE...

A. The World - 1 John 2:15-17.

B. Money - 1 Timothy 6:10.

C. Self, pleasures, father, mother, son or daughter more than we love God - 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Matthew 10:37.

D. Lies - Revelation 22:15.

CONCLUSION:

1. As gospel preachers it is imperative that we practice the type of love, which we have just seen.

THE PREACHER AS AN EXAMPLE

INTRODUCTION:

1. It is important for the preacher to understand his role as an example.
 - A. In our lesson today we want to use a preacher as an example to us on how to be an example.
2. Paul as a preacher.
 - A. While Paul was going to Jerusalem to conclude his 3rd missionary trip he docked his ship at Miletus and sent for the elders.
 1. In Acts 20:18-38 we see a record of his address to them.
 - B. There are many things in this text that are worthy of emphasis as we seek to learn to be the kind of example God desires of us as preachers.

BODY:

1. PAUL WAS AN EXAMPLE AS A CONSISTENT PREACHER - v. 18

- A. This is seen in every aspect of his life.
 1. In his doctrine - 1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:1, 2.
 2. In his demeanor - no outbreaks of pride, selfishness, covetousness, dishonesty.
- B. Inconsistency is a blight on the church generally.
 1. But it is especially harmful in preachers.
 - A. Not only do we have “hot” and “cold” church members, but preachers also.
 - B. Preachers must be “all the time” servants of Christ.
 - C. We must live by the message we preach.

2. PAUL WAS AN EXAMPLE OF A HUMBLE PREACHER - v. 19

- A. He could have boasted of his record of work and accomplishments.
 1. When he found it necessary to defend himself by mentioning some of these things, none would dare call it boasting.
 - A. In Galatians 6:14 he wrote that his “glory” was in the cross.
 - B. In Philippians 1:21 he wrote that for him to live was Christ.
 2. The lowliness and meekness of Paul are seen on every page he wrote and word he spoke.
- B. We need to remember and apply to ourselves the words he so often applied to himself - “servant,” - Romans 1:1; 1 Corinthians 9:19; Galatians 1:10; Titus 1:1 - “minister” - Romans 15:16, 25; Ephesians 3:7; Colossians 1:23, 25.
 1. Few things are more unbecoming to a preacher than pride, arrogance, and egotism.

3. PAUL WAS AN EXAMPLE AS A SINCERE PREACHER - vrs. 19, 31

- A. Paul’s tears and sufferings were evidence of his sincerity.
 1. Men shed tears only over things that interest them deeply.
 2. Men suffer only for the sake of those things in which they are genuinely interested.
- B. How long has it been since we shed tears over some lost soul, over a brother or sister who has fallen away?

- C. How long has it been since we suffered anything for the sake of the Lord and His Truth?
 - 1. As preachers we must suffer some measure of persecution if we are unfailingly faithful - 2 Timothy 3:12.
 - 2. Preachers are usually made to suffer more than others, because they are in the forefront of the fight.
 - 3. When we suffer for the sake of the Truth, let us remember that we have not begun to suffer like the Lord, Stephen, Paul, or many others.
- D. Suffering has a way of separating the sincere from the insincere.
 - 1. Insincere preachers do not usually last very long.
- 4. PAUL WAS AN EXAMPLE OF A BOLD AND COURAGEOUS PREACHER - vrs. 20, 27**
 - A. Paul played no favorites, held back nothing, preached the Word “in season, out of season” - 2 Timothy 4:2.
 - 1. He preached no error, which must be true of all who would please God, but this is not enough.
 - 2. He preached all of the Truth, which goes beyond preaching no error.
 - 3. He was not interested in winning popularity contests - Galatians 1:10.
 - 4. It takes a special kind of courage to preach the Truth, when you know it will bring suffering on you and your family.
 - A. It can also alienate friends or family.
 - B. But this is what Paul did.
 - B. The source of Paul’s courage must be ours - Romans 8:13; Philippians 4:13; 2 Timothy 1:7.
 - C. Far too many preachers today preach what people want to hear so they can keep their jobs.
 - 1. Instead they need to be boldly preaching the “whole counsel of God” - Acts 20:27.
- 5. PAUL WAS AN EXAMPLE OF A ZEALOUS PREACHER - vrs. 20, 31**
 - A. He preached publicly and privately.
 - 1. He felt a great debt to the lost - Romans 1:14, 15; 1 Corinthians 9:16.
 - 2. The love of Christ constrained him - 2 Corinthians 5:14.
 - 3. He never let up - Philippians 3:13, 14; 1 Corinthians 15:58.
 - 4. He ever had the burden of souls upon his heart.
- 6. PAUL WAS AN EXAMPLE OF BEING A GENEROUS, UNSELFISH, HARD-WORKING PREACHER - vrs. 33-35**
 - A. He worked to support himself while at Ephesus, kept himself from desiring the riches of others, and helped others with what he earned.
 - 1. He did not preach for the money as a hireling.
 - 2. He supported himself and his companions so he could keep preaching.
 - 3. He was not obligated to do so, but he chose to support himself under certain circumstances.
 - A. He did argue that the church had the obligation to support the preacher - 1 Corinthians 9:4-14; Galatians 6:6.

- B. The Lord needs men of these traits for his preacher in every age.
 - 1. Men who are of the character of Paul will preach even if they have to support themselves.
- C. As preachers we need to remember that wealth is a means, not an end.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. These are just some of the things that we learn about Paul as a preacher.
 - A. They help us to see how he was able to accomplish so much.
 - B. They help us to see what God wants in His preachers today.

THE WORK OF THE EVANGELIST

INTRODUCTION:

1. Average member of the church has no idea as to what the work of the evangelist is.
 - A. Normal idea held by most not found within the Scriptures.
2. Preachers are judged by what they do worst on our list of expectations of what constitutes the perfect preacher.
3. Due to the problems associated with preaching few are preparing themselves to become preachers.

BODY:

1. WORD STUDY:

- A. Three words found in the Bible, which refer to the preacher.
 1. Evangelist, Minister, Preacher
- B. Evangelist – Euaggelistes.
 1. Refers to one who is “...a bringer of good tidings...” - Thayer’s Greek English Lexicon. p. 257.
 2. “...whose work was not confined to a particular church” - Word Studies In The N.T., Vol. 4, pp. 321, 322.
 - A. Acts 21:8; Ephesians 4:11; 2 Timothy 4:5
- C. Minister – Diakonos.
 1. Word refers to “...a servant, attendant, minister, deacon” - Vines Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words, p. 754.
 2. Mark 10:43; Romans 13:4 (twice); 15:8; 1 Corinthians 3:5; 2 Corinthians 3:6; 6:4; 11:15 (twice); Galatians 2:17; Ephesians 6:21; Colossians 1:7, 23, 25; 4:7; 1 Thessalonians 3:2; 1 Timothy 4:6.
- D. Preacher – Kerux.
 1. “A herald, is used (a) of the preacher of the gospel, 1 Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:11” - Vines, p. 884.
 2. Has a close association to the Greek word Kerusso which, “signifies (a) to be a herald, or, in general, to proclaim (b) to preach the gospel as a herald (c) to preach the word” - Vines, p. 883.
 3. Word used extensively in the N.T.

2. QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. All should be aware of the qualifications given in the New Testament for elders and deacons.
 1. However, they are not aware that there are qualifications given in regard to the evangelist.
- B. Qualifications (Will briefly mention here, and consider more fully in a later lesson):
 1. Diligent.
 - A. The work of the evangelist is not the place for a lazy man - 1 Timothy 4:15; 2 Timothy 2:15.
 2. An Example.

- A. Paul lists several areas where the evangelist is to set a good example.
- B. 1 Timothy 4:12
 - 1. Word.
 - 2. Conversation.
 - 3. Charity (Love).
 - 4. In spirit.
 - 5. Purity - 1 Timothy 5:22.
- 3. Take heed to himself.
 - A. 1 Timothy 4:16.
 - 1. Means to “fasten your attention on” - Word Studies, Vol. 4, p. 254.
- 4. Take heed to his teaching.
 - A. 1 Timothy 4:16.

3. WORK OF THE EVANGELIST:

- A. Paul charged Timothy to do the work of the evangelist - 2 Timothy 4:5.
 - 1. Primary work of the preacher is to preach - 2 Timothy 4:1, 2.
 - 2. In his preaching he has been charged (commanded) to reprove, rebuke, and exhort.
 - A. A preacher who will not do so is not God’s preacher!
 - B. Has allowed himself to be added to the number of “ear ticklers.” - 2 Timothy 4:3.
 - C. Word “reprove” means to convict of error.
 - D. Word “rebuke” implies a sharp, severe rebuke.
 - C. “Exhort” conveys idea of “beseeching.”
- 3. He is to warn against apostasy - 1 Timothy 4:1-6.
- 4. He must be willing to defend the truth - 1 Timothy 1:3.
 - A. To do this he must be a student of the Word - 2 Timothy 2:15.
- 5. He must be active in evangelism - Romans 10:14.
- 6. He has the responsibility of rebuking elders who sin - 1 Timothy 5:17-20.
- 7. He has the responsibility of confirming the church - 1 Timothy 4:6.
- 8. He recruits and trains workers - 2 Timothy 2:2.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. God’s concept of the work of the evangelist is different than man’s.
 - A. His concept will not change.
 - B. We must change to match His.

THE PREACHER'S PRAYER LIFE

INTRODUCTION:

1. One of the great privileges and joys of the Christian life is prayer - 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18.
2. As preachers we should always remember that it is a great privilege to be invited to, "Draw nigh unto God" - James 4:8.
3. Even Esther was not permitted entrance into the King's throne room without a personal invitation - Esther 4:11.
4. The fact that we are preachers does not mean that we don't need to be reminded to pray.
5. Often times things "get in our way" when it comes to prayer.
 - A. One preacher said he doesn't believe God answers all of our prayers because of the horrible things he sees happening in the world
 - B. Time constraints.
6. Since Christ is our model, He is the one who sets the example for the Christian's prayer life.

BODY:

1. CHRIST PRAYED WITHOUT CEASING:

- A. The fact that Christ prayed often shows the need for Christians to pray.
 1. At the beginning of his public ministry and baptism - Luke 3:21.
 2. Before making the important decision of selecting his Twelve Apostles - Luke 6:12.
 3. He prayed at night - Luke 6:12.
 4. He prayed in the morning--a good time to pray free from distractions and starts the day right - Mark 1:35.
 5. He prayed alone - Matthew 14:23.
 6. He prayed when with his friends - John 17:1.
 7. Christ prayed when breaking bread - Mark 8:6.
 8. His prayers were often short and to the point (i.e. the prayers on the cross).
 - A. With the preacher's busy schedule we would do well to learn to pray as the need arises.
 9. He prayed in times of deep sorrow - Matthew 26:36-44.
 10. He prayed recognizing the wisdom of the will of God - Luke 22:42.
 11. He prayed to the end: on the cross - Luke 23:34; 23:46.
 12. Surely no prayer-less person can be a follower of him who prayed so much.

2. THE EARLY CHURCH WAS STRONG IN PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING:

- A. They prayed in worship - Acts 2:42.
- B. They prayed for those in danger - Acts 12:5.
- C. The early churches were admonished to pray.
 1. Rome - Romans 12:12.
 2. Corinth - 1 Corinthians 7:5.
 3. Ephesus - Ephesians 6:18.

4. Philippi - Philippians 4:6.
5. Colossae - Colossians 4:2.
6. Thessalonica - 1 Thessalonians 5:17.
- D. These passages connect prayer and thanksgiving together - James 1:17.
 1. To receive God's blessings and not thank Him is like the hogs that eat the acorns that fall without looking up.
- 3. GOD'S PROMISE TO ANSWER PRAYERS IS CONDITIONAL:**
 - A. Be righteous - 1 Peter 3:12.
 - B. Be obedient - 1 John 3:22.
 - C. Pray in faith - Matthew 21:22.
 - D. Have a forgiving spirit - Matthew 6:15.
 - E. Abide in Christ - John 15:7.
 - F. Have the right motive in praying - James 4:3.
 - G. Pray in harmony with God's will - 1 John 5:14.
 - H. Pray in Jesus Name - John 14:13.
 - I. In any posture:
 1. Standing - 1 Kings 8:22.
 2. Bowing down - Psalms 95:6.
 3. Falling on face - Matthew 26:39.
 4. Kneeling - Acts 20:36.
 5. Lifting up hands - 1 Timothy 2:8.
- 4. THINGS FOR WHICH TO PRAY:**
 - A. Forgiveness of sins - Acts 8:22.
 - B. For help in time of temptation - Matthew 6:13.
 - C. Deliverance from the evil one - Matthew 6:13.
 - D. For daily necessities - Matthew 6:11.
 - E. For earthly rulers - 1 Timothy 2:1, 2.
 - F. For the sick - James 5:14.
 - G. For enemies - Matthew 5:44.
 - H. For preachers and for the Lord's word to be glorified - 2 Thessalonians 3:1.
 - I. For laborers to enter the harvest - Matthew 9:38.
 - J. For the children of God - Philippians 1:9-11.
 - K. For God's will to be done - Matthew 6:10.
 - L. We should not pray for God's Kingdom to come - Matthew 6:10.
 1. It has come already - Colossians 1:13.
 2. But pray for it to increase.

CONCLUSION:

1. Prayer is not only an expression of our needs to God, but it is a high and beautiful humble expression to God, to show our dependence upon our God at all times.

THE PREACHER AND THE SERMON

INTRODUCTION:

1. We have noted that the primary work of the preacher is to preach.
 - A. In order to do this successfully, one must know something about what is involved in such.

BODY:

1. PREACHING - WHAT IS IT?:

- A. From Greek word “kerusso” meaning “...used of the public proclamation of the gospel and matters pertaining to it...2 Tim. 4:2” - Thayer, p. 346.
 1. “...to preach the gospel as a herald, e.g.....Acts 8:5; Rom. 10:15...to preach the word, 2 Tim. 4:2...” Vines, p. 883.
- B. The matter of preaching - “Divine Truth” - preaching must be the proclamation enforcement of divine truth - 2 Timothy 4:1, 2.
- C. The manner of which the communication is made - it is spoken.
 1. Demands a speaker and an audience.
 - A. As to the speaker:
 1. He should “contend earnestly for the truth” - Jude 3.
 2. He should “reprove, rebuke, exhort” - 2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Timothy 5:20, 21.
 3. He must be “gentle, not strive...” - 2 Timothy 2:24-26.
 - B. As to the “audience”:
 1. Must be kept in view while sermon is being prepared.
 - A. Is “audience” composed of faithful Christians, of fallen children of God, alien sinners, or all three?
 2. Must be respected - do not lay all the blame on it when it is dull, listless, not interested.
- D. The purpose of preaching.
 1. To instruct and persuade - Acts 17:2, 3; 18:4, 19; 19:8; 2 Corinthians 5:11.
 2. That men may be saved - 1 Timothy 2:3-5.
- E. The place of preaching.
 1. Christ’s final commission to His disciples was to preach - Mark 16:15.
 2. Paul felt it imperative - 1 Corinthians 9:16, 17.
 3. Paul gave the charge to Timothy to preach - 2 Timothy 4:2.

2. THE SERMON:

- A. Three principle kinds of pulpit address:
 1. Familiar discourse or homily - Acts 20:11.
 2. Rhetorical discourse, a more formal impassioned declaration of God’s will - Mark 16:15; Acts 2:14-36; 17:22-31.
 3. The argumentative, “reasoning” discourse, as delivered by Paul before Felix - Acts 24:25.
- B. Three principle kinds of sermons:
 1. Textual.

- 2. Expository.
- 3. Subjects.
- C. Three classifications of subjects:
 - 1. Doctrinal subjects.
 - 2. Subjects of morality.
 - 3. Historical subjects, including biographical.
- 3. THE SUBJECT:**
 - A. The subject itself.
 - 1. Relation of subject and text.
 - 2. Statement of the subject.
 - A. There should be unity of the subject.
 - B. It should declare what the sermon will pertain to.
 - 3. Title and proposition.
 - A. Principle function of the title is to attract and interest audience.
 - B. The proposition is a statement of the subject as the preacher proposes to develop it.
 - 4. The proposition - some points to remember.
 - A. Should form one complete sentence or thought.
 - B. Relates to the desired end of the sermon.
 - 5. Two principles of limitation:
 - A. The object or purpose of preaching is life.
 - B. The content of preaching is truth.
 - B. The classification of subjects:
 - 1. Doctrinal subjects.
 - A. Types of doctrinal sermons - doctrine of sin, justification, faith and obedience, etc.
 - 2. Morality subjects.
 - A. Moral principles and lessons for the converted, but with application to the unsaved as it instructs in what God expects.
 - 3. Historical and biographical subjects.
- 4. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SERMON:**
 - A. Gathering materials.
 - 1. Sources of materials:
 - A. The Scriptures should be first.
 - 1. One older preacher when asked what he did when he first began to think of a sermon replied, "Read the text."
 - 2. When asked what he did second, he replied, "Read the text."
 - 3. The same reply when asked what he did third.
 - A. His point, be familiar with the text that you intend to preach from.
 - B. Related books.
 - C. Publications, articles, etc.
 - 2. Inventive power.
 - A. Grow sermons - do not drain your reserve.
 - 3. The question of originality.

- A. Regardless of where one gets their outlines, there will still be some sense of originality associated with the sermon.
 - 1. The only way to avoid this is to simply develop your own.
 - 4. Plagiarism and borrowing.
 - A. One may borrow outlines, thoughts, etc.
 - B. When you copy another's outline, without giving proper credit, and call it your own you have plagiarized the outline.
- B. Keeping and filing notes.
 - 1. Keep notes.
 - 2. Develop a good filing system.
 - A. File away clippings that may come in handy later.
 - B. Keep sermon outlines, indicate when and where used.
- C. The arrangement of the sermon and notes.
 - 1. Introduction.
 - A. Be brief.
 - B. Get to the point.
 - 2. The body.
 - A. Develop several points, from two to five.
 - B. Develop each point logically, fitting each to the other points.
 - C. Use Scriptures to express thoughts.
 - D. Keep in mind - you are preaching the gospel, not sermons.
 - 3. Conclusion.
 - A. Summary, or an appeal to action.
 - B. Remember the conclusion is important.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. If you expect people to return to hear you preach you must make your lessons interesting, informative, and exciting.
 - A. Dull sermons put people to sleep and they will soon just stay home to do so.

THE PREACHER, PREACHING TO PLEASE GOD

INTRODUCTION:

1. In Galatians 1:10 Paul asks a question that should be asked by all Christians, and especially preachers - "...do I seek to please men?..."
 - A. His comments were in conjunction with what he had just said in verses 6-9.
 1. If one seeks to please men, they do not please God.
 2. If one seeks to please God, they do not please men.
 - A. God must come first - Matthew 6:24, 33.
2. The early Christians had "favor with all the people," but when there was a conflict they sought to please God - Acts 2:47; 4:19; 5:29.
 - A. As preachers today we must seek to be as these brethren were.

BODY:

1. WHAT COULD ONE PREACH, AND PLEASE MEN?:

- A. Could not preach there is a God - Genesis 1:1.
 1. Would offend the Atheist.
- B. Could not preach that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God - Matthew 3:17; 17:5.
 1. Would offend the Jew.
- C. Could not preach that the Bible is the Word of God - 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.
 1. Would offend the liberal, the modernist.
- D. Could not preach about creation - Genesis 1.
 1. Would offend the evolutionist.
- E. Could not preach about the miracles of the Bible - John 20:30, 31.
 1. Would offend the modernist.
- F. Could not preach on sin - Romans 6:23.
 1. Would offend the humanist, as he declares that sin does not exist.
- G. Could not preach the plan of salvation - Hebrews 11:6; Acts 17:30; Acts 8:37; Acts 22:16.
 1. Would offend the denominationalist.
- H. Could not preach the N.T. teaching on worship relative to singing and the Lord's Supper - Ephesians 5:19; 1 Corinthians 11:24-29.
 1. Would offend those who do not like these teachings.
- I. Could not preach the N.T. teaching on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage - Matthew 19:1-9.
 1. Would offend those in unscriptural marriages.
- J. Could not preach on morality - Galatians 5:19-21.
 1. Would offend those who are immoral.

2. GOSPEL PREACHERS CANNOT BE NEUTRAL:

- A. Moses asked the question, "Who is on the Lord's side?" - Exodus 32:26.
- B. Balaam wanted to compromise - Numbers 23:12, 25.
 1. We are warned lest we be guilty - Jude 11.
- C. Some want to "straddle the fence."
 1. Cannot be done - Matthew 12:30.

- D. Pilate is an example of moral cowardice - Matthew 27:24.
 - 1. He knew Jesus was innocent - but he wanted to please the people.
 - 2. There are many "Pilates" in the world today.
 - A. There are many in the Lord's church.
- E. When truth prevails - many will say, "We did it! We are victorious."
 - 1. The facts are, though, they had little or nothing to do with the victory.

3. PROPHETS OF OLD:

- A. Men who spoke God's message.
 - 1. They did so without fear or favor.
- B. When one speaks fearlessly today many are told:
 - 1. "That is so unloving."
 - 2. "That is negative preaching, and I like positive preaching."
 - 3. "There is just not enough balance in preaching today."
- C. Keep in mind 2 Timothy 4:2 regardless of what others may say.

4. JESUS, AN EXAMPLE OF FEARLESS PREACHING:

- A. People today say:
 - 1. "Just go along to get along."
 - 2. "Whatever you do, no not rock the boat."
 - 3. "You keep preaching like that, and soon you will not have anyone to preach to."
- B. What about Jesus?
 - 1. Note his reaction to the religious leaders of his day - Matthew 15.
 - 2. The rich young ruler - Matthew 19:16-22; Mark 10:17-22; Luke 18:18-27.
 - A. Jesus did not call him back and offer other terms.
 - 3. John 6:60-66 - many left, never to return.
 - A. Did Jesus say, "Please come back, I didn't really mean it?"
 - 1. Did he love all these people? - Yes!
 - 2. Would he compromise? - No!
 - 4. Matthew 23 - "the chapter of woes."
 - A. Note what all he called the people.
 - B. Do you think they liked it?
 - C. But, was he telling them the truth?

CONCLUSION:

- 1. The church needs men who will stand up and speak out for the truth.
 - A. Truth is what saves - John 8:32.
 - B. Truth is what purifies the soul - 1 Peter 1:22.
- 2. We need to preach the word "in season, out of season."
 - A. The idea is, when they like it and when they don't.

THE PREACHER IN SUFFERING AND PERSEVERANCE

INTRODUCTION:

1. In so far as suffering is concerned man has faced it since the days of Adam - Genesis 3:17.
 - A. Suffering would be defined as: the process of undergoing physical or mental pain, anguish, agony, of body or mind.
 - B. Perseverance is defined as: steadfastness with determination, diligence, and patience; with the object of completing a task; overcoming a difficulty or opposition.
2. As Christians we find comfort in our trials through the Scripture, which gives us strength to persevere - Romans 15:4.
3. There are many Bible examples of men suffering and persevering for the Lord.
 - A. Job, the richest man in all the east, suffered and persevered because he trusted in God - Job 13:15.
 - B. Moses suffered affliction rather to enjoy the pleasures of sin - Hebrews 11:24, 25.
 - C. Paul suffered much for his faith - Acts 9:16; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28, Galatians 5:11.
 - D. Peter and other apostles - Acts 5:29, 41
 - E. Christ - Acts 26:23; 1 Peter 4:1.
4. The Bible teaches that those who live godly lives will face persecution - 2 Timothy 3:12.
 - A. If Christ suffered, so must we - John 15:20.
5. It should be understood that suffering occurs because of Satan's opposition to God, jealousy, passion, ignorance, etc.
6. Let us examine 1 Peter 1:6-8.

BODY:

1. THE NATURE OF THESE TRIALS:

- A. Manifold.
 1. The word "manifold" suggests "diversity" rather than the number, although these were many.
 2. God does not solicit man to do evil - James 1:13.
 - A. Therefore, such trials come from other sources.
 3. Often times we bring trials upon ourselves - 1 Peter 4:15.
 - A. There is no virtue in suffering except it is for the right cause.
 4. Some trials may come from one's own household - Luke 12:51-53.
- B. Fiery - 1 Peter 4:12.
 1. This reveals the fierceness of our trials - 1 Peter 5:8.
 2. As fire tests gold - the Christian is tested by trials.
- C. Temporary - 1 Peter 1:6.
 1. Great joy comes from temporary suffering - John 16:21.
 2. Our light afflictions, but for a moment work for us something greater - 2 Corinthians 4:17.

3. The sufferings of this life are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed - Romans 8:18.
- 2. THE PURPOSE OF THESE TRIALS:**
 - A. To try or prove our faith - 1 Peter 1:7.
 1. The word “proof” suggests a trial or test for the purpose of determining the worthiness or character of that tested.
 - A. The goldsmith puts gold in the fire to skim out the impurities and determine the quality of the gold.
 - B. The faith of Abraham was tried by the offering of Isaac - Genesis 22:1-14.
 - C. Trials make apparent the quality of our faith.
 2. The proof of our faith is more precious than gold that perishes.
 - A. Gold may be tried by fire, but it still belongs to perishing things.
 - B. Faith is something that abides forever - 1 Corinthians 13:13.
 - B. The purpose for which this test is run is that our faith “might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ” - 1 Peter 1:7.
 1. “Praise” - benedictions of approval - Matthew 25:34.
 2. “Honour” - robe, crown, and palm.
 3. “Glory” - that which Christ possessed before the world was - John 17:24.
 4. All this will be received when Christ comes again - 2 Timothy 4:6-8.
- 3. THE CHRISTIAN’S ATTITUDE TOWARD THESE TRIALS:**
 - A. 1 Peter 1:8.
 - B. We should rejoice and be exceeding glad - Matthew 5:10-12.
 1. The prophets were persecuted in the same way.
 2. Brethren throughout the world endure the same - 1 Peter 5:9, 10.
 3. Apostles rejoiced because they were counted worthy to suffer - Acts 5:41.
 - C. Realize it is given us to suffer for Christ - Philippians 1:29.
 1. Endure patiently - 1 Peter 2:19, 20.
 2. Remember what it works for us - Romans 8:17, 18.
- 4. EXAMPLES OF BLESSINGS RESULTING FROM PATIENCE:**
 - A. Joseph saved a nation through patience - Genesis 37.
 - B. Job received twice as much in the end.
 - C. David learned to keep God’s law - Psalms 119:67, 71.
 - D. The early church grew - Acts 8.
 - E. The gospel was furthered due to Paul’s trial - Philippians 1:12-14.
 - F. Because Christ died, we live.

CONCLUSION:

1. We need to rejoice in our trials.
2. We need the patience to be faithful to the end - Revelation 2:10.

THE PREACHER AND SOME GENERAL CHURCH PROBLEMS

INTRODUCTION:

1. Each preacher should understand that the question of whether there will be problems in the local church is one that needs to be dealt with.
 - A. Actually, it is not a question of “will there be problems,” but, “when will they come.”
 - B. Very few, if any congregations escape problems.

BODY:

1. PROBLEMS OF DISCIPLINE:

- A. Bible principles to be studied and learned:
 1. Teachers of false doctrine - Romans 16:17, 18; 2 John 9-11.
 2. Immorality within the congregation - 1 Corinthians 5.
 - A. The method to be followed - vrs. 3-5, 9-13.
 - B. The purpose is two-fold:
 1. To save the individual - v. 5.
 2. To save the church - v. 6.
 - C. Should he be brought to repentance, receive him back - 2 Corinthians 2:5-11.
 3. A busy-body, or factious individual - 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; Titus 3:10.
 - A. Remember, the purpose of discipline is to save - always!
- B. Other cases that may arise:
 1. Women who would rule the church - 1 Timothy 2:11-15.
 2. Where there are no elders - follow Corinthian letter.
 3. Problems left by a former preacher.
 4. Worldliness in general - preach on it, educate the church - 1 John 2:15-17.
 5. Radicals - how to keep them down? - never let them get up! - 3 John 9-11.

2. COUNSELING:

- A. Young people.
 1. Do not be too anxious to become a counselor - your work is preaching.
 2. When you counsel - always use the Bible.
 - A. Let the instruction come from God's Word.
 3. Educate the church to go to the elders when there are such problems.
- B. Sexual problems.
 1. Let the instruction be based on the Bible.
 2. Help parents to do this teaching themselves.
 - A. Counsel them to counsel their children as they rear them.
 3. Advice about marriage - hold to the Book, let it be your text.
 4. Unhappy married persons - this will be one of your biggest headaches.
 - A. Once again, use the Bible as your guide - Matthew 19:4-9; 1 Corinthians 7.
 - B. Stick to it and insist that others do so.
 1. If they are unwilling to accept what the Bible says, don't waste your

time.

5. Issues dealing with birth-control.

6. Preaching on sex questions.

A. Should you?

B. How?

3. MISCELLANEOUS PROBLEMS:

A. Dealing with issues such as celebrating religious holidays such as “Christmas” - Galatians 4:10, 11.

B. Marriage of non-Christians to Christians - 1 Corinthians 11:39; 2 Corinthians 6:14, 15.

C. Baptism of very young children - Mark 16:16.

D. Baptism of denominational people.

CONCLUSION:

1. Problems will come.

A. How you deal with them will determine the growth of the congregation that you serve.

2. Be sure to answer Bible questions with Bible answers.

A. There is no value in answers that begin with “I think” or “I believe.”

THE PREACHER - HIS LIFE AND PERSONAL PROBLEMS

INTRODUCTION:

1. Quite frequently the preacher creates problems for himself in the local congregation.
 - A. Perhaps he does not do so on purpose, but, nevertheless, he does do so.
2. Each preacher should work diligently to keep from personal problems, as they will hamper his success.

BODY:

1. THE PREACHER'S PERSONAL CHARACTER:

- A. He is to be an example of his teaching in all godly living and faithful service.
 1. His character should be above reproach - 1 Timothy 4:6-16, 20,21; 2 Timothy 2:15-26; 1 Corinthians 9:19-27.
 - A. The preacher and the use of tobacco products - 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 6:19.
 - B. The preacher and entertainment - 1 Corinthians 10:32, 33.
 - C. Attitude toward women in the church - keep above reproach - 1 Timothy 5:1, 2; 1 Corinthians 6:18.
 - D. Manner of dress - modest, neat, clean.
 1. Proper personal cleanliness is important.
 2. His home and family.
 - A. Is it better for the preacher to marry or remain single? - 1 Corinthians 7:7-9.
 - B. If married, what is the relation of his wife to the work? - Genesis 2:18.
 - C. Problem of rearing children properly - Ephesians 6:4.
 - D. The problem of making time for the family.

2. THE PROPER USE OF TIME:

- A. Budget time.
 1. Budget time for study, evangelism, visits with the members, home.
 2. A proper amount of time must be used to have properly prepared lessons that will interest the church, along with serving to build it up.
 - A. Poorly prepared lessons will hurt the preacher and the church.

3. RECREATION AND HEALTH:

- A. Recreation.
 1. Every preacher should have some type of diversion.
 2. Recreation is a problem of the home, not the church.
- B. Health.
 1. The preacher should strive to stay healthy.

4. THE PREACHER AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS:

- A. Preaching on finances.
 1. How can one preach on finances and not leave the impression that he is seeking to better himself?
 - A. Preach what the Book says.
 - B. Carefully study 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9.

- B. Preacher support.
 - 1. Learn the principle of 1 Timothy 6:6-8; 1 Corinthians 9:4-17; Matthew 6:33.
 - 2. The preacher should keep a clean financial record.
 - A. To do other wise will hurt your influence.

5. THE MATTER OF RELOCATING:

- A. How long should a preacher stay in one place?
 - 1. When should he move?
 - A. Paul - three years at Ephesus (Acts 20:31); a year and a half at Corinth (Acts 18:1-11).
 - B. Philip - seeing around 20 years at Caesarea - Acts 8:40; 21:8.
 - C. Luke at Philippi - went there around 51 (Acts 16:11, 12) and remained until around 58 (Acts 20:3, 4), therefore, between six and eight years.
 - D. The length of time should be determined by the work being done, and the general conditions.
 - 1. Don't be ready to leave too soon, neither stay too long.
- B. How to determine where to go?
 - 1. The question of where can one do the most good for the cause of Christ answers that question.
 - A. You need to consider the need, the type of people there, your own capabilities, your family, adaptability, etc.
 - 1. Most of all, though, put the cause of the Lord first.
 - 2. Prayer should be a vital and definite part of the decision.
 - A. "Thy will be done."
- C. Beginning a new work.
 - 1. Visit the members - ask about contacts.
 - 2. Visit leaders.
 - 3. Start house to house visitation, "Hi, I am the new preacher for the church of Christ and I just wanted to stop by and introduce myself and see if there is any way we can be of help to you in better knowing God."
 - 4. Over a period of time develop into a preaching and teaching program.

THE PREACHER AND THE WORLD

INTRODUCTION:

1. Subject of “worldliness” is a widespread cause of confusion in and out of the church.
 - A. Many view it subjectively, and its definition varies from person to person.
2. Conflicting ideas leave many bewildered and confused, especially young people.
 - A. Every Christian must be able to distinguish between worldliness and godliness.
 1. Ignorance of Biblical teaching may result in godly people being accused of wickedness - Matthew 11:19.
 2. May also result in wickedness being paraded as godly - Isaiah 5:20.

BODY:

1. WHY PREACHERS SHOULD BE CONCERNED WITH WORLDLINESS:

- A. In the Bible the “world” does not always refer to that which is evil and to be avoided.
 1. John 3:16 - God so loved the world... (the people of the world)
 2. 1 John 2:15-17 - Love not the world... (the system contrary to God, in voluntary submission to Satan)
 3. John 15:19 - I chose you out of the world...(the system)
 4. John 17:15 - I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world... (the place)
 - A. Disciples are not to follow the ways of the world.
 - B. Disciples must live among the people of the world.
- B. Because God says it is destructive to the soul.
 1. Jesus clearly distinguished his lifestyle from that which was common in the world - John 17:14; Galatians 1:4; James 1:27; 4:4.
 2. We are taught to expect to be and desire to be different from what is common in the world - Romans 12:1, 2; Titus 2:11, 12.
 3. The redeemed are those who have “...escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust” - 2 Peter 1:4.
- C. Because it is of Satan, our destructive adversary (1 Peter 5:8), described as:
 1. The god of this world - 2 Corinthians 4:4.
 2. The deceiver of the whole world - Revelation 12:9.
 3. The prince of this world - John 12:31.
 4. The “evil one” in whom “the whole world lieth” - 1 John 5:19.
- D. Each Christian is subject to attack
 1. Satan desired to sift Peter as wheat - Luke 22:31.
 2. The appeal of the world enticed Demas to forsake his coworkers, and his labor for the Lord - 2 Timothy 4:10.
 3. If we submit ourselves to God, the Devil will flee from us - James 4:7.

2. WORLDLINESS DEFINED IN 1 JOHN 2:15-17:

- A. Love of the world.
 1. Affection for that which is natural above, and of more value than the spiritual.
 2. Preoccupation with ideas, programs, activities, centering around things

- human, which belong to this present world.
 - B. Love of the things of the world.
 - 1. Lust of the flesh - what is done with the body.
 - 2. Lust of the eyes - what is done with the mind, since the eyes are gateways to the mind.
 - 3. Pride of life - what is done with the will, since pride is a sin of the will.
 - C. Consequently, worldliness centers in the body, mind and will of man.
 - 1. Wordiness is more than what one does, it is what one loves.
 - 2. It is anything that one may love, or do, with the body, the mind, or the will, that prevents one from partaking of God's love and doing His will.
 - D. Some examples:
 - 1. Satan tried to tempt Jesus through the flesh, mind and will with offers of wealth, power and glory - Matthew 4:8, 9.
 - A. Jesus resisted and overcame.
 - B. If our most affectionate desires are for wealth, power and fame, are we worldly, or are we godly?
 - 2. When one is obsessed with the cares of this life, is he worldly or godly? - Matthew 6:24-34.
 - 3. Paul was ready to lay down his life, but Demas ran for his - 2 Timothy 4:6-10.
 - A. Which was worldly and which was godly?
 - 4. Those who mind earthly things are worldly - Philippians 3:17-21.
 - A. When we are motivated and governed by self-interest.
 - B. When decisions are made for self-gratification - what's in it for me?
 - 5. Godliness has affections set on things above, and not on things on the earth - Colossians 3:1, 2.
 - E. Lust is involved in worldliness.
 - 1. Lust - Greek - "epithumia" - desire for that which is forbidden - Romans 6:12; 1 Peter 1:14; 2 Peter 2:10.
 - 2. Lust is not appreciation for that which is beautiful, or desire for that which is not forbidden.
 - A. All people have drives and desires, which seek for satisfaction.
 - B. Whether they become lust depends upon whether they are fulfilled by that which is authorized, or by that which is forbidden.
 - 1. Example: all hunger - some fulfill by labor, others by theft.
- 2. HOW TO OVERCOME WORLDLINESS:**
- A. The only way is through Jesus Christ.
 - 1. All things can be done through Christ - Philippians 4:13.
 - 2. He causes us always to triumph - 2 Corinthians 2:14.
 - 3. We are more than conquerors through him - Romans 8:37.
 - 4. Since worldliness centers in body, mind and will, then body, mind and will must be in submission to Christ - Romans 12:1, 2.
 - B. The Word must be laid up in our hearts - Psalms 119:11.
 - 1. "It is written..." was Jesus' greatest weapon against Satan - Matthew 4:4, 7, 10.

- 2. The same powerful Word is at our disposal - Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12.
- C. We must crucify the flesh - Galatians 5:24.
- D. We must walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh - Galatians 5:16.
- E. We must not make provision to fulfill the lust of the flesh - Romans 13:14.
- F. We must realize that no temptation is without a way of escape - 1 Corinthians 10:13.
- G. We must avoid anything that will give occasion to be tempted and drawn away by lust - James 1:14, 15.
 - 1. The places we go.
 - 2. The people we seek for association.
 - 3. The literature, or other information or entertainment, we seek.
 - 4. The conversation we engage in.
 - 5. The things we do with our bodies (i.e. dancing).

CONCLUSION:

- 1. As preachers we must seek to bring forth good things from our hearts - Luke 6:45.
- 2. We must abstain from fleshly lust that war against the soul - 1 Peter 2:11.
- 3. If we would go to heaven, we must be concerned about worldliness.
 - A. We must know what it is.
 - B. We must expect and desire to be different.
 - C. We must preach against it.
- 4. Worldliness lies within the domain of Satan.
 - A. We must take care to not love that which lieth in the evil one.
- 5. We must abstain from every appearance of evil, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lust thereof - 1 Thessalonians 5:22.

THE PREACHER IS A SERVANT, NOT A BOSS!

INTRODUCTION:

1. There are many things that need to be understood by the preacher in regard to his work.
 - A. One of those is knowing that he is not the “boss”, but a servant.
2. A servant is one who performs duties for another.
 - A. The N.T. word “servant” generally indicates bond service; i.e. a servant in bondage as a slave to his Master.
3. Paul served his Master well and his example of service is worthy of our study and emulation.

BODY:

1. WHOM DID PAUL SERVE?

- A. Paul served Christ.
 1. He often referred to himself as “a servant of Jesus Christ” - Romans 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:1.
 2. Other great men of faith referred to themselves as servants - James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Jude 1.
 3. Paul, as with the others, thought it an honor and privilege to be a servant of Christ.
- B. In serving Christ, Paul served his fellowmen - 1 Corinthians 9:19.
 1. He served his fellowman by preaching the gospel - 1 Corinthians 9:16; 2 Corinthians 4:5.
 2. He did not put pleasing men above serving Christ - Galatians 1:10.
- C. He did not serve self or sin - 1 Corinthians 9:27.
 1. He put to death the deeds of the flesh to live and serve in the spirit - Romans 6:3-6; 8:13; 16:18; Colossians 3:1-5.
 2. He had known the cruel taskmaster (sin), and rejoiced to be free from its bondage to serve sin no more - 1 Timothy 1:12-16.

2. HOW DID PAUL SERVE CHRIST?

- A. By faith - 2 Corinthians 4:13.
 1. He kept his eyes fixed upon Christ - Hebrews 12:2.
 2. By exercising faith, he had the strength to serve - Romans 1:16.
 3. Faith made the difference between:
 - A. Courage and compromise.
 - B. Earnestly contending and falling to criticism.
 - C. Enduring in faithful service and giving up - Acts 2:26, 27; 2 Timothy 4:7.
- B. In hope - 2 Corinthians 4:14.
 1. There is no hope in unbelief; thus, no comfort in service and no endurance to serve - Hebrews 11:1; Romans 15:4.
 2. He lived and served “In hope of eternal life...” Titus 1:2.
 3. He had hope to serve in this life and hope of a resurrection - 1 Corinthians 15.
- C. Paul served with love - Galatians 5:13.

1. Love motivated Paul to serve, putting first things first - Matthew 6:33.
- D. Paul served with a right attitude.
 1. Toward his body - 2 Corinthians 4:16.
 2. Toward his burden - 2 Corinthians 4:17.
 3. Toward his blessings - 2 Corinthians 4:18.
- 3. WHY DID PAUL SERVE CHRIST?**
 - A. Because of gratitude.
 1. He knew he had been bought with a price - the blood of Christ - 1 Corinthians 7:23.
 2. He was thankful for this - 1 Timothy 1:12.
 - B. Paul served by choice - Matthew 6:24.
 1. He chose to yield himself to Christ - Romans 6:16-18.
 2. Because of this he would encourage others to follow him - 1 Corinthians 11:1; Phil. 2:7.
 - C. He dared not serve any other.
 1. There is no hope in any other - Ephesians 2:12.
 2. There is no rejoicing in any other - Philippians 4:4.
 3. There is no salvation in any other - Acts 4:12; Ephesians 1:7.

CONCLUSION:

1. There are blessings associated with being a servant - Colossians 3:24; Romans 14:18; John 12:26; Luke 12:37.

THE PREACHER AND HIS FAMILY

INTRODUCTION:

1. It is important for all to understand the role of the preacher's family in connection to the work of the evangelist.
 - A. In many cases preachers are "made" or "broken" by their family.
2. If the preacher, or the local church, thinks that the family of the preacher does not affect the work of the preacher they are sorely mistaken.

BODY:

1. THE PREACHER'S FAMILY AS AN EXAMPLE:

- A. We realize that every Christian is to be an example.
- B. Although there may be no respect of persons with God (Romans 2:11), this is not true with man.
 1. Preachers and their families are often said to live in "glass houses."
 - A. By that it is meant they all see what they do more so than the average Christian.
- C. All eyes are upon the preacher because of the leadership position he holds and his public teaching - Romans 2:21.
- D. The New Testament stresses the kind of families they should have - 1 Timothy 3:4, 5, 12; Titus 1:6.
- E. The preacher can have the attitude that his wife and children are not on the "payroll" of the church, but that won't accomplish much.

2. THE PREACHER'S WIFE:

- A. I want to list a few essentials in the wife of a preacher.
 1. If the wife is deficient in any of these areas she should work on improving them.
- B. She must be a Christian.
 1. If a preacher's wife is not a Christian he will be handicapped severely.
 2. His influence will be affected, and he will be criticized to render him almost useless to the church - 1 Corinthians 9:5.
 - A. Paul's argument here was that if he were married, it should be to a "believer."
 - B. A distinction is being drawn between one in and one out of the church.
 3. As Israel was ordered to marry only within Israel (Nehemiah 13:23-27), Christian men should marry within the church.
 - A. If it were dangerous to the spiritual soundness of Israel to marry into another religion, why would it not be just as dangerous for members of the church to marry into another religion?
- C. The preacher's wife should not be dominating.
 1. When she is it indicates a failure for her to be in subjection to her husband as she should be - Ephesians 5:23.
 2. The dominating wife will soon become an object of criticism, which will affect her husband's work.

- D. She should be careful in her talk.
 - 1. Often times the preacher's wife is too talkative when it comes to talking about church business openly.
- E. She needs to be involved in the work that her husband does.
 - 1. She should take part in visiting.
- F. She needs to be friendly.
 - 1. This shows interest in people.
- 3. THE PREACHER'S CHILDREN:**
 - A. There can often be a great deal of difficulty here.
 - 1. If the preacher is working for the church he is often away from home more than he may like.
 - A. Children need to be taught what and why their fathers are doing.
 - B. The qualifications listed for elders and deacons mention the children - 1 Timothy 3:4, 5, 11, 12.
 - 1. This is due to the leadership role these men hold.
 - 2. It seems to me that there would be an implication here for the preacher's family also, due to his "leadership" role.
 - C. The children need to be taught that what they do affects the work of their father.
 - 1. A child involved in sin will bring down the father's influence.
- 4. THE PREACHER'S OBLIGATION TO HIS FAMILY:**
 - A. The preacher, like all fathers, has a great obligation.
 - 1. He must be involved in bringing his children up in the Lord.
 - 2. He must be an example.
 - 3. He needs to teach his children to love their wives, husbands.
 - 4. He needs to pay attention to the Scriptures - Ephesians 6:4; Hebrews 12:9; Ephesians 5:25, 28, 29; Matthew 7:12.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Any man who wants to preach needs to carefully select a woman who will, indeed, be a helpmeet - Genesis 2:18.

THE PREACHER AND CONDUCTING FUNERALS

Robert Stapleton

INTRODUCTION:

1. Conducting funerals is one part of the work of the preacher that most preachers would prefer not to have to do.
 - A. However, it is inevitable.
 - B. It is also a time when the preacher learns more about serving than any other time.
2. I would recommend each student purchase a copy of the following books:
 - A. Standard Manual for Funeral Occasions by Standard Publishing, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 - B. Christian Minister's Manual, Standard Publishing
 - C. Thoughts for Funeral Sermons, John D. Cox
 - D. Sermons for Funeral Occasions, B.L. Bedwell, Firm Foundation

1. INFORMATION NEEDED FOR OBITUARY/FUNERAL SERMON:

- A. Some times the family will provide a longer obituary than that which is included in the local News Paper.
 1. Other times it may be left up to you.
- B. The following information should be gathered for the obituary:
 1. Name of the deceased or name they prefer to be known by.
 2. Date of birth
 3. Birth place
 4. How many brothers and sisters (if any), their names, and city and state addresses.
 - A. For example, Paul Johns, Bedford, Texas
 5. Did the deceased serve in the Armed Forces or National Service?
 - A. This will be important to know in case there is to be a military salute at the grave site.
 6. Where did the deceased meet their partner and date of marriage?
 7. Names of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
 - A. Here, too, it will be important to gather addresses for the children as per above.
 8. Information about work during his/her life.
 9. Likes and dislikes.
 - A. This can provide you valuable information for the funeral, especially if the deceased had a favorite scripture or hymn.
 10. Hobbies/interests/favorite pastime activities.
 11. Sports - Music - Television Programs.
 12. Qualities - Was he or she kind, loving, caring, generous, strong willed, independent, a private person who kept themselves to themselves, etc.?
 13. Was the person a faithful member of the church?
 - A. If so, when/where were they baptized?
 14. Did they hold any "offices" within the church?

- A. I.e., elder, deacon.
 - B. If so, how long?
- 2. INITIAL CONTACT WITH THE BEREAVED:**
 - A. The initial contact is of utmost importance and should be handled with the greatest of compassion, and should be done as soon as possible.
 - B. Some questions asked by the bereaved:
 - 1. Why has this happened to me?
 - 2. If God loves me, how could He allow this to happen?
 - A. Often something similar to this is asked if the death was especially tragic.
 - 3. What am I supposed to do now?
 - C. Advice to the bereaved:
 - 1. About the funeral home to be contacted:
 - A. Some times this is taken care of ahead of time.
 - B. It may be necessary for you to go to the funeral home with the bereaved.
 - 1. If possible, be the first to greet the family when they arrive at the funeral home.
 - A. A familiar face is so appreciated at this time.
 - C. Remember, it is not your position to make decisions for the family.
 - 1. You are there to provide comfort.
 - 2. Information the funeral director will need:
 - A. Social Security Number of the deceased.
 - B. Medicare number if such applies.
 - C. Burial policy.
 - D. Burial clothes.
 - E. Full name of the deceased.
 - F. Age – years, months, and days of the deceased.
 - G. Resident address.
 - H. Date of death – month, day, year, and time.
 - I. If deceased was ill, how long?
 - J. Place of death.
 - K. Marital status.
 - L. Occupation.
 - M. Was the deceased a veteran?
 - 1. If so, what war?
 - N. Father's name.
 - O. Mother's maiden name.
 - P. Name of attending physician.
 - Q. Survivors.
 - R. Place of funeral.
 - 1. Will casket be open prior to and following the funeral service?
 - S. Minister(s) names.
 - T. Religious affiliation of the deceased.
 - U. Names of pall bearers.
 - 1. If there is to be honorary pall bearers their names should be provided.

- V. Organizations, clubs, fraternal orders, etc. the deceased belonged to.
 - 1. This is not the time to debate the issue of fraternal orders!
- W. Will remains lie in state?
 - 1. If so, where?
 - 2. Will casket remain open during this time?
- X. Will there be singing?
 - 1. If so, who is in charge of it?
 - 2. The matter of special singers and congregational singing should be considered here.
- 3. Prayer with the bereaved family:
 - A. Before leaving the home offer to pray with the family.
 - B. Prayer should be brief, and of the nature of comfort.
 - C. Offer hope, faith, and strength.
 - 1. Of course, if the deceased was not a Christian this becomes more difficult.
 - D. Pray for the bereaved and their understanding, wisdom, and comfort.
- 4. Assisting family with preferences:
 - A. Who to advise of the death.
 - 1. Attempt to have someone other than the immediate family present to make these telephone calls.
 - B. Inform those who are called of the times and location of services, if they have already been determined.
 - C. Help as needed with the preparation of the obituary.
 - D. Help with the selection of Pall bearers.
 - E. Consider the appointment of a host or hostess to take care of calls at the home.
 - F. The selection of music and singers.
 - G. Favorite scriptures.
 - H. Selection of cemetery plot if not already selected.
- 5. Special things that may need assistance with:
 - A. Have someone help clean the home of the bereaved.
 - A. They could also take care of preparing refreshments.
 - B. Arrange cheerful company during the first few hours.
 - C. Arrange for someone to contact Insurance Companies.
 - D. Arrange for someone to write letters, make telephone calls, etc.
 - E. Protect the bereaved.
- 3. THE SERVICE:**
 - A. Types of funerals:
 - 1. Children
 - 2. Friends
 - 3. Christians
 - 4. Non-Christians
 - 5. Unfaithful members
 - 6. Aged

7. Mothers
 8. Fathers
 9. Those who are not known, and who have no known relatives.
- B. Things to remember:
1. Funeral sermon is not preached to the deceased.
 - A. The deceased has already preached his funeral, and no remarks can change his destiny.
 2. Your job is to assist with a service that will:
 - A. Pay respect to the deceased.
 - B. Comfort the bereaved.
 - C. Encourage those who are in attendance to prepare for death.
 3. Important characteristics to be developed:
 - A. Show sympathy.
 - B. Be understanding.
 - C. Show deep respect for the value of mankind.
- C. The Funeral Service:
1. Use a theme based on the Scriptures.
 - A. Starting a journey.
 - B. Falling asleep.
 - C. Going home.
 2. Important things to remember:
 - A. Make the remarks as personal as possible.
 1. No “canned” messages.
 - B. Those attending are cosmopolitan – keep this in mind.
 - C. Suggested order:
 1. Song (s)
 2. Obituary and prayer
 3. Song (s)
 4. Special reading and brief comments (not always done)
 5. Song
 6. Sermon
 7. Prayer
 8. Song
- D. From the funeral to the place of interment:
1. At the conclusion of the prayer step to the head of the casket.
 2. Remain there until all relatives and friends have exited the auditorium.
 - A. Once that is done, move out of the way so the funeral directors can close the casket.
 3. Precede the casket to the hearse.
 4. The vehicle that you are riding in should precede the hearse to the cemetery.
 5. Upon arrival at the cemetery move immediately to the hearse to precede the casket to the grave site.
- E. During the services at the cemetery:
1. Position yourself at the head of the deceased.

2. Suggested service if casket is not opened.
 - A. Scripture reading.
 - B. Brief comments.
 - C. Prayer.
 3. At conclusion, pass by the bereaved that are seated at the grave site, expressing words of comfort as you go.
 4. If casket is opened, a similar procedure can be followed, except allow time at the end for those attending to pass by the casket.
 - A. During that time you should remain at the head of the casket.
- 5. FOLLOW UP:**
- A. Visit the immediate family at home a few days after the funeral:
 1. At that time you may provide them with the following:
 - A. An outline of the remarks you made at the service.
 1. With the availability of CD's it may be that the entire service was recorded.
 - B. A list of the songs that were sung.
 - C. Names and addresses of those who sang.
 - D. Names and addresses of any who had a special part in the services.
 - B. Letter follow up:
 1. It is not always possible to personally follow up.
 - A. A letter will mean much to the bereaved.
 1. It does not need to be long, but should be cheerful and filled with hope, comfort, and direction.
 2. Some times a letter is sent on the one year anniversary of the death to immediate family.

THE PREACHER AND CONDUCTING WEDDINGS

Robert Stapleton

INTRODUCTION:

1. Conducting Weddings is another part of the work of the preacher that most preachers would prefer not to have to do.
 - A. As a matter of fact, several preachers that I have talked with have said they would rather do funerals than weddings.
 - B. On the other hand, some view participating in weddings as one of the preacher's more pleasant experiences.
2. I would recommend each student purchase a copy of the following books:
 - A. Christian Minister's Manual, Standard Publishing, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 - B. The Wedding Book, Kathleen Saurman, President.

BODY:

1. THE INITIAL INTERVIEW:

- A. Things to do:
 1. Determine who is to be married.
 - A. Obtain full names of both parties as are to be used in the ceremony.
 2. Determine if there are any reasons as to why you should not perform the ceremony.
 - A. Marriage, divorce, and remarriage issues will come up often.
 - B. Age
 3. When do they want to have the ceremony?
 - A. You should check to make sure there are no conflicts with your schedule.
 4. Location of the wedding.
- B. Set up an appointment for premarital counseling session (s).
 1. Be sure to follow up on this twenty-four hours prior to the session in case they "forget".

2. THINGS TO BE CONSIDERED ABOUT THE WEDDING:

- A. Miscellaneous information about the wedding:
 1. Arrangement for the music.
 - A. Problems can arise here concerning the use of mechanical instruments of music.
 1. Does the congregation have a policy on this?
 2. Decorations, who will be taking care of them?
 3. Photographs, who will be taking care of this?
 4. Any special arrangements for furniture arrangements.
- B. Policies related to the use of the building, multi-purpose room, etc.
 1. Make sure they are clear on their responsibility toward the building and furnishings.
 2. Fees, if any, for use of building and clean up.
 3. Policies concerning consumption of alcoholic beverages and smoking in the building, or on the grounds.

- A. This can, especially, be problematic with non-members of the church when it comes to matters such as alcohol, dancing, and smoking.
 - 4. Policies regarding the use of rice and fresh flowers in the wedding.
 - A. Largest issue here, of course, is clean up of the rice.
 - 5. Policies regarding the use of mechanical instrumental music and recorded music.
 - 6. If policies exist on any or all of the above, it would be good to provide them with a copy of the restrictions for which they must sign indicating their acceptance of such.
 - A. Personally, I think it wise for a congregation to have a written policy on these matters.
 - 1. If one does not exist, you may want to encourage the congregation to write one.
- C. Basic arrangements for the wedding:
 - 1. How many rings?
 - 2. Candles?
 - A. Who lights them?
 - B. When?
 - 3. Flowers/Bible for the mother/mother-in-law?
 - 4. By whom is the bride to be “given away”?
 - 5. Maid/Matron of Honor?
 - 6. How many Bride’s Maids?
 - 7. Best man?
 - 8. How many Groomsmen?
 - 9. Ushers?
 - 10. Flower girl?
 - 11. Ring bearer?
 - 12. Special requests concerning the vows?
- D. Basic arrangements for the reception:
 - 1. Will there be a reception?
 - 2. Where will it be held?
 - A. Often times it is better to have the reception off site due to issues concerning alcoholic beverage, dancing, etc.
 - 3. Should the reception be announced at the close of the ceremony?
- E. Things to be considered about the marriage:
 - 1. Attitudes
 - A. Is the couple serious?
 - 2. Economics
 - A. Two can live as cheap as one, so long as only one eats.
 - 3. Religion
 - A. Are they united or divided?
 - 4. Social
 - 5. Physical
 - 6. These and other issues may need addressed during counseling sessions.

3. THE REHEARSAL:

- A. Who is in charge?
- B. Whoever is in charge, the following will be expected:
 - 1. Outline the procedure to the wedding party.
 - A. The entire wedding party should be seated for preliminary instructions.
 - 2. Directions should be carefully given after everyone is seated.
 - A. Flexibility is needed here, as the Bride may change her mind on some things as you move through the procedure.
 - B. Take changes in stride, remember, whose wedding it is.
 - 3. Whoever is in charge should direct the wedding rehearsal from ushering to the recessional to the dismissal.
 - A. The preacher may not wish to rehearse all that he intends to say.
 - 1. However, he should rehearse the vows, etc.
 - B. The rehearsal should be practiced until those in the wedding party know what is expected of them.
 - 4. Whoever is in charge should have the procedure well enough in mind that the rehearsal runs smoothly.
 - A. This is where determining ahead of time what is desired is beneficial if the preacher is directing the wedding.
- C. Rehearsal dinner:
 - 1. This is the responsibility of the parents of the groom.
 - A. It may come before or after the rehearsal.
 - B. The preacher may be invited, but not always.
 - 1. He should not expect to be invited.
 - 2. He should not expect his wife to be invited.
 - 2. Things to remember:
 - A. Remember, the preacher is not the guest of honor.
 - 1. He is one of the wedding party.
 - 2. The bride and groom take the “spotlight”.
 - B. The preacher may be asked to lead a prayer.
 - 1. If so, remember the bride and groom in the prayer as well as express gratitude for the food.
 - C. Remember to express gratitude to the host for the invitation.

4. THE WEDDING

- A. Home weddings:
 - 1. Often an unexpected wedding.
 - A. The preacher’s home is often used.
 - B. There is little or no time for practice.
 - C. The interview may have to be conducted just before the wedding.
 - D. There will be little time for counseling.
 - 2. If the wedding is in your home:
 - A. Instruct your family what to do ahead of time.
 - B. They may wish to observe the ceremony.
 - C. You may wish to visit with the couple and their friends a few minutes

prior to the ceremony.

1. You will be expected to take the lead during such a ceremony.

D. Following the wedding, you and your wife may wish to serve refreshments.

3. Weddings held in the home of the bride or another relative, are much the same as those in the building in so far as procedure is concerned relative to guests.

B. Garden weddings:

1. This may be a wedding in the park or someone's backyard.

2. Such ceremonies offer a beautiful setting.

3. There will be little change as to the procedure.

C. In the church building:

1. Things that need to be considered:

A. Building availability

B. Policies

C. Janitorial services

D. Dressing rooms

2. The procedure will be about the same as a well-planned home wedding.

D. Suggested format for the wedding:

1. Ushers:

A. Seat grandmothers

B. Seat groom's mother, father will follow

C. Seat bride's mother

D. Seat others

E. Light candles

2. Songs and readings:

A. The number and choice is determined by the bride and groom.

B. The order should be clearly in mind by all in the party.

C. The processional will be signal for the wedding parting to enter.

3. Order of entrance:

A. Minister, Groom and Best Man

1. Sometimes they enter from a side entrance.

B. Groomsmen and Bridesmaids

1. Groomsmen may enter with the Groom or they may enter with the Bridesmaids.

A. The choice is that of the bride.

C. Ring bearer/flower girl

D. Maid/matron of honor

E. Bride and her father (or whoever is to give her away)

4. Ceremony:

A. Bride may wish to pause on the way down to give her mother a flower.

B. Bride is given away by father/relative/or friend.

1. Bride and the one who gives her away will separate at the seat he will be seated in.

2. Bride may move on by herself to her station.

3. Once the ceremony begins the preacher will ask, "Who gives this woman to be married to this man?"
 - A. At that time, if bride has not taken her place beside the groom, the bride will move forward and the one who "gave her away" will be seated.
 - C. Statement of purpose of gathering – "We are gathered in the presence of God and these witnessed to unite Mr. _____ and Miss. _____ in the bonds of holy matrimony.
 - D. Words of exhortation, including the charge.
 - E. Couple is instructed to join right hands.
 1. They may wish at this time to turn and face each other.
 - F. Couple is asked if they take each other as husband and wife.
 - G. Ring ceremony follows in which vows are repeated.
 1. If they have written their own vows then they should either read or quote them at this time.
 - A. Vows should be read over prior to the ceremony by the preacher if written by the bride and groom.
 - H. Light memory candle if such is a part of the ceremony.
 - I. Pronouncement
 - J. Prayer
 - K. Betrothal kiss
 - L. Introduction of newly married couple.
 5. Close:
 - A. Recessional
 1. It may be proper to ask the bride and groom to pause for a few seconds for pictures prior to beginning the recessional.
 - B. Flower given to mother-in-law
 - C. Usher bride's mother out
 - D. Usher groom's mother out
 - E. Ushers then stand at the end of the pews allowing others to leave.
 - F. Announce reception (if so instructed)
 - G. Dismiss the audience (if so instructed)
 - H. Pictures
- 5. FOLLOW UP:**
- A. Keep records of the Wedding.
 1. Be sure to complete and mail the Marriage License.
 - A. It may be proper to fill out Marriage License prior to wedding.
 1. This will eliminate having the try to find each party with all the hustle, bustle going on.
 - B. Be sure to put License in mail that day if possible to avoid it being misplaced.
 - B. Arrange for visit with newly married couple at appropriate time.
 - C. Be available for further counseling if desired.