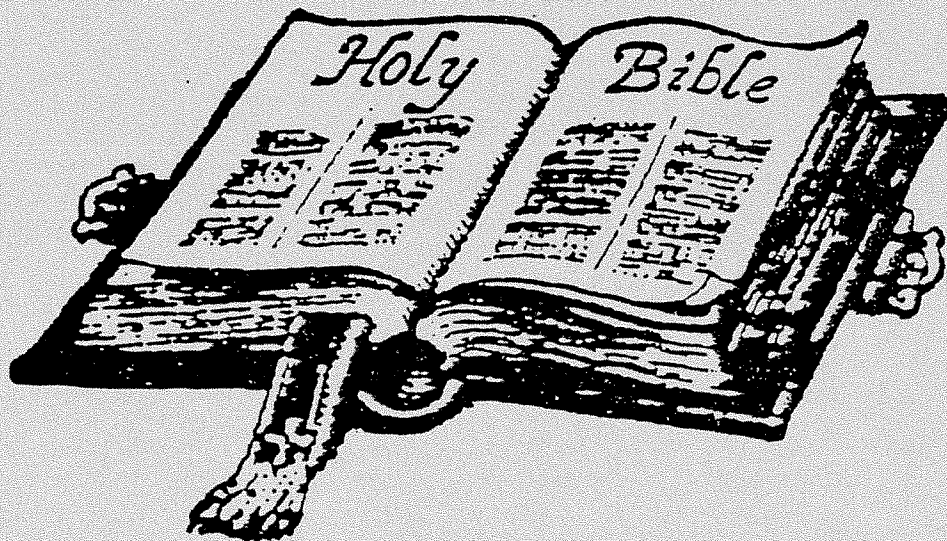


The Minister's Life and Work



by: Charles Elledge Hill

752
The Minister's

Life and Work

by: Charles Elledge Hill

DEDICATION

To Martha Adeline Hill, my faithful and devoted wife, to our lovely daughters, Martha Kay Overstreet and Verlan Gay Knox, and to the fine young men in the Brown Trail Preacher Training School, whom I have had the privilege of teaching, this work is affectionately dedicated.

October 19, 1991

PREFACE

The life and work of a preacher is nothing new. The New Testament gives much information on this vital subject. God has commanded that His word be preached to every creature (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16). Therefore, we must prepare and encourage faithful Christian men to do this good work.

The life of a preacher is not easy. Many people do not want to hear the truth. This is easy to see by reading the Bible and by observation. Yet Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (Jn. 8:32). The church of our Lord must preach, teach, defend and uphold God's word.

The thoughts expressed in these outlines and the comments the writer will make as he teaches the lessons have been gleaned through the years from many sources, including his own personal experiences and observations over a period of fifty years of preaching.

Much time and labor have gone into the preparation of these outlines; however the time and effort will be well spent if by this study, the young preachers can be encouraged to be faithful in preaching the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

The author strongly encourages every preacher to study and learn well what is taught in Acts; 1 and 2 Timothy; Titus; Romans 1:14-16; 1 Corinthians 1:17-31; 2:1-5; 9:16-17, 21-27.

Whatever good may result from this effort, unto God be the glory, honor, praise, and thanksgiving.

Charles Elledge Hill

Fort Worth, Texas

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Preacher and His Work -----	1
2. Some Qualifications of a Preacher -----	5
3. Perils of Preaching -----	9
4. Some Do's for Preachers -----	15
5. Some Don'ts for Preachers -----	17
6. Helpful Suggestions for Preachers -----	19
7. Example and Charges of Paul to Preachers -----	21
8. Suggestions to Keep in Mind -----	24
9. Preacher Elder Relationship -----	27
10. Outline on Biblical Elders-----	29
11. The Preacher and His Library -----	33
12. Funerals -----	37
13. Poems -----	39

PREACHER AND HIS WORK

I. Things for the preacher to keep in mind.

- A. Your work is the greatest of all. Never lose sight of the importance of preaching and teaching God's word (Rom. 1:16; Prov. 11:30; Dan. 12:3; Jas. 5:19-20).**
- B. You are God's servant (Rom. 1:1; Tit. 1:1). Don't let the brethren use you as their paid errand boy.**
- C. Men are fascinated by fables; therefore, it takes all the fortitude and humanity we can muster to speak as the oracles of God. But speak we must (1 Pet. 4:11).**
- D. Preachers must do what God ordained for them to do as related in 1 & 2 Timothy.**
 - 1. Study (vs. 13; 2 Tim. 2:15)**
 - 2. Pray (vs. 4,5; 2:1-2)**
 - 3. Preach (vs. 14-16)**
 - 4. Live an exemplary life (vs. 12)**
 - 5. Teach others the gospel (vs. 6,11,13)**
- E. Preaching is a big job with a great challenge.**
 - 1. In Revelation John "eating up" the word of God. He realized the devastating power of the message and its consequences upon ungodly men.**
 - 2. Note Ezekiel as a fiery prophet during Babylonian captivity (Ezekiel).**
 - 3. Jeremiah a preacher of righteousness was tempted to quit preaching (Jer. 20:8-9).**
 - 4. Jesus was perfect but He did not please everyone. In fact, only a few (Jn. 6:67) and offended many (Matt. 15:12). He spoke with authority (Matt. 7:28-29).**
- F. Paul and other apostles and preachers of the first century (1 Cor. 2:3-4; Acts 4:16-18; 17:6).**
 - 1. Power of preaching did not rest in big numbers, worldly education, social standing, wealth or political power (Acts 4:13; 28:22).**
 - 2. Power was the gospel (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 2:1-5; Jn. 8:32; Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12).**
- G. Our predecessors found and harnessed this power in their preaching. The results were Satan defeated, sinners saved, false teachers exposed and congregations established.**
- H. Let us always remember that Satan is not threatened by preaching when scripture is left out of our message.**

II. Preacher's work in developing a congregation.

- A. Training classes**
 - 1. Training classes for men**
 - a. Public speaking**
 - b. Public reading of scripture**

- c. How to pray
 - d. Waiting on the Lord's table
 - e. Making announcements
 - f. Leading the singing
- 2. Courses in teaching
 - a. Improve present teaching force
 - b. Train new teachers
- 3. Singing schools for everyone. Sell elders on the importance of this and good congregational singing.
- B. Encourage vacation Bible schools
 - 1. A means of reaching outsiders
 - 2. A good opportunity to teach church members
 - 3. A good tonic for the congregation. The extraordinary effort stimulates the congregation
 - 4. Make sure the job is done well.
 - a. Well planned.
 - b. Well advertised.
 - c. Qualified teachers for all classes.
 - d. Good Bible theme and lessons related to it.
 - e. Make sure follow up work is done.
- C. Encourage and train congregation to visit.
 - 1. Newcomers
 - 2. New members
 - 3. The aged, sick, shut-ins, and hospitals.
 - 4. Homes where death has entered.
 - 5. New prospects
- D. Train young people and put them to work.
 - 1. Good teaching program.
 - 2. Train them to practice Christianity.
 - a. To visit
 - b. Prepare food for sick, etc.
 - c. Do things for aged.
 - d. Take them to orphan homes, hospitals, nursing homes, etc. They need to see the other side of life and needs of others.
- E. Make good use of church bulletins.
 - 1. Use it to teach gospel truths.
 - 2. Stimulate the church to greater service.
 - 3. Use it to inform the congregation.
 - 4. Make it neat and attractive.
- F. Teach and encourage the congregation to make good use of tracts.
 - 1. Good tracts that teach the truth in love.
 - 2. Tracts that are well written.
 - 3. Tracts give members a useful tool to use in teaching others
 - 4. Have tract racks attractively displayed.
- G. Have as your goal to help the congregation to be --
 - 1. Pure in life.
 - 2. Sound in the faith.
 - 3. Aggressive in the Lord's work.

4. Loving and friendly in spirit.
5. Opportunistic in attitude.
6. Peace loving people (Ps. 133:1; Rom. 14:19).

III. General thoughts and advice for preachers.

- A. Avoid focusing too long on the same things. They may be very important, but your audience may brand you as a "radical," "crackpot," or even a "hobby rider." Then your influence will be damaged.
- B. Focus attention at times on --
 1. The needs, shortcomings, sins, and social issues.
 2. Abilities, strengths, etc. of the people. Encourage development and use of talents.
 3. Take precautions lest we do what we are warned against in 2 Cor. 10:12. Three bad things could happen.
 - a. Might use the wrong standard.
 - b. Such may lead to arrogance and pride.
 - c. May lead to frustration and defeat if while looking at others one finds he is worse than they.
 4. Examine self (1 Cor. 11:28; Gal. 6:3-4).
 5. Keep focus on the message and souls.
- C. Condemn sin but love the sinner.
 1. Christ hated sin yet He was a friend of sinners.
 2. Paul could rebuke a brother in sin (1 Cor. 5:1-3), yet plead for his acceptance when he repented (2 Cor. 2:6-8).
- D. Spend much time in study yet do not isolate yourself from others and your family.
- E. Work to earn respect of people, but don't demand it (Rom. 13:7; 1 Thess. 5:13; 1 Tim. 4:12).
- F. Work with young people but don't act like a kid. You may gain their attention by acting like a clown, but you will not have the proper influence on them.
- G. Be serious but have a sense of humor.
 1. Be sober minded (1 Tim. 3:2).
 2. Jesus expressed some humor in His teaching (Matt. 23:24; 7:4-5).
 3. "Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones" (Prov. 16:24).
 4. (Proverbs 17:22)
- H. Be kind, patient, and humble, but don't permit people to walk on you (1 Pet. 5:6; Acts 22:25-29; Gal. 1:3-5).
- I. Our convictions must be conservative but not radical.
 1. Preach whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27).
 2. Never hesitate to reprove, rebuke, and exhort in sound doctrine (1 Tim. 4:2).

3. Distinguish between opinions and God's law.
4. Deal with people as they are. Babies need milk, not strong meat (1 Cor. 3:2; 1 Pet. 2:1-2; Heb. 5:12-14). Folks must be taught as they are able to receive (Jn. 16:12).

J. Don't be a perfectionist, yet strive for perfection.

1. Christ is our example (1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Pet. 2:21).
2. Recognize inability and limitations lest we become frustrated and drive ourselves to despair. Such makes us unhappy and miserable and those associated with us.
3. Paul pressed on (Phil. 3:13-14), so must we.
4. Don't be a workaholic, yet work hard. Take care of your health (Ex. 20:9-11; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20).

K. Don't be deceived by thinking preaching is easy.

1. A part of a Godly life is persecution (2 Tim. 3:12).
2. Christ did not have it easy.
3. Paul and others didn't have it easy (Acts 7; 12:2; 2 Cor. 11:22-28).

L. Do what you can to keep the church thoroughly indoctrinated and pure.

M. Too much of the wrong kind of preaching in 1991.
Note a few examples.

1. Motivational speeches.
2. Non-distinctive sermons.
3. Little messages which are not related to Christianity.
4. Failure to give conditions of salvation.
5. Failure to indoctrinate the church.
6. Failure to expose religious error.
7. Failure to condemn sin.
8. Trying to entertain the audience.
9. Telling people what they want to hear and not what they need to hear.
10. Philosophy, etc.

SOME QUALIFICATIONS OF A PREACHER

- I. Know the Bible
 - A. We can not teach what we do not know, neither can we lead where we do not go.
 - B. Ps. 1:1-2; 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Tim. 4:13-16
 - C. Timothy knew the scriptures from childhood (2 Tim. 3:14-15; 1:5).
 - D. Appreciate the inspiration of the scriptures.
- II. Know and love God
 - A. Paul knew whom he believed (2 Tim. 1:12).
 - B. Prove we know God by keeping His commandments (1 John 5:3; Eccl. 12:13).
 - C. Show love for Christ by keeping His words (John 14:23).
- III. Apt to teach
 - A. Capable, fitted, suitable or suited, 1 Tim. 1:3; 4:11; 2 Tim. 2:2.
 - B. Be a capable communicator of the Word.
- IV. Willing and able to endure hardships
 - A. Timothy was so exhorted (2 Tim. 2:3; 4:5).
 - B. Paul had to endure trials (2 Cor. 12:7; 11:21-28).
- V. Must be a good example
 - A. Paul so exhorted Timothy (1 Tim. 4:12)
 - B. Paul so lived (1 Cor. 9:20-27)
 - C. Adage: "I can't hear what you say for seeing what you are."
 - D. Pure in heart and life (2 Tim. 2:22).
- VI. A preacher must be wise
 - A. Don't act in haste (1 Tim. 5:22).
 - B. Pray for wisdom (James 1:5).
 - C. Be wise as a serpent (Matt. 10:16).
- VII. Realize the value of souls and love the souls of men.
 - A. Timothy cared for souls (Phil. 2:19-22).
 - B. Paul loved souls (1 Cor. 9:21-27). Read 2 Cor. 11:23-28 and his journeys in Acts.
 - C. Study the words of Jesus (Matt. 16:25-26).
- VIII. A preacher must be patient and gentle.
 - A. Study the life of Jesus and notice His patience with imperfect people (Matt. 12:18-21; 15:1-20; 23:1-39).
 - B. Paul's advise to Timothy (2 Tim. 2:24-26).
 - C. Notice how gentle Paul was (1 Thess. 2:2-13).
- IX. A preacher must have courage and leadership ability.
 - A. Paul's charge to Timothy (2 Tim. 1:5-8; 4:1-5)

- B. We must hold fast the form of sound words (2 Tim 1:13).
 - C. Must be a good soldier of Christ and fight the good fight of faith (2 Tim. 2:2-5; 1:18-19; 4:1-5; 1 Cor. 2:1-5).
- X. A preacher must be fair and not show partiality (1 Tim. 5:21).
- A. It is natural to like some people more than others. But be careful.
 - B. A preacher can hurt himself and his work if he doesn't use grace and wisdom in dealing with everyone.
 - C. Remember that God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 2:11).
- XI. A preacher must be a good family man.
- A. Philip the evangelist must have been a good husband and father (Acts 21:8-9).
 - B. How can a preacher relate the gospel to the lost and the church, if he cannot relate well to his own family?
 - C. A preacher's family can be a great asset to him and his work. He needs his family.
- XII. A preach must be a self-starter.
- A. Much of his time and work is self-supervised.
 - B. As an athlete is anxious to win games and races, so must a preacher be anxious to win souls and build up the church.
 - C. Study Rom. 10:1-3; 1 Cor. 9:16,17,20-27; 1 Tim. 4:7,8,16.

PREACHER'S FAMILY

Many preachers are "made" or "broken" by their families. How you are able to accomplish the dealing with day-by-day mechanics of a gospel preacher will be greatly affected by your family.

- XIII. HIS WIFE - List a few essentials. A scripture citation for each is not necessary. Just a general knowledge of the gospel, plus experience and observation, will prove the qualities to be important.
- A. Be a Christian. If not, he is handicapped, his influence compromised, and criticized so as to render him almost useless. See I Cor. 9:5; Neh. 13:23-27.
 - B. Must not be domineering. Eph. 5:23. If she is, the preacher will be a laughing stock, and she will be the object of suspicion, criticism, and hostility.
 - C. Be in full sympathy with your work.

1. Not endorse your every act. You'll make mistakes, she should see and point them out to you.
2. Commend and encourage you.
- D. Be careful in her talk.
 1. Not too free to talk church business, criticize, etc.
 2. Be careful about committing the preacher.
- E. Be economical not extravagant, but a good manager.
 1. Financial problems others don't have.
 - a. Contributions are usually larger than others.
 - b. Demands on salary made by members.
 2. People quick to criticize debts and mismanagement
- F. Be a neat housekeeper.
- G. Cultivate ability to dress with taste.
 1. Not flashy nor extravagant.
 2. Taste in dress is a flexible term; but one can study and improve in this respect
- H. Be friendly around church building in speaking to all.
 1. Be not cold and snooty toward people.
 2. Be human, kind, attentive, interested in people.
 3. Be cautious, don't overdo it.
- I. Visit over the church - with preacher, on her own, and with other members. Be an example.
- J. Avoid being clannish.
 1. Yes, have close friends, it is natural.
 2. Don't be seen with same ones all the time.

XIV. HIS CHILDREN

- A. Slowly, prayerfully, and with caution point out to them that father being a preacher puts more responsibility on the family and the public looks to the family for example.
- B. Caution - Do not continually harp on the point that the preacher's kids, for fear they develop a complex on the subject which is unwholesome.
 1. Be orderly in life generally and in worship.
 2. Don't be worldly.

XV. POINTS NOT TO BE OVERLOOKED IN HIS FAMILY.

- A. Be careful to attend all services and classes.
- B. Get to classes and services on time.
- C. Family members must be careful how they treat each other in public. Also, be considerate in private.

If there is a legitimate "beef," NEVER discuss it before others, betray it by public tone of voice, or facial expressions.

D. Always deep interest in welfare of the church.

XVI. HIS OBLIGATIONS TO HIS FAMILY

A. None nor all the many and peculiar obligations of a preacher's family can release him from a grave and permanent obligation to his family.

B. Preacher may go to either of two extremes.

1. Be so tied and dominated by family as to cripple his work and be ridiculed.
2. Be so detached from family as to feel no obligation at all to family
3. Your family is not for your own selfish use when at home.
4. Don't dump your responsibilities on your wife. Be at home etc. to help wife with the family you helped bring into the world.
5. Christianity includes ones duties toward family.
6. Do not fail your family. Be an example of family care and love before the world and the church.

C. Do not permit people to unduly criticize your wife and children. She is not a chauffeur or secretary for everyone. She is a wife, mother and Christian lady--that's all.

PERILS OF PREACHING

Introduction: Preaching affords many blessings. It is indeed a great and valuable work. There are some dangers in a preacher's work. Let us be aware of them and do our best not to get hurt. "To be forewarned is to be forearmed."

I. A bad start in a new work.

A. Danger of talking too much.

1. If you are an excessive talker, slow it down.
2. Don't clam up and act like a mummy.
3. Less general talk when not taken to extreme may create more respect.

B. Don't say a lot about what you are not going to do.

1. Discuss plans and aims with care.
2. Remember that the elders are the overseers and that they and you are on the same team.
3. Refrain from talking of future plans, desires, and acts in a bragging way.

C. Avoid loose talk that commits the congregation.

1. It is not wise to talk about what the congregation is or is not going to do unless decisions have been officially made. Then proceed with caution.
2. How decisions are publicized and when are important.

D. Watch loose talk in discussing people.

1. May be friends or relatives
2. The preacher before you

E. Avoid confidential talk. It can be a bad pitfall.

1. Reasons for being slow about taking people into your confidence.
 - a. The person could betray you.
 - b. The one in whom you confide can change his attitude.
 - c. You could change your attitude.
 - d. You might be misquoted
 - e. Your best friend may quote you at a time and in a manner that will greatly damage you without intending to hurt you.
2. It is natural to need someone with whom to discuss problems, in whom to confide, and to lean upon for support. But avoid going too far because it can boomerang and do great damage.

F. Do not take sides in a personal dispute.

1. Many times it may appear that matters of principle are involved when really personal dislikes and likes are the root of the problem.
2. Refrain from making up your mind about situations or people until you have evidence. Study Matt.7:1-2.

3. The best of people make mistakes, so be careful
- G. A sarcastic, fussy, smart aleck manner.
 1. This attitude must not be associated with soundness.
 2. Do not think of preaching as:
 - a. "Laying out your audience"
 - b. "Skinning 'em"
 - c. "Going after them"
 - d. "Let them have it"
 3. But don't cover, cringe, or crawl for fear of a frown from some soft-soaper.
 4. Never rule all militancy out of your manner of preaching
 5. Avoid the berating spirit in preaching.

II. Discouragement

- A. This can arise from many sources.
- B. Don't dwell on the bad. Think on the good (Phil. 4:8).
- C. Things could always be worse.
- D. Things usually are not as bad as they seem.
- E. Pray and trust in God.

III. Do not betray confidence.

- A. Guard for life what is told in confidence.
- B. Never engage in gossip.

IV. People using you

- A. By asking questions just to "grind some axe."
- B. For wrong motive. But preacher is unaware of it.
- C. Try to be very wise in answering questions.

V. Aping another preacher

- A. Copying his body movements, expressions, manner of delivery, etc.
- B. Be yourself. Do your best to be natural.
- C. People will see through one's veneer.
- D. Such will keep you from naturally and truly developing to full potential.
- E. It will hurt your influence.

VI. Dogmatism

- A. Do not be a "know it all."
- B. Never compromise your convictions.
- C. Always keep an open mind and be willing to study and learn.
- D. Realize that it is possible for you to be wrong.

VII. Compromise

- A. No doubt you will be tempted to do this in defence of those of influence. But don't do it.
- B. Keep ever in mind that you preach to please Christ, not the people (Gal. 6:1-12).

- C. Remember Paul, "Am I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?" (Gal. 4:16).

VIII. Lust for power and popularity

- A. Don't try to become the "big shot."
- B. Keep in mind that you are a servant of Christ. Remember what Paul said (Rom. 1:1; Tit. 1:1).
- C. To be great be a humble servant (Matt. 20:20-28; Luke 17:10).

IX. Women

- A. Many preachers have been tripped in their relations with women.
- B. It could happen to you (1 Cor. 10:12).
 - 1. Because of the desires of the flesh
 - 2. Because you will be associated with the opposite sex
 - 3. Because you will counsel women
 - 4. Because there are some designing women who may deliberately seek to lead you stray
- C. Watch for the innocent and apparently trivial beginnings that can develop into evil endings.
- D. There are non-designing, but unwise women, just as there are preachers of like type.
- E. Avoid those women who are the extremely silly side in public or private
- F. Rules to observe that will aid in avoiding this pitfall:
 - 1. Be careful with your hands.
 - 2. Assist women with their problems, but be careful as to where, how, and when.
 - 3. Always avoid being in a position with one where either of you could be tempted.
 - 4. Keep out of situations where enemies could reasonably charge the possibility or probability of evil.
 - 5. Have your wife with you when visiting women and especially when in conference with them. If your wife is not available then enlist the assistance of an elder or another dependable and highly respected couple.
- G. Remember Joseph. He ran (Gen. 39).
- H. Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation.
- I. Be very discreet in all your dealings with the opposite sex.
- J. Watch your conduct around the secretary.

X. Doing jobs others are to do.

- A. Do your job and let others do their own job.
- B. Let elders elder.
- C. Let deacons do their work.
- D. You preach.
- E. Don't think that you must make others do what they should, or do their job for them.

- XI. Being seen with one person or crowd too much.
- A. Have your close friends. Such is natural.
 - B. Jesus did. His disciples in general and then Peter, James, and John.
 - C. Close friends are some of the most priceless treasures of life.
 - D. Avoid catering to the wealthy.
 - E. Avoid catering to the poor.
 - F. Balance your associations. Treat all alike and strive to be impartial.
- XII. Mismanagement of finances
- A. Easy credit, Study Luke 12:15; Matt. 6:33).
 - B. Make your wants few.
 - C. Don't try to keep up with the Joneses.
 - D. Make a family budget and stick with it.
 - E. Pay bills on time.
 - F. Do not over extend yourself financially.
 - G. Try to save a little out of each paycheck.
 - H. Keep your wants few, learn to do without.
- XIII. Procrastination
- A. Study
 - B. Lesson preparation
 - C. Necessary visiting
 - D. Remember great words in the Bible are "now" and "today" (2 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:7-8).
 - E. Tomorrow is in the realm of the unknown (Prov. 27:1). It may never come.
- XIV. Betrayal by friends
- A. Jesus had His heartbreaking experiences. Judas betrayed Him (Ps. 41:9; Matt. 26:47-49). Peter denied Jesus (Matt. 26:31-35, 69-75).
 - B. Preachers will occasionally experience a Judas kiss. But we must remember that a servant is not above his master, (Matt. 10:24).
- XV. Lying tongues
- A. They hurt and cut deeply.
 - B. Old saying "where there is smoke there is a little fire" is not true. There was a lot of smoke about Jesus, Paul, Joseph, and others, but there was no fire at all. The smoke was only the result of lying tongues, spread by gossipers. Such an unfair way of getting even. Meet it by obeying Matt. 5:44-45; Rom. 12:19-21.
- XVI. Contrary winds
- A. Things will happen to cause you to change your plans.
 - B. Christians are not exempted.

- C. Study Paul, Joseph, and Job (Gen. 37:28; 35:7-20; Gen. 39; 2 Cor. 11:24-27; Phil. 1:12; Job 1:1-4, 13-19).

XVII. Too busy attitude

- A. Every day has 24 hours.
- B. Discipline yourself.
- C. Budget your time.
- D. Plan your work.
- E. Use your time wisely.

XVIII. Going to extremes in crusading for any one issue.

- A. You can wear an issue out by continually harping on it. People get tired and become disgusted.
- B. Have variety in your preaching. People need a balanced spiritual diet as well as a balanced physical diet.
- C. Expose error and point people to the truth. But use good judgment in the matter.

XIX. Sermons too long

- A. Remember old saying "A sermon need not be eternal to be immortal."
- B. Do not abuse your privilege and take advantage of the audience.
- C. Everyone goes at such a fast speed and are forced to watch the clock. People just will not listen to long sermons now days.

XX. Questions of liberalism and legalism

- A. Be sure you loose only where God has loosed and bind only what God has bound (Matt. 16:13-19).
- B. It is easy to go off the deep end in either direction. Don't make this mistake.
- C. Study prayerfully the question and/or issue. Stay with what the Bible teaches.

XXI. Problem of discipline

- A. Immorality in the congregation, 1 Cor. 5.
 - 1. Method to follow, 1 Cor. 5:3-5,9-13.
 - 2. Two-fold purpose for discipline:
 - a. To save the individual, 1 Cor 5:5.
 - b. To save the church, 1 Cor. 5:6.
 - 3. If the individual can be brought to repentance, receive him back, 2 Cor. 2:5-11.
- B. Teachers of false doctrine, Jn. 9-11; Rom. 16:17-18; Tit. 3:10-11.

XXII. Counseling

- A. Young people
 - 1. Your job is to preach. Do not be too anxious to become a counselor.
 - 2. If you must counsel, always use the Bible. Let God give the instructions.

3. Teach and encourage the congregation to go to the elders.

B. Sex problems

1. Let the Bible talk for you.
2. Encourage parents to do this teaching at home.
3. Advice on marriage, hold to the Bible. Other books may be suggested as helpful, but the Bible is your text.
4. Unhappy married people. This will be a real big problem.

C. Three good questions to ask those whom you are counseling.

1. Are you willing to do what is right?
2. Are you willing to let the Bible determine what is right?
3. Are you willing to do what is right now?

D. If their answers are "yes" you will have a better chance of helping them.

XXIII. Compliments or praise

- A. Do not let it go to your head.
- B. Too much praise can give one a false sense of security.
- C. A good job is the result of hard work.
- D. Weigh compliments carefully.
- E. Accept compliments gracefully.

XXIV. Lack of patience

- A. Learn to be patient. Things and people require time.
- B. Things and people will not move as fast as you would like.
- C. Adage: "Rome was not built in a day."

SOME DO'S FOR PREACHERS

1. Prepare your sermons well.
2. Use both emotion and logic in your preaching.
3. Look at the audience when you speak.
4. Make sure your sermons are distinctive and doctrinal.
5. Keep the whole tone of the service joyful and pleasant.
6. Receive happily and personally those who respond to the invitation. Give them a warm welcome. Help them to feel happy.
7. Preach so your audience can understand. Keep it simple stupid. Remember KISS (1 Cor. 14:19).
8. Commend and praise when you can. Note good work, faithfulness, their good interest, etc.
9. Encourage and train new converts.
10. Control your temper.
11. Keep a list of things you hope to accomplish.
12. Be friendly with other gospel preachers.
13. Make yourself available after services to meet and visit with the people.
14. Be friendly and kind to all (1 Thess. 5:14).
15. Pray much (1 Thess. 5:17; Luke 18:1ff).
16. Be an avid reader of good materials.
17. Have a good filing system for sermon materials.
18. Delegate to others responsibility and work.
19. Keep good reading materials easily available at all times. On the night stand, in the den, and in the car.
20. Watch for mannerisms and peculiarities that can damage your effectiveness.
21. Know when to start and when to stop speaking. Stand up to be seen, speak up to be heard, and sit down to be appreciated.

22. Use correct grammar and pronunciation. Keep in mind that the audience consists of the educated and the uneducated.
23. Keep in mind the interests, hopes, needs, trials, and sorrows of the people. They have special needs at times. They have problems.
24. Use notes if needed. But do not be a slave to them. Avoid reading a manuscript.
25. Pray and work for numerical growth.
26. Be neat, clean, and appropriately dressed. Keep shoes shined. Avoid wearing loud colors. Never dress like a bum or a professional gambler. Your clothing need not be expensive to be acceptable keep trouser neatly pressed.
27. Always speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15).
28. Endeavor to keep peace and unity (Eph. 4:2-3).
29. Build a good and useful library. Invest your money wisely. Be selective in buying books.
30. Share your success and joys with your wife. She likes to hear something beside discouragements and disappointments.

SOME DON'TS FOR PREACHERS

1. Don't overwork certain words, superlatives, expressions and phrases.
2. Don't use slang words and expressions.
3. Don't overload your schedule with engagements, civic and social events, etc.
4. Do not allow casual drop-ins, visitors, or retirees to consume your valuable time.
5. Don't allow yourself to develop a negative and defeatist attitude.
6. Don't waste time with the telephone. Use it wisely to encourage, exhort and contact people. It can be a helpful tool.
7. Don't show partiality toward the members.
8. Do not become materialistic in your conversation and lifestyle.
9. Do not be away from your local work too much.
10. Do not speak negatively of other members to another.
11. Don't neglect the church work by becoming too involved in other business ventures.
12. Don't fail to continue to prepare new sermons.
13. Do not use the pulpit to abuse people.
14. Don't fail to welcome the lowly and downtrodden and poor. They have a soul and it is precious in God's sight
15. Don't permit yourself to be tossed to and fro by every wind of advancement and opportunity. Weigh matters prayerfully and carefully.
16. Don't worship at the altar of statistics. Number in attendance, size of contribution and responses are important. But we must sow and water and let God give the increase.
17. Don't be satisfied with just getting by with your preaching. Strive to be the best preacher you can be. Grow, develop and always try to improve.

18. Don't fail to write letters of sympathy and concern to members and people in the community.
19. Don't just baptize people and forget them, but continue to show interest in them. Encourage and train them in the Lord's work.
20. Don't be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine and fad that come along. Be steadfast unmovable and abound in the Lord's work (1 Cor. 15:58; 16:13-14; Col. 2:8).
21. Don't take your frustrations and problems home and take them out on your wife and children. Analyze, gather facts, determine the cause, seek for the alternative solution.
22. Don't embarrass your wife and children in public (Eph. 6:4; 5:25; 1 Pet. 3:7).
23. Don't over spend money on yourself. Never make your family feel they must do all the sacrificing. Don't be selfish.
24. Don't neglect your family. Have family time. Pray and play together. It would be sad to discover you lost your family while trying to save others.

HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS FOR PREACHERS

- I. The progress of Christianity depends upon its message. Preach the Word (Jn. 8:32; 2 Tim. 4:1-5).
- II. The messenger is very important. He needs skills by which the message may be effectively transmitted to others. But never put the messenger before the message (1 Cor. 2:1-5).
- III. Combine enthusiasm and knowledge (Rom. 10:1-2).
- IV. Always speak the truth in love (Eph. 5:11).
- V. Balance your preaching (Acts 20:27; 2 Tim. 2:2; 4:2). Preach as a dying man to dying men and women. Preach every sermon as if it were your last. It could be.
- VI. Do not be overcome by criticism (Matt. 10:16; 5:11-12; Acts 7:35; Matt. 5:11-12; Lk. 23:7-9).
 - A. He who leads must be able to take criticism.
 - B. Most of it will be destructive, harsh and unjust.
 - C. If we lead the band, we must face the music.
 - D. The greater the leader, the greater the criticism. Therefore it may be a compliment to be criticized. Weigh criticism carefully.
 - E. Remember it does not make you evil for evil people to criticize you. You will be criticized whether you do right or wrong; so be sure you are right and go ahead. "For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing" (1 Pet. 3:17).
 - F. Your response to criticism can do great harm to the Lord's church or good can come out of it.
 - G. Suggestions as to how to deal with criticism.
 1. Say nothing
 - (a) Hard to do but sometimes best.
 - (b) Study Luke 23:7-9
 2. Let others defend you.
 - (a) Elders should take lead in handling the problem.
 - (b) This especially true when the criticism is unjust.
 3. If such will continue and result in church trouble then it is time to stop their mouths (Tit. 1:11).
 4. It is usually best not to become defensive.
 - (a) You will never get any work done if you spend all your time defending yourself.
 - (b) Adage: Friends do not need an explanation and enemies will not accept one.

H. Suggestions on how to overcome criticism personally.

1. Know that God is our helper.
 - (a) Heb. 13:5,6; Ps. 46:1; 1 Pet. 5:7; Ps. 55:22.
 - (b) Study the scriptures and see that others faced it and continued on.
 - (c) Adage: There is not anything that God and I can't handle.
 - (d) Spend time in prayer.
2. Never leave yourself open to criticism.
3. Remember that you cannot please everyone.
4. Develop a tough skin.
5. Realize that some criticism is helpful.
 - (a) Sometimes it can be more valuable than compliments.
 - (b) By making corrections you can become a better person and be a more effective preacher.
6. Do not allow yourself to dwell on criticism.
7. Find a confidant you can pour out your heart to and be assured it will be in confidence.
8. Author unknown: "Don't mind criticism. If it is untrue, disregard it. If it is unfair, don't let it irritate you. If it is ignorant, smile. If it is justified, learn from it."

EXAMPLES AND CHARGES OF PAUL TO PREACHERS

1. Charge others to teach no other doctrine (1 Tim. 1:3).
2. Don't give heed to fables and endless genealogies and things which do no good (1 Tim. 1:4)).
3. Have a pure and loving heart, a good heart and a good conscience and faith unfeigned (1 Tim. 1:18).
4. War a good warfare (1 Tim. 1 :18).
5. Hold the faith and a good conscience (1 Tim. 1:19).
6. By studying the scriptures, know and teach how people ought to behave themselves in God's house (1 Tim. 3:14-15).
7. Put the brethren in mind of their duties and be a good minister (1 Tim 4:6).
8. Refuse profane and old wives fables (1 Tim. 4:7).
9. Exercise thyself unto godliness (1 Tim. 4:7).
10. Command and teach these things (1 Tim. 4:11).
11. So conduct yourself that no man will despise thy youth (1 Tim. 4:12).
12. Give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine (1 Tim. 4:13).
13. Meditate on these things and wholly give thyself to them (1 Tim. 4:15).
14. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine, continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee (1 Tim. 4:16).
15. How to treat others (1 Tim. 5:1-2).
16. Receive not an accusation against an elder except before two or three witnesses (1 Tim. 5:19).
17. Reprove them that sin (1 Tim. 5:20).
18. Observe these things without showing partiality (1 Tim. 5:21).
19. Don't be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure (1 Tim. 5:22).

20. Be careful not to blaspheme the doctrine (1 Tim. 6:1).
21. Flee wrong attitude toward material things. Follow after righteousness, etc. (1 Tim. 6:11).
22. Fight the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:12).
23. Keep the commandments without spot until the Lord comes (1 Tim. 6:14).
24. Charge the rich not to put material things first in their lives (1 Tim. 6:17).
25. Charge the rich to do good with their riches (1 Tim. 6:18-19).
26. Be faithful to your trust. Be a good steward. Turn away from profane babbling and oppositions of science which is falsely so called (1 Tim. 6:20).
27. Never be ashamed of Paul, the Lord, nor of the gospel (2 Tim. 1:8).
28. Be willing to suffer hardships for the gospel's sake (2 Tim. 1:8).
29. Hold fast the form of sound words (2 Tim. 1:13).
30. Be strong in the grace that is in Christ (2 Tim. 2:1).
31. Preach the same things Paul taught and preached. Train faithful men who shall be able to teach others (2 Tim. 2:2).
32. Be a good soldier of Christ (2 Tim. 2:3).
33. Don't entangle yourself with the affairs of this life (2 Tim. 2:4).
34. Remember the risen Christ (2 Tim. 2:8).
35. Put brethren in remembrance (2 Tim. 2:14).
36. Study and rightly divide the word (2 Tim. 2:15).
37. Shun profane and vain babblings (2 Tim. 2:16).
38. Flee youthful lusts (2 Tim. 2:22).
39. Follow after righteousness, faith, charity, peace (2 Tim. 2:22).
40. Avoid foolish and unlearned questions (2 Tim. 2:23).

41. Do not strive, but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient (2 Tim. 2:24).
42. Turn away from those who persistently practice evil (2 Tim. 3:1-5).
43. Remember the life and work of Paul, his steadfastness, and that the Lord is able to deliver (2 Tim. 3:10-11).
44. Be faithful to the word (2 Tim. 3:14).
45. Respect the inspiration of the word (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
46. Preach the word. Suffer hardship. Do the work of an evangelist (2 Tim. 4:1-5).
47. Fight the good fight. Keep the faith. Finish the course (2 Tim. 4:7-8).
48. Speak sound doctrine (Tit. 2:1).
49. Put them in mind to ready unto every good work (Tit. 3:1).
50. Avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and striving about the law (Tit. 3:9).
51. Reject a heretic after the first and second admonition (Tit. 3:10).
52. Preach whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27).
53. Hide yourself behind the cross and preach Christ (1 Cor. 2:1-5).

SUGGESTIONS TO KEEP IN MIND

- I. If you visit a congregation with the idea of laboring with them, check to see what translation they have in the pews and classrooms. That might be a signal to you as to whether they will accept the truth.
- II. Find out if the elders will back you in preaching sound doctrine. If they won't do that, then look elsewhere.
- III. Size up the community as best you can. What seems to be the opportunity for growth.
- IV. Get a feel of the attitude of the members.
- V. Do the elders work good together?
- VI. Does the congregation respect and follow the leadership of the elders?
- VII. Does the congregation seem willing to work?
- VIII. Are they willing to financially support a preacher and his family adequately?
- IX. What about the school system?
- X. Do you feel that you and your family can fit in with the congregation?
- XI. When working with a congregation watch and see if elders keep their word about--
 - A. Cost of living raise.
 - B. Time off for meetings, lectureships. etc.
 - C. Vacation time.
 - D. Programs, budgets, etc. agreed upon.
- XII. If elders don't invite preacher to attend their business meetings so he can be in on planning the work, wisely seek another place of labor. Of course, there will be times when the elders will need to meet without the preacher. Respect that.
- XIII. Preacher should remember to -
 - A. "Be like a good watch! Open face, busy hands, pure gold, well regulated and wound up."
 - B. Guard your reputation
 - C. As someone said, "Keep your shirt clean."
 - D. So live, teach, preach, and serve that the community will feel the full impact of your personal influence for the gospel as you come in contact with the people.

XIV. Preacher and visiting

A. Never use as an excuse for not visiting: "But I'm a preacher!", implying that Bible class teaching and pulpit work (including preparation) is the limit of the preacher's work. A preacher is a Christian and therefore has the Christian duty to visit and care for others in various situations of life. Practice what you preach. Visit the sick, the aged, the erring, the non-Christian, the needy, the weak, the discouraged, widows, bereaved, new comers, etc.

1. Some effects the preacher visiting may have.

- (a) It will encourage members to visit.
- (b) It will likely increase attendance.
- (c) People will grow in respect for the preacher
- (d) The church will grow.

XV. How long should a preacher stay at a place?

- A. A matter of judgment.
- B. Why leave when the work is going well?
- C. Preachers have moved too soon. Such often hurts the work and the preacher.
- D. Paul was at Ephesus for at least two years (Acts 19:10). At Corinth at least one and one half years (Acts 18:11).
- E. Don't leave when the people oppose the truth when you preach it. Elders must shield the preacher from those who oppose the truth (Acts 20:28).
- F. Don't move when a few members oppose the preacher. Elders should handle criticism. So often they are trivial matters that do not diminish his effectiveness.
- G. Don't move every two or three years.
 - 1. You are just getting acquainted with the people.
 - 2. A move is expensive both to the preacher and the congregation, a waste of money.
 - 3. Moving is hard on the family.
- H. Remember that there are problems everywhere and you may be walking into a lot worse situation than you leave.

XVI. When you go to a congregation for a meeting, please remember--

- A. Your time is theirs while there.
- B. Preach the whole counsel of God in love.
- C. Be kind, humble, gentle, patient and loving.
- D. Compliment where you can.
- E. Encourage the congregation to go forward.
- F. Conduct yourself and preach in such a way as to make the local preacher's work easier when you are gone.

- G. Be congenial and cooperate with the local preacher and elders. Let them know you are there to do all the good you can.
- H. Let the congregation know that you appreciate the invitation to come their way. Be most appreciative of their hospitality.

PREACHER/ELDER RELATIONSHIP

God's plan for the local congregation includes elders and preachers. What a blessing to have a qualified eldership and a faithful gospel preacher that work as a team. How sad when they work against each other. An absolute necessity to the well-being to a good church work is a happy, harmonious and mutual respect between preacher and elders.

- I. Mutual respect for each other as men.
 - A. Each will have his own ideas.
 - B. Each will have strong and weak points.
 - C. Always interpret each others' motives in a good light.
- II. Always mutually support each other.
 - A. Sorrows, trials, disappointments will come to all, but lend a helping hand and a sympathetic ear.
 - B. So often there is a lack of confidence.
- III. Preacher and elders should defend each other.
 - A. Preacher should have the accusation established by adequate witnesses, I Tim. 5:19.
 - B. Elders should show the same loyalty to the preacher.
 - C. Take a lesson from loyalty of Jonathan and David.
 - D. Study the relationship between Paul and elders at Ephesus, Acts 20.
- IV. Preachers and elders must share in the planning and development of the work.
 - A. The preacher's Bible knowledge, broad range of experience, and understanding of problem areas to beware of are helpful.
 - B. The elders and congregation will expect him to promote and help to bring the plans and goals to realization. How can he if he is kept in the dark.
- V. When spiritual problems arise there must be mutual concern, understanding and a desire to help.
 - A. It could be a misunderstanding of some Biblical doctrine or principle.
 - B. It might be discouragement or depression.
 - C. Maybe a temptation has taken hold of a man's life or his family.
 - D. All need to practice Galatians 6:1-2; and James 5:19-20.
- VI. Mutual sympathy.
 - A. Material needs must be met.
 - B. Preacher gets tired and needs a rest.
 - C. Retirement program for preacher, etc.
 - D. Elders need time to rest and be with their family.

- VII. They need to pray for each other.
- VIII. Periods of mutual spiritual growth and study.
 - A. Share study materials.
 - B. Attend meetings, lectureships, debates, etc.
- IX. Share joys and accomplishments.
 - A. Preachers nor elders should take all the credit for things done.
 - B. Share roses with the congregation.
 - C. Remember, "Honor to whom honor is due" (Rom. 13:7).
 - D. This will do much toward eliminating false pride and resentment.
- X. Preachers must respect the authority of the elders as overseers and the elders must likewise respect the preacher's role as a proclaimer of righteousness.
- XI. Each practice the golden rule, Matt. 7:12.
- XII. Keep the commitments they make to each other.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE NEED FOR SOLID ELDERS IN THE UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM

(An outline of the lecture that I was requested to give at
the Firm Foundation Lectureship on October 6, 1991 in
Chattanooga, Tennessee. Charles Elledge Hill)

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. Those who planned this lectureship are to be commended for choosing the theme "The Unshakable Kingdom."
 - 1. Much teaching needs to be done on this very vital theme. We so often fail to emphasize what the Bible says regarding the indestructible nature of God's Kingdom.
 - 2. May this series of lessons help us to have a deeper appreciation for the Kingdom of Christ and may we be more determined to teach all the Bible says concerning this important subject.
- B. The subject assigned me is a much neglected one.
 - 1. Much trouble is caused in the church because we lack understanding and appreciation of Bible teaching on elders, their qualifications, duties and duties of the congregation to the elders.
 - 2. There is a great need for elders who will take a solid stand on doctrinal and moral issues.
 - 3. We have before us a Bible theme. Let us study it reverently and with an open mind. What the Bible says about the need for solid elders in the Unshakable Kingdom.

II. LET US NOW DISCUSS OUR TOPIC.

- A. Much of our trouble in the church lies in the failure to select men who meet the scriptural qualifications for elders. Little do congregations consider this. Is it possible that it is based upon a failure to understand and upon personal and selfish reasons?
 - 1. Every congregation needs elders. But we need men who qualify and who will do the work.
 - 2. Men should never be selected based upon personal, selfish or political reasons.
 - 3. Men who do not qualify do wrong when they permit themselves to be put into the office.

4. Much teaching must be done on the qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

B. Duties of elders considered.

1. They must be apt to teach.
 - (1) A great tragedy in the church today is that some men who serve as elders, good men, are not capable teachers.
 - (2) Their work is to teach and lead others in the right way. To do this they must know the truth, then by kind and faithful example lead the flock in the way of the Lord. As has been said, you cannot teach what you do not know and you cannot lead where you do not go.
 - (3) By "apt" is meant fitted - suitable or suited.
 - (4) Elders are to feed the flock (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2).
 - a. The flock must be fed God's Word.
 - b. Teaching error must not be permitted.
 - c. Elders are not required to do all the teaching. They may have preachers and other teachers to help. However, elders are responsible for the teaching.
2. Must be able both to exhort in the sound doctrine and to convict the gainsayer (Tit. 1:9).
 - (1) Elders must be sound in the faith.
 - (2) If elders can neither exhort, nor stop the mouths of those who are vain talkers and deceivers confusion and division are sure to develop in the congregation.
 - (3) Elders need to know false doctrine and ungodly living and have the courage to protect the flock from either or both.
 - (4) Paul warned the Ephesian elders about grievous wolves (Acts 20:29). They must protect the flock from false teachers, whether those teachers sow false doctrine from the pulpit or in the Bible classes. Someone has said, "As goes the pulpit, so goes the church." So, elders must make sure the preaching is true to the Bible.
3. Elders must be examples to the flock in following the Chief Shepherd. It is necessary to be able to demonstrate a loving leadership that show people the right way to do what God wants done (1 Peter 5:3). It is not possible for a nation, organization, or

institution to rise above its leadership. Is not this fact also true of the church, beloved?

4. Elders are to take heed unto themselves and all the flock (Acts 20:28).
 5. They must exercise the oversight (1 Pet. 5:2, 3).
 - (1) This means to tend, rule, govern, shepherd, manage or direct.
 - (2) They are charged with the duty of seeing that things done by others are done rightly.
 - (3) Decisions affecting the congregation are theirs to make, and they may not shift this sacred responsibility.
 6. Elders must watch for our souls (Heb. 13:17).
 - (1) Sometimes elders may be too much afraid of giving offense and too little afraid of allowing sin to run its course.
 - (2) The role of elders is truly a good work. However, the responsibility is tremendous and the task must never be treated lightly. These duties have been imposed upon them by the Lord. When this work is not performed, the congregation suffers.
- C. The Holy Spirit has taught that elders be ordained in every church (Acts 20:17; 14:23; Titus 1:5).
1. These men are bishops, overseers, presbyters, elders, pastors, or shepherds. These terms describe their qualifications and functions (Acts 20:28, 17; Titus 1:5; Eph. 4:11; 1 Pet. 5:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Heb. 13:17). They are to exercise a shepherd's watchfulness in protecting the flock.
 2. Christ's church is a monarchy. Christ is the supreme head (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23).
 3. The autonomy of the church must be respected. Autonomy is defined as "right of self-government; a self-governing state; an independent body." There was no tyranny of one church over another in New Testament times. So in each church there is to be a plurality of elders or bishops -- not a plurality of churches to one bishop.
- D. Yes, the elders do have some authority.
1. They do not have authority to nullify or modify the law of Christ.
 2. But they have authority to enforce Christ's law.
 3. The elders could not perform the God-given duties without some authority. They are over

the flock; they are to feed the flock; they are to rule, tend, govern, direct, shepherd and manage the flock (Acts 20:28; 1 Thess. 5:12, 13; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; Heb. 13:17). How could such be done without authority? Beloved, their duties inherently involve the authority necessary in accomplishing that which is enjoined. No one would contend that elders have the same kind of authority that the Lord has. But, they do have authority. Let us be determined to respect it. Their authority is in matters of expediency and human judgment. Elders do not have the right to forbid the gospel being preached nor demand a watered down version of the gospel. Elders today do not possess spiritual gifts which enable them to make infallible decisions and speak by inspiration. This does not annul their position, but it does make us careful as those who know their limitations.

III. CONCLUSION:

Let us do our best to so teach God's Word that in the future men will not get into the eldership unless they meet God's qualifications. All elders do not bow to pressure to compromise. We commend those devoted elderships who stand forthrightly for the pure doctrine of Christ regarding the relationship of the Christian to the world. Those who uphold the truth are worthy of love, respect, honor and support. May God hasten the day when we have many more strong, well-qualified, devoted and faithful elders who demand faithful Christian living and bold, distinctive, challenging and redemptive preaching.

THE PREACHER AND HIS LIBRARY

Begin early to build a good library. Only buy good books. Do not load your shelves with trash. Advise with others who know books. Visit good second-hand book stores. Watch for older preachers selling their library. Try to set aside a certain amount of money each month with which to buy books. Remember your library is your tool for working.

1. BOOKS RELATED TO THE BIBLE:

Concordance; Youngs, Strong, Crudens.

A good up to date English dictionary.

M'Clintock & Strong "Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature" (12 vols.) it is good and conservative.

"The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge" (13 Vols.).

"The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia" edited by Orr, (5 Vols.).

Robertson's Word Pictures. W.E. Vines "Dictionary of New Testament Words"

2. COMMENTARIES:

Clark's Commentary (entire Bible, 6 vols.)

Gospel Advocate Commentaries on New Testament

Fourfold Gospel, McGarvey & Pendleton

Acts, J.W. McGarvey

Thess., Cor., Gal., Romans, McGarvey & Pendleton (1 vol.)

Hebrews, Milligan

Romans, by Lard, and also Romans by R.L. Whiteside

Revelation: "More Than Conquerors" Hendrikson. Also by Foy E. Wallace

Barnes Note, Old & New Testaments (11 vols. N.T.)

"The Gospel According to John" by Guy N. Woods

"Jeremiah" (vols 1 & 2) edited by Wm. S. Cline

"The Work of the Holy Spirit" by Franklin Camp

"Joshua" edited by Wm. S. Cline

"Pulpit Commentary" entire Bible (51 vols.)

3. EVIDENCES:

Divine Demonstration, Everest

"Therefore Stand" by Wilburn M. Smith

Some books by Harry Rimmer are good: "Harmony of Science and Scripture" and also "Modern Science and the Genesis Record"

"Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible" by Sidney Collett

4. DEBATES:

Campbell-Rice (Presbyterian)

Campbell-Purcell (Roman Catholic)

Campbell-Owen (infidel)

Neal-Wallace (Pre-mil.)

Hardeman-Bogard (Baptist)

Oliphant-Rice (Baptist)

Oliphant-Smith (Atheist)

Nichols-Weaver (HS, signs, miracles, etc.)

Hardeman-Boswell (inst. music)

Class Question, Hayhurst & Buchanan, Johnson & Bonneau

Humble-Garrett (Located Preacher & College Ques.)

Stevens-Beevers (Catholicism)

Warren-Fugua on Marriage & Divorce

Woods-Porter

Woods-Cogdill Debate

It is good to buy any old debate.

5. SERMONS:

"Gospel Sermon" Brents

"Gospel Plan of Salvation" Brents

"Hardeman's Tabernacle Sermons" N.B. Hardeman (5 vols.)

"Gospel Preacher" Ben Franklin (2 vol.)

"New Testament Christianity" Z.T. Sweeney (3 vols.)

Sermons by McGarvey

"Gospel Sermons" by J.D. Tant

"Brewer's Sermons" by G.C. Brewer

"Gospel for Today" by Foy E. Wallace

"At the Feet of Jesus" by R.P. Meeks

"Letters and sermons" T.B. Larimore

"Familiar Lectures on the Pentateuch" by A. Campbell

"The Home" by DeHoff

"Number One Gospel Sermons" by Foy E. Wallace

6. HISTORY:

"History of the Christian Church" Phillip Schaff, (8 vols.)

"History of the Church" Neander (5 vols.)

"History of Reformation Movements" Rowe

"Life and Works of Josephus"

Memoirs of A. Campbell

"The Search for the Ancient Order" by Earl West (2 vols.)

"Church Falling Away and Restoration" Shepherd

7. DOCTRINAL:

"God's Prophetic Word" Foy E. Wallace

"Christian System" A. Campbell
"Christian Baptism" A. Campbell
"Handbook on Baptism" J.W. Shepherd
"Bulwarks of the Faith" Foy E. Wallace (2 vols.)
"Instrumental Music" Foy E. Wallace
"Doctrinal Discourses" R.L. Whiteside
"Scheme of Redemption" Milligan
"Adventism Renounced" Canwright
"Instrumental Music in Worship" Kurfees

8. HOMILETICS:

"On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons" Broadus
"Lectures on Preaching" Phillip Brooks
"How to Prepare a Sermon" H.E. Knott
"How to Prepare an Expository Sermon" H.E. Knott
"Heart of the Yale Lectures" Batsel B. Baxter
"Speaking for the Master" Batsel B. Baxter

9. HERMENEUTICS:

"Hermeneutics" by D.R. Dungan
"Rightly Dividing the Word" edited by Terry M. Hightower

FUNERALS.

- I. Things in general.
 - A. Become familiar with local customs.
 - B. Visit the funeral home or homes most used by the congregation.
 - C. It will help to get acquainted with the funeral director.
- II. When notified of a death.
 - A. Contact family immediately.
 - B. Contact the funeral director.
 - C. Gather all required information.
 - 1. Name of deceased.
 - 2. Names of the family.
 - 3. Learn of any special requests.
 - a. Who will arrange for singers?
 - b. Will you be assisted in the service?
 - c. Does the family have favorite passages of scripture, favorite songs, a poem or reading they would like used in the service.?
 - 4. Pall Bearers--The family may have overlooked this.
- III. The funeral service.
 - A. Be brief. Show compassion and kindness.
 - B. Comfort the family. They are bereaved.
 - C. Keep in mind that this is not a regular preaching service.
 - 1. A strong gospel sermon is not usually appropriate.
 - 2. Hearts are broken. Try to help the family through their troubles.
 - D. Give each person involved in the service a copy of the schedule of services.
 - 1. Funeral director
 - 2. Director of the singing
 - 3. Anyone who is assisting you.
 - 4. Yourself
 - E. Schedule of service usually goes something like--
 - 1. One or more songs
 - 2. Reading of obituary.
 - 3. Scripture reading
 - 4. Prayer
 - 5. A song
 - 6. Funeral message.
 - 7. Closing prayer.
 - F. Following the service.
 - 1. If body is viewed, minister stands at head of casket.

2. As casket is removed from building to the hearse, the minister leads the way.

IV. At the cemetery.

- A. The minister walks ahead of the casket from the hearse to the grave.
- B. Then move slightly away from the grave and stand silently until the funeral director gives you the signal to proceed.
- C. A very few brief remark may be appropriate. Usually just a brief scripture reading and prayer.
- D. Minister then passes by seated family members and offers a word of comfort and any future help he might give.

V. Additional suggestion that might help you.

- A. The death of a relative or friend may cause people to be more receptive to the gospel. So keep eyes and ears open for those you might teach later.
- B. Friends, neighbors and other relatives are caring and concerned for a few days. But after that they go away. Then is the time for you to follow up and see to any needs and opportunities to serve.
- C. If the family remembers you and presents you with money or a gift certificate, accept it graciously. It helps you both.
- D. Have your car nice and clean for the service.
- E. Wear a conservative suit, tie and shirt.
- F. Always be very professional. Be a real Christian gentleman. The family needs all the help and spiritual guidance you can give.
- G. Immediately write the family a nice letter. List the scriptures you used in the funeral service and any poems. People appreciate this for their book of memories.

SOME SCRIPTURES AND POEMS FOR FUNERALS

Some of the students requested that these be included in this section. I sincerely trust that they will be of some help to young preachers.

SCRIPTURES:

Jn. 14:1-3; Acts 11:24; 2 Sam. 3:38; Ps. 116:15; 2 Cor. 1:3-4; Rev. 14:13; Job 7:6; Heb. 9:27; Eccl. 8:8; 9:5; Ps. 147:3; 90:5,6,10; Jn. 11:25-26; Gal. 6:2; Rom. 12:15; Ps. 55:22; 1 Pet. 5:7; Ps. 84:10-12; 27:1; 34:4-5. For a Christian lady you may use Prov. 31:10-30; Ps. 46:1; 103:13-18; Ps. 23; 1 Cor. 15:53-57.

POEMS:

"Leaves have their time to fall,
And flowers to wither at the north winds breath,
And stars to set--but all,
Thou hast all seasons for thine own, O Death."

"So live that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan that moves
To the pale realms of shade, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not like the quarry slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust approach thy grave
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him and lies down to pleasant dreams."
---William Cullen Bryant.

"The stars shall shine for a thousand years,
A thousand years and a day;
But God and I will live and live
When stars are passed away."
---Anon.

Let faith exalt her joyful voice,
And now in triumph sing:
O Grave, where is thy victory?
And where, O Death, thy sting?"
---Anon.

OLD AGE

"Servant of God, well done!
Thy glorious warfare's past,
The battle's fought, the race is won,
And thou art crowned at last."
---Anon.

"I know not what the future hath
Of marvel or surprise,
Assured alone that life and death
His mercy underlies."
---John Greenleaf Whittier

"Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares,
We share our mutual woes,

Our mutual burdens bear!
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear."
---Author unknown.

"There is a world above
Where parting is unknown,
A whole eternity to love.
Formed for the good alone;
And faith beholds the dying here
Transplanted to the happier sphere."
--- Montgomery

CROSSING THE BAR

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea.

But such a tide of moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam.
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.
---Alfred Tennyson

SORROW CAN BRING A BLESSING

1. Makes us more humble.
2. Seasons us with deeper spiritual attitude and insights.
3. Opens eyes to greater opportunity.

SUGGESTIONS TO HELP IN OVERCOMING SORROW

1. Trust in God, Ps. 46:1; 84:10-12.
2. Resign yourself to the fact of death, bend with the inevitable, Eccl. 9:5; 8:8.
3. Time will help heal.
"Time like an ever rolling stream
Bears all our griefs away."
Endurance is needed while facing shock.
4. Lean upon your friends.

5. Utilize the power of prayer.
6. Take God's promises to heart Ps. 23; Phil. 4:13.
7. Help others bear their burdens.
8. Faithfully attend worship services.
9. Keep busy.

