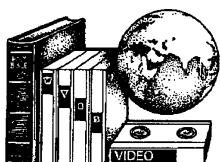


# World Video Bible School®

Established 1986



## THE PREACHER AND HIS WORK

*This set of notes is designed to be used by non-credit students of World Video Bible School® and correspondent students enrolled in the Video Bible Institute (VBI). VBI students should pay particular attention to the syllabus. Students not taking the course for credit may bypass the syllabus and use the notes as they see fit for their spiritual enrichment.*



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# **THE PREACHER AND HIS WORK**

## **SYLLABUS**

### **I. GENERAL INFORMATION.**

- A. Instructor: Clarence DeLoach.
- B. This course consists of 12 lessons on 4 DVDs.
- C. Each class is approximately 38 minutes long.

### **II. DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE.**

- A. This course is developed with three areas of preaching in mind:
  - 1. The preacher's preaching.
  - 2. The preacher's life.
  - 3. The preacher's work.
- B. Special emphasis is given to the practical principles that can be used by all who preach.
- C. Emphasized will be the importance of character and integrity, as well as the place and purpose of preaching in the divine plan.
- D. Suggestions will be offered on how to work with people in and out of the church and warnings given about pitfalls the preacher should avoid.

### **III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS.**

- A. Bible (ASV, KJV or NKJV).
- B. 12 video lessons.
- C. Spiral bound class notes.

#### **IV. MEMORY WORK.**

- A. Memory verses must be written (or typed) from memory, then mailed to VBI for grading. Verses must come from the ASV, KJV or NKJV, according to what you indicated on your original VBI application.
- B. All verses must be written out or typed at one sitting. You may study more and start over if you make a mistake, but you must still start again from the beginning and write all the verses at one sitting.
- C. For *The Preacher And His Work*, the following verses must be memorized:

Romans 1:16	2 Timothy 2:2
Romans 10:14,15	2 Timothy 2:15
1 Corinthians 1:21	2 Timothy 3:16,17
1 Corinthians 15:1,2	2 Timothy 4:1-4
1 Timothy 4:6	Hebrews 4:12
1 Timothy 4:16	
- D. Memory work is due when you mail VBI your third written test.
- E. Hint: A good method of memorizing is to write the verses on flash cards that can be easily reviewed throughout the course.

#### **V. TESTS.**

- A. There are three written tests.
- B. The first test covers lessons 1-4. The second covers lessons 5-7. The third covers lessons 8-12. When you near lesson 4, contact VBI and request the first test. When you are ready, contact us and request the 2nd and 3rd tests as well.
- C. When you receive a test you have permission to look at it and study it prior to taking it.
- D. However, when you actually take the test, you must do so completely from memory with no help from notes, Bible, textbook or tapes.

#### **VI. TERM PAPER.**

- A. Write a paper on the responsibilities of a gospel preacher, as revealed in the New Testament.

- B. The paper should be a minimum of five pages, typed and double spaced. If handwritten, the paper should be a minimum of seven pages, single spaced.
- C. The paper is due when you mail VBI your third test and memory work.

## **VII. GRADING.**

- A. Memory work, term paper and tests will be graded separately.
- B. Final grade is based on an average of all assigned work.
- C. You may request that a grade be explained or reconsidered, but in any case VBI will have the final say.

## **VIII. SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS.**

- A. View each video lesson in its entirety.
- B. Complete all memory work (explained under point #4).
- C. Submit a term paper (explained under point #6).
- D. Take three written tests (explained under point #5).
- E. Have a combined grade average of at least 70.

## **IX. CREDIT.**

- A. Credit will be issued, including a certificate, only after all work has been successfully completed, tapes have been returned (if rented) and all invoices for this particular course have been paid in full.
- B. We hope this study has been helpful in your journey to eternity!



## **THE PREACHER AND HIS WORK**

### **I. AN INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW**

- A. Preaching in general has fallen on bad times. Modern society deplores it and even some who preach do not believe it has much impact in these modern times.
- B. This has become the age of sermonettes – and sermonettes make Christianettes. The uncertainty of our age about the gospel and the mission of the church is due in large part to a generation of preachers who have lost confidence in the Word of God.
- C. It is my prayer that this series of studies on “The Preacher and His Work” will focus upon the place of preaching in the divine plan, thus giving priority to preaching and the serious business of being partners with God in the noble venture of bringing the good news of salvation to fallen man.

### **II. In this short course we propose to cover three vital areas involved in preaching.**

#### **A. Part I - THE PREACHER'S PREACHING**

- 1. Lesson 1 - The Priority of Preaching
- 2. Lesson 2 - The Preparation for Preaching
- 3. Lesson 3 - Balanced Preaching
- 4. Lesson 4 - The Presentation

#### **B. Part II - THE PREACHER'S LIFE**

- 1. Lesson 5 - His Character and Integrity
- 2. Lesson 6 - His Family
- 3. Lesson 7 - Managing His Time
- 4. Lesson 8 - His Spiritual Life

#### **C. Part III - THE PREACHER AND THE CHURCH**

- 1. Lesson 9 - Developing a Church

2. Lesson 10 - Work with Elders
3. Lesson 11 - Special Needs (Planning Your Preaching)
4. Lesson 12 - Dealing with Discouragement
5. Lesson 13 - Caution and Care

## PART I - THE PREACHER AND HIS PREACHING

### **CLASS # 1 - THE PRIORITY OF PREACHING**

#### I. SO, YOU WANT TO PREACH! WHY?

##### A. What constitutes a preacher's calling?

###### 1. Not:

- a. Some mystical, supernatural calling.
- b. Some weird, subjective experience.

###### 2. But:

- a. An atmosphere of spirituality and Christian activity.
- b. The urging of a heart on fire for God.
- c. Compassion for the lost.
- d. The encouragement of godly Christians.
- e. The model of dedicated gospel preachers.
- f. Open doors of God's providence.

###### 3. The danger:

- a. Of manufactured preachers.
- b. Professionalism.

##### B. We need to question our motives for preaching.

###### 1. Improper motives:

- a. To make an impression.
- b. To make a name for oneself.
- c. To have admiration and praise.
- d. To exercise power and control.

- e. To make a living.
- 2. Proper motives (Paul's motives):
  - a. God's love for Him.
  - b. His love for God.
  - c. Gratitude for his own salvation.
  - d. Sense of responsibility.
  - e. The value of one soul.

## II. WHAT IS PREACHING?

### A. Consider these definitions.

- 1. "Preaching, in it's strictest sense, is the public use of speech with intent to reveal God to man."
- 2. "Preaching is the communication of truth by man to man. It has two essential elements, truth and personality. Neither can it spare and still be preaching." NOTE PAUL'S STATEMENT, "We have this treasure (truth) in earthen vessels (personality)" (2 Cor 4:7).

### B. The preacher is:

- 1. A man under orders – one not his own master.
- 2. One whose life is consistent with the message he proclaims.
- 3. You cannot divorce the preacher from his preaching. In a sense the man is his message; the preacher is his proclamation; the speaker is his sermon.
- 4. "Take heed to thyself (preacher) and unto the doctrine (preaching)" (1 Tim 4:16).
- 5. Jesus was what He said (Jn 8:25, Acts 1:1).

### C. The divine words that describe preaching.

- 1. Kerusso – "to proclaim as a herald" (Mt 11:1; Mk 3:14; Rom 10:15).

2. Evangelizo – “to tell good news, an evangel or evangelist” (1 Cor 1:17; Gal1:8).
3. Kataggello – “to tell thoroughly” (Acts 4:2;15:35; Col 1:28).
4. Laleo – “to talk” (Acts 11:19, 14:25).

### III. THE IMPORTANCE OF PREACHING

- A. Preaching has been important to God through the ages.
  1. Noah was a preacher of righteousness (2 Pet 2:5).
  2. Moses was God’s prophet.
  3. The prophets were preachers.
  4. Jesus came preaching.
  5. The apostles were preachers.
  6. The world-wide commission calls for preaching (Mt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15,16).
  7. God’s appraisal of preaching (1 Cor 1:21).
- B. The place and priority of preaching in the New Testament.
  1. It is God’s divinely appointed means of spreading the gospel (Rom 10:9-17).
    - a. If traced from cause to effect – sent - preach - hearing - believing calling - saved.
    - b. Or from effect to cause – saved, called, believe, heard, preacher, sent.
    - c. PREACHING IS VITAL!
  2. It is the means by which faith is produced in the hearer.
    - a. Facts are proclaimed (1 Cor 15:1-4).
    - b. Faith pre-supposes revelation (Rom 10:17).

- c. Faith necessitates an object.
- 3. Preaching the Word is God's way of regenerating man.
  - a. The Word is living - the Preacher's message is alive! (Heb 4:12; 1 Pet 1:23-25).
  - b. The Word imparts and develops life (Jn 6:63; 1 Pet 2:1,2).
- 4. Preaching is the means by which the believer is built up in the holy faith.
  - a. Note the three-fold objective of Paul's ministry (Col 1:28,29).
    - 1) TO WARN - Man is lost. Sin will condemn. God's wrath is real.
    - 2) TO TEACH - Present a Savior. How to be saved. How to live.
    - 3) TO PRESENT - To develop. To equip. To present to Christ.
  - b. Note the seven-fold work of the Word (2 Tim 3:15-17).
    - 1) MAKE WISE TO SALVATION.
    - 2) FOR DOCTRINE.
    - 3) FOR CORRECTION.
    - 4) FOR REPROOF.
    - 5) FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.
    - 6) DEVELOP CHRISTIAN MATURITY.
    - 7) TO THOROUGHLY FURNISH.
- 5. Preaching is God's means of reaching and involving the whole man.
  - a. Intellect, by which man acquires facts, information and knowledge.

- b. Emotions, with which man reacts to knowledge - stirred, aroused.
- c. Will, the volition to act favorably or unfavorably toward that which has been received.



## **CLASS # 2 - THE PREACHER'S PREPARATION**

### **Introduction:**

- A. Common sense demands that preparation precedes preaching. A lawyer prepares his brief, a builder studies his plans, a doctor freshens up on a certain disease. SO, THE PREACHER MUST MAKE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC PREPARATION.
- B. In general, a preacher's preparation is all that goes into what he is: his life, his attitude, his study.
- C. He needs to be fit.
  - 1. Spiritually:
    - a. Preaching is a gift that needs to be stirred (1 Pet 4:10,11; 2 Tim 1:6).
    - b. It is developed by exercise. Nine-tenths of inspiration is perspiration.
  - 2. Physically:
    - a. A healthy soul in a healthy body .
    - b. Preaching is demanding physically.
    - c. Avoid these extremes - Rusting out by laziness; tearing down by overwork.
  - 3. Mentally:
    - a. A sound, healthy mind (2 Tim 1:7).
    - b. Hobbyism, fanaticism and extremism indicates unsoundness.
  - 4. Educationally:
    - a. Training is essential.
    - b. "You can cut wood with a dull axe, but more effectively if sharpened."

- c. The preacher is challenged to be alert, to stay sharp by study and preparation.
- d. Such is an on-going process.

## I. THE PREACHER'S PREPARATION

- A. The preacher as "MAN OF GOD" will be a "man of the book."
  - 1. The Bible is his textbook.
    - a. There is no justification for preaching that is not Biblical.
    - b. It is not preaching that saves, but truth that is preached.
    - c. The true preacher will want to saturate his mind and heart in the Word of God so he can preach from the overflow.
  - 2. Study the Bible as a whole.
    - a. Study it consecutively for information.
    - b. Study it dispensationally for application.
    - c. Study it doctrinally for stabilization.
    - d. Study it typically for illustration.
    - e. Study it devotionally for inspiration.
  - 3. Read to be current.
    - a. Know what is going on in the world.
    - b. Keep abreast of dangers and trends in the church.
    - c. Be prepared to address current and changing issues with the unchanging word.
  - 4. No amount of substitutes will suffice for preparation.
    - a. One may become a gad-about, an errand boy, a professional visitor, a public relations man, but such will not take the place of preparation.

- b. Regular study habits are essential.
- B. The preacher's library.
  - 1. Some important considerations.
    - a. Not quantity, but quality that counts.
    - b. Be selective, and buy as you need.
    - c. Be careful as you buy and use good stewardship.
    - d. Remember - buying and selecting good books is a life-time venture.
  - 2. What a library entails:
    - a. Printed materials: articles, clippings, papers, magazines, notes, etc.
    - b. Audio-visual materials: tapes, videos, films and filmstrips, slides, maps, charts, posters.
    - c. Filed material - Sermons, illustrations (computers now).
    - d. Equipment - projectors, copy machines, etc.
    - e. NOTE: Preachers now have many advantages in storing, sorting and using materials due to advances in technology.
  - 3. Suggestions about your library.
    - a. Make a definite commitment to build your library.
    - b. Make regular additions with a "want list" always at hand.
    - c. Ask advice from older more experienced preachers about worthwhile volumes.
    - d. Go heavy on conservative reference works.
    - e. Buy books printed by our brethren.
    - f. Go for books that deal in evidence for faith.

- g. Keep abreast on works of the restorers.
- h. Maintain your own independent thinking.

C. Prayer and preparation.

- 1. Preaching and prayer are partners (Acts 6:1,2). "Theology must be preceded by kneeology."
- 2. He who would speak much for God, must speak often to God.
- 3. A prayerless ministry is powerless and profitless (Isa 40:31).
- 4. Consider the prayers of Jesus (Lk 3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18,29; 22:32; 23:34).
- 5. Consider the prayers of Paul.

D. When is a preacher prepared?

- 1. WHEN:
  - a. The subject is developed scripturally.
  - b. Scripture is used and explained in context.
  - c. He has read, written, organized his material in a manner that he knows what he wants to say.
  - d. He has prayed over what he intends to say.
  - e. He longs to share it with people whom he loves.
- 2. An old preacher said, "Get to know your subject by study; then stow your subject into your mind by meditation and prayer; then see that you show your subject by translating it into life, and finally go with your subject and sow it into hearts by faithfully delivering the message God committed to you."
- 3. Think yourself empty; read yourself full; write yourself clear; pray yourself keen and preach yourself out.

### **CLASS # 3 - BALANCE IN PREACHING**

#### **Introduction:**

- A. Preaching is indispensable to Christianity, but for it to be effective, it must be balanced. What do we mean?
- B. Balance is a quality of equilibrium and symmetry that avoids extremes.
  - 1. Balance is seen in nature.
  - 2. Balance is seen in God's nature.
  - 3. Balance is seen in the Bible.

#### **I. JESUS' PREACHING IS A MODEL OF BALANCE**

- A. When Jesus preached in the cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida (Mt 11).
  - 1. He upbraided them.
  - 2. He pronounced woe.
  - 3. He dealt with sin and urged repentance.
  - 4. He had the courage of Amos.
  - 5. But, He ended the chapter with a living invitation (Mt 11:28-30).
  - 6. He was "the lion of Judah" and the "Lamb of God."
- B. Note the balance in the sermon on the Mount.
  - 1. He stressed being before doing (Mt 5 and Mt 7).
  - 2. He warned of false teachers.
  - 3. He emphasized worship and life.
  - 4. He talked about believing and behaving.
  - 5. He mentioned doctrine and ethics.
- C. His balance with the Pharisees (Mt 23).

1. He began with woes.
2. He ended with a compassionate statement.

## II. LOOK AT PAUL'S BALANCE

- A. How he worked among the Thessalonians, "our coming to you" (1 Thess 2:1).
  1. He saw his preaching as a trust committed to him (1 Thess 2:4).
    - a. Faithful discharge of gospel.
    - b. Keep back nothing profitable.
    - c. Deliver whole counsel (Acts 20).
    - d. Pleased God, not men.
    - e. Did not seek glory, nor flattery.
  2. He saw it as a mother nourishing her children (1 Thess 2:7).
    - a. Affectionately longing for you.
    - b. Patiently nourishing babes.
    - c. Willing to give his life.
    - d. Not seeking to be a burden.
  3. He saw it as charging, comforting and encouraging as a Father.
    - a. When a son stumbles and falls, he needs lifting and encouraging.
    - b. A son needs charging – given responsibility.
    - c. A son needs comfort when distressed.
  4. We need this kind of balance in our preaching – more is involved than delivering a message – we must nourish, challenge, encourage and comfort.
- B. Balance in Paul's instruction to Timothy.

1. The late H. Leo Boles urged his preacher students to read 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus often.
2. Look at these passages:
  - a. 1 Tim. 1:3
  - b. 1 Tim. 4:6,7
  - c. 1 Tim. 4:13
  - d. 1 Tim. 4:16
  - e. 2 Tim. 4:2-5

### III. CHARACTERISTICS OF A BALANCED PREACHER

- A. He will guard against hobby-riding.
- B. He will present a balanced diet.
- C. He will manage his time to study and grow spiritually while finding time and energy for people.
- D. He will manifest a caring spirit, never preaching an angry gospel.
- E. He will preach negatively and positively as dictated by truth.
- F. He will preach first principles and practical living as needed.
- G. He will preach from the Old and New Testaments; the goodness and severity of God; heaven and hell; grace and faith; broad principles and specific applications.
- H. He will preach doctrine and relationships.

#### Conclusion:

Preachers can be sure, without being cocky; bold, but not brazen; plain but not cruel; kind, but not compromising; firm, but not stubborn; determined, but not dominating; true, but not arrogant.

**KEEP YOUR BALANCE!!!**



## **CLASS # 4 - THE PREACHER'S PRESENTATION**

### **Introduction:**

- A. Assuming that adequate preparation has been made, the time comes when you must present what you have prepared to say.
  - 1. A preacher must earn the right to speak. While preaching is a “grace” (Eph 3:8), it is also a work.
  - 2. We preach by perspiration not inspiration.
  - 3. Powerful preaching does not just happen. It takes time and effort to prepare and serve spiritual food.
  - 4. Poor preparation is a waste of time – yours and those who hear you.
- B. Preparation involves the whole field of homiletics.
  - 1. Subjects must be selected.
  - 2. Material must be arranged and outlined.
  - 3. You may approach your sermon with topical, biographical, textual or expository treatment.

### **I. IMPORTANT FACTORS IN PRESENTATION**

- A. Be careful in your manner.
  - 1. Do not mar the message by a cocky, arrogant manner.
  - 2. What you say is important; and the manner in which you say it.
  - 3. Avoid the extremes of “self-exaltation” and “self-depreciation.”
  - 4. Speak from your heart, not your library shelves.
  - 5. The ideal situation: Self-possession and confidence that results from knowledge, faith and preparation; and self-abandonment and humility that comes from earnestness and sincerity.
  - 6. Talent knows what to do; tact knows how to do it.
  - 7. Physically:

- a. Be neat.
- b. Watch your posture.
- c. Avoid mannerisms that detract.
- d. Do not imitate another - be yourself.

B. Watch your language.

1. Remember, the message is conveyed to an audience by words.
  - a. Words make men see (Eph 3:8,9).
  - b. Illumination is essential to edification.
  - c. Scriptures are Spirit-chosen words (1 Cor 2:13).
2. The value of right words.
  - a. Fitly chosen words (Prov 25:11).
  - b. Forcible (Job 6:25).
  - c. Acceptable (Eccl 12:10).
  - d. Easy to understand (1 Cor 14:9-19).
  - e. Words can be troubling, profitless, idle, smooth, fair, deceiving or ignorant (Acts 15:24; 2 Tim 2:14; Mt 12:36; Rom 16:18; Psa 55:21; Job 35:16).
3. The preacher should strive to improve his word power.
4. Suggestions on the proper use of language (words).
  - a. Be simple.
    - 1) Jesus, our role model: "The common people heard him gladly" (Mk 12:37).
    - 2) His words were profound enough that the learned critic was silenced; but simple enough that no one left in doubt (Mt 22:46).

- b. Words should be grammatically expressed.
- c. Words should be forceful.
- d. Words should be clear, well enunciated and pronounced. Own and use a good dictionary.
- e. One has said, “To be listened to is the first thing; therefore, be interesting; to be understood is the second thing; so be clear. To be useful is a third thing; therefore be practical. To be obeyed is a fourth thing, so speak as the oracles of God.”

C. Watch your voice.

- 1. The voice is a wonder– “a God-given medium by which the God-given message is communicated by a God-given messenger to accomplish a God-given purpose.
- 2. Gospel preachers are “mouthpieces for deity” to cry aloud and spare not, lifting up the voice as a trumpet” (Isa 58:1).
- 3. A distinctive sound like a trumpet (1 Cor 14:8).
- 4. Some suggestions:
  - a. Watch the compass; volume and penetration.
  - b. Make the most of the voice God gave you.
  - c. Avoid the so-called preacher’s tone.
  - d. Speak from the diaphragm, not the throat.
  - e. Read aloud using tape recorder.

D. Watch your audience.

- 1. “Eye contact” is important.
- 2. From heart to heart; eye to eye; and face to face.

E. Be careful about time.

- 1. Better to leave your hearers longing than loathing.

2. “Stand up manfully, speak up clearly; and leave off quickly.”
  3. Do not keep on after you’ve finished.
  4. Ask about time limitations.
- F. By all means, stay on your theme.
1. Preach the Word (2 Tim 4:1-4).
    - a. With persistency “in season and out.”
    - b. With courage “reprove and rebuke.”
    - c. With earnestness “with all longsuffering.”
    - d. With watchfulness “watch in all things.”
  2. The gospel is fact: tell it simply.
    - a. It is a joyful fact - tell it cheerfully.
    - b. It is an entrusted fact - tell it faithfully.
    - c. It is a fact of infinite love - tell it feelingly.
    - d. It is a fact hard for some to understand - tell it illustratively.
    - e. It is a fact about a person - preach Christ.
    - f. It is a fact about a plan - proclaim it!

## CLASS # 5 - THE PREACHER'S CHARACTER

### Introduction:

Preachers are men working with man. They are not perfect; however, their lives must be touched and changed. Fallen preachers have caught the public eye. Media coverage of scandalous episodes in the lives of famous T.V. evangelists has caused the public to be suspicious. Many have been exposed for moral and ethical wrongdoing. Several of our own have been caught up and fallen into the snare of Satan. Preachers have no immunity from the Devil's exploits.

For many years, the Lyman Beecher Lectureship on Preaching was conducted at Yale University. Beginning in 1871 by Henry Ward Beecher, the lectureship became the greatest contribution made to the field of homiletics. In 1954 the late Batsell Barrett Baxter wrote a book entitled, The Heart of the Yale Lectures. He summarized the best in that long series of lectures on preaching. Brother Baxter said, "There was no subject mentioned more often than the preacher's character."

Preaching comes to the person in the pew tinged with the personality and life of the person in the pulpit. McDowell put it this way:

"You cannot give what you do not have. You cannot create consecration unless you are consecrated. You cannot cause men to do their best unless you live at your best. Learning will not do it. Eloquence will not do it. Even brilliant deeds will not do it. Life giving is in the hands of life-possessors."

### I. THE PREACHER'S CHARACTER AND THE RECEPTION OF THE MESSAGE

- A. The preacher must not only speak sound doctrine, he must adorn (Titus 2:1,10).
  - 1. To adorn is to beautify, make attractive "as a bride for her husband" (Isa 61:10; Titus 2:1-8).
  - 2. Such adornment consists of:
    - a. Honesty in business.
    - b. Truthfulness of speech.
    - c. Morality in life.
    - d. Wholesomeness of mind.
    - e. Evenness of temper.

- f. Righteousness in life.
    - g. Godliness of character.
  - 3. Paul addresses the balance of lip and life in Phil.2:15,16.
    - a. A consistent life with a persistent message.
    - b. A shining faith in life while holding forth the Word of life.
  - 4. Inconsistency in the preacher will cause others to blaspheme the Word.
    - a. Romans 2:21-24.
    - b. 1 Timothy 6:1.
    - c. Titus 2:5.
    - d. 2 Samuel 12:14.
  - 5. “Unless there is within us that which is above us, we will soon yield to that which is around us.”
- B. A preacher has no worry about his reputation as long as the character is what it should be.
  - 1. Discuss the difference between character and reputation.
  - 2. Example and sincerity have more influence than giftedness and brilliance.
 

“In preaching it is the character of the preacher which is the preacher’s power. Preaching is not a trick which can be mastered some bright morning, or a secret which can be transmitted from one man to another for a consideration...All these things - voice, gesture, rhetoric, illustration, quotations, learning - have a certain value, but they are at best superficialities, unless backed up by something better.” (Jefferson)

“A fresh and warm sermon spoken from a good man’s heart, though inferior in style and argument is far more adapted to the edification of an audience than the most finished and perfect discourse of another who may be a master in sermonizing.”

## II. THE IMPORTANCE OF CONVICTION AND SINCERITY

- A. One must believe what he preaches.
  - 1. Tragically, many preachers have continued to preach after they have ceased to believe.
  - 2. The heart and mind must be in your preaching - otherwise:
    - a. You'll be dull and listless - powerless.
    - b. Your audience will soon discover it - and turn in disgust.
- B. There is persuasive power in sincerity.
  - 1. Originally, the word "sincere" meant "without wax," i.e., true, genuine, the real thing.
  - 2. Sincerity creates confidence. The preacher is a communicator. His convictions pass in some strange way over into the minds of his hearers. If he doubts his own message, others will find it through moral sympathy. If he is one of strong faith, his faith will flow down into others. So absolute honesty is a first requisite to effective preaching.
- C. At no time in our history have we needed preachers with clear and confident conviction than today.
  - 1. More of the world and less of the Word brings insipidness to our pulpits.
  - 2. Doubt, strange sounds, half-hearted convictions have become the order of the day.
  - 3. Pulpits have become dull, passionless and ineffective so often because:
    - a. The Word does not ring in our bones (Jer). There's no fire within us!
    - b. We do not speak with authority. When the Word isn't preached, there is no authority (2 Tim 4:2-4; Mt 7:29).
  - 4. Sadly, many preachers have become actors, entertainers and showmen. Churches become theaters in which performances are

acted out. It must cause angels to weep when truth is handled so ineffectively.

### III. SUMMING IT UP

- A. The foremost qualification of the preacher is character, i.e.:
  - 1. If he would reveal God to man, he must first know God himself.
  - 2. His life is lived on such a plane that his message is not marred in the minds of his hearers by inconsistency.
  - 3. He must be genuine in attitude, heart and soul in what he does.
  - 4. Such will bring an earnestness and enthusiasm that is evident in the life and work of the preacher.

## **CLASS # 6 - THE PREACHER'S FAMILY**

### **Introduction:**

- A. There is no biblical requirement that the preacher be married.
  - 1. Paul was not.
  - 2. We do not know about Timothy.
  - 3. Peter was.
- B. However, there is good reason to believe that in most instances a preacher could do a more effective work if he has a family.
  - 1. A wife and family provide the comforts of home.
  - 2. Such enables the preacher to be a better example.
  - 3. His preaching that relates to family will be more effective if he has the experience of family.
  - 4. A family (wife and children) can be his greatest source for recreation, interaction and encouragement.
- C. It is fact, that historically many preachers have been “made” or “broken” by their families.
  - 1. Preacher’s families have the same needs, pressures and problems as others.
  - 2. However, the public eye is more focused upon them.
- I. **THE PREACHER’S FAMILY SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE**
  - A. Scriptures: (Rom 2:11,21; 1 Tim 3:4,5,12; Titus 1:6).
  - B. Implications:
    - 1. The wife must be supportive.
    - 2. Children “in subjection” i.e., not rebellious and disobedient.

## II. THE PREACHER'S WIFE – A SPECIAL PERSON

- A. She is to a large extent, responsible for the preacher's effectiveness.
  - 1. Some have done a rather good work without the whole-hearted support of their wives - but these are exceptions.
  - 2. Some have quit because of pressure from their wives.
- B. Who is a preacher's wife?
  - 1. She is a Christian.
    - a. She shares the same privileges and responsibilities as others.
    - b. She is saved by grace and enjoys the same liberty in Christ (Eph 2:8,9; Gal 5:1).
  - 2. She is an individual person - not molded and mass-produced.
    - a. She possesses the same personal, private needs, goals and ambitions as other Christian women.
    - b. Her feelings can be wounded like others. She gets sick, has the blues, gets upset and frustrated like others.
    - c. She may use poor judgement and make a mistake like the rest.
    - d. She has a right to her hobbies, a career if she chooses.
  - 3. She is a wife.
    - a. She loves her husband (Titus 2:3).
    - b. She helps her husband (Gen 2:20).
    - c. She may, like others, disagree with her husband.
    - d. She may get bored, lonely and unhappy if he is away too much.
    - e. As a wife, she needs a sense of security as others.

- f. She can help make the home open, warm and hospitable (Titus 1:8).
- 4. She is a mother.
  - a. Her pregnancies are as uncomfortable as others.
  - b. Her children have bad days and nights; have to learn to behave at home, in worship, at school.
  - c. She is an educator, trainer and confidant.
  - d. Her children, like others, will at times break the rules, will have problems, may get into trouble like others.
- 5. She is a member of the congregation.
  - a. She wants to be involved - in evangelism, teaching, serving - not because her husband preaches, but because she is a part of the body.
  - b. She shares in the social and spiritual life of the church.
- 6. She is a free-moral agent, with a mind to choose and act.
  - a. She should not be domineering, so as to be the object of criticism, suspicion and idle talk.
  - b. She should be careful in conversation. Some things should not be circulated; avoid being critical before others.
- C. Other important traits in the preacher's wife.
  - 1. A tender and sympathetic spirit toward those who are lonely, discouraged and beset with problems.
  - 2. An ability to handle finances - not being extravagant but economy-conscious. A preacher's wife could, through unnecessary spending, place the preacher in heavy and burdensome debt.
  - 3. The ability to dress neatly and tastefully both herself and her family.
  - 4. A friendly and warm spirit around the church building - toward visitors and members, avoiding cliques or special interest groups. Be human, kind, caring, attentive to all people.

5. Learn to take criticism well for it will come. Do not feel that every criticism will have to be met. If it is constructive, profit from it! If destructive, let it in one ear and out the other.

## II. OTHER FAMILY MATTERS

- A. Children need to be behaved in services and Bible classes.
- B. A worldly spirit in the preacher's children will demoralize and also weaken the influence of the preacher.
- C. The family should be regular and faithful to attend the assemblies.
- D. The family should be punctual - getting to services on time.
- E. Be considerate to each other in private and in public.

## III. TWO EXTREMES TO AVOID

- A. One is being so tied to your family that you are dominated - in your decisions and work.
  1. Such results in a crippled work. You can't get out to teach people. You can't go to preach.
  2. Such also results in criticism by the church and the world.
- B. The other extreme is being so detached from the family.
  1. Such preachers do not share in the discipline of the children.
  2. Such leaves household chores to the wife.
  3. Such is gone most of the time.
- C. Preachers must learn that much of the Lord's work is done at home.
  1. To neglect our families is sinful.
  2. No preacher is successful in his work who is not successful at home.

## **CLASS # 7 - TIME MANAGEMENT**

### **Introduction:**

- A. Why is it that some preachers seem to really get things done, while others appear to spin their wheels?
  - 1. The answer is not that one has more time - we all have the same: 24 hours a day.
  - 2. The answer is time management.
  - 3. If you are not a self-starter, then do not preach.
  - 4. Preachers do not punch "time cards," nor do they have overseers who say, "Do this now."
  - 5. Such presents a challenge to plan, to be goal-oriented and manage well.

- B. Psalms 90:9-11.

### **I. TIME MANAGEMENT FOR PREACHERS.**

- A. Some interesting facts about time.
  - 1. It is life.
    - a. Bacon said, "Time is the greatest innovator."
    - b. Disraeli said, "He who gains time gains everything."
    - c. Pittman said, "Well-arranged time is the surest mark of a well-arranged mind."
    - d. Paul said, "Redeem the time for the days are evil" (Eph 5:15).
- B. The major thieves of our time.
  - 1. Lack of clear objectives - goals.
  - 2. Laziness.
  - 3. Indecision.

4. Dwelling on the past.
  5. Procrastination.
  6. Lack of follow-through.
  7. Lack of organization.
  8. Failure to set deadlines.
  9. Lack of self-discipline.
- C. Positively, how to get the most from your time.
1. Plan your day (write it down).
  2. Establish priorities - what comes first.
    - a. Personal walk with God.
    - b. Family.
    - c. Church work.
    - d. Recreation.
  3. Set goals.
    - a. Short and long-range.
    - b. Be specific and set a limit on time.
  4. Get started NOW.
  5. Learn to say, NO.
  6. Get the toughest things done first.
  7. Use your waiting time.

## II. PREACHERS MUST TAKE TIME

- A. For their own spiritual enrichment.
1. For meditation and reading.

2. For private prayer and communication with God.
  3. Output must never exceed intake.
- B. For study.
1. Effective preaching demands study; and study takes time and effort.
  2. Effective study does not appeal to the lazy, but entails control, discipline, harnessing, application and stretching of the mind and concentration.
  3. There is no substitute for study (visitation, promotion, personality, gift of gab, manipulation).
  4. Study is the price of knowledge.
  5. The Bible is your textbook.
  6. Reading other materials will enrich your preaching.
  7. Other thoughts on study.
    - a. Be regular in your study habits.
    - b. Determine a place and time that is best for you.
    - c. Memorize scripture.
    - d. Receive good papers.
    - e. Build your library.
    - f. Your materials.
    - g. Listen to sermons, cassettes, etc.
    - h. Remember: study is a lifetime commitment and every sermon preached is built upon every study you've made: general and immediate.
    - i. Explore your own thoughts - read what others say, but keep an open mind and a flexible spirit.

- C. For your family (already covered).
  - 1. Do not neglect your wife.
  - 2. Do not neglect your children.
  - 3. Do not neglect their physical, moral, mental and emotional needs.
- D. For yourself.
  - 1. Recreation and relaxation.
  - 2. Exercise and health.
- E. For people.
  - 1. While anchored to the Book, let's be sensitive to people.
  - 2. We may come to love preaching more than those to whom we preach.
  - 3. A compassion for people was evident in Jesus' ministry (Lk 19:10; Mt 20:24; Mt 23).
  - 4. Compassion is feeling the pain in another's heart - Paul's passion was evident (Rom 9:3; 10:1,2).
- F. For brethren.
  - 1. Stay in touch with fellow Gospel preachers.
  - 2. Be alert and aware of what is going on without being a watch dog.
  - 3. Know your elders.
  - 4. Be a team member; not a loner, or isolationist.
  - 5. Your objective must be kept clear - working for God, with people and brethren to build the Kingdom of God on earth.

## **CLASS # 8 - DEVELOPING A CHURCH**

### **Introduction:**

- A. You are a young preacher and you're privileged to work with a church.
  - 1. It could be the church is new - just beginning.
  - 2. Or, it could be well established.
  - 3. Many of you taking this course will be working on mission fields around the world.
  - 4. A church may or may not have elders.
  - 5. Your approach will depend in large measure upon the state of maturity of the church.
- B. Some general suggestions:
  - 1. Remember, you are not the pastor and must not "run the church."
  - 2. Involve the membership as quickly as possible.
  - 3. Be patient with new babes in Christ.
  - 4. Do not be power hungry and seek to control.
  - 5. Teach the members and teach them how to teach.
  - 6. While exercising leadership, be humble and meek as a servant.

### **I. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUNG PREACHERS**

- A. When you graduate from school, you are not yet a Bible scholar. You have a lifetime in which to reach a level of maturity. Be a student. There is no finished education.
- B. Remember that churches are never perfect. They are made of fallible humans as you are. Do not expect perfection or be too disappointed when imperfections are evident.
- C. You will probably begin your work with congregations that need help most. These new, often small churches will have their share of problems. You probably won't be able to solve all the problems.

- D. Do not become a church climber, always looking for a bigger work. Serve where you are and God will open greater doors of service.
- E. Do not become a church hopper. If you and the congregation are compatible, stay long enough to build a good solid work.
- F. Be a servant and teacher for the entire membership, never allowing a clique, large or small, to dominate your time and interest.
- G. Be independent in your thinking about the members. Do not allow some brother to color your thinking about the members.
- H. Learn to master your temper. Think long and carefully before replies, especially of a critical sort, are given. You may regret hasty judgement.
- I. Take new converts with you to learn how to approach people and teach them the Gospel.
- J. Do not be an isolationist or loner. Encourage other works and preachers near you. Attend lectureships nearby.
- K. Develop leadership and turn over decisions to them as soon as possible.
- L. Respect and honor the elders where you serve. Do not allow them to be degraded in your presence. Encourage them and teach the church to honor them.
- M. Be absolutely honest in your business and financial affairs. To neglect to pay your bills will ruin your influence. Being a preacher gives no special privileges in meeting obligations.
- N. Be extremely careful with your influence and reputation with women. Do not allow yourself to get into situations that would embarrass or lead to temptation. Treat Christian women with honor and dignity.
- O. Delegate responsibility. You can't do everything! It's better to get ten men working than do the work of ten men.
- P. Nurture and cultivate your family. Your family will be your citadel, your strength and support.
- Q. Do not give up! Satan will discourage. There will be hard times. You may lack moral, spiritual and monetary support. Keep on keeping on! The reward will come.

II. THE WORK OF THE PREACHER IS A MAJOR THEME ADDRESSED BY PAUL IN HIS LETTERS TO TIMOTHY AND TITUS

- A. Timothy had been left in Ephesus to work with the church.
  - 1. Charge men that they teach no other doctrine - 1 Timothy 1:3.
  - 2. To teach holy living - 1 Timothy 1:9,10.
  - 3. To teach proper relationships - 1 Timothy 2:8-15; 6:1,2.
  - 4. To appoint leaders (elders and deacons) - 1 Timothy 3:1-13.
  - 5. To warn of apostasy - 1 Timothy 4:1-4.
  - 6. To exhort all in the church: young, older, widows, parents - 1 Timothy 5.
  - 7. Teaching, exhorting and warning in “these things” would make a good minister - 1 Timothy 4:6.
- B. Titus was left at Crete.
  - 1. To set in order what was lacking - Titus 1:5.
  - 2. To appoint elders - Titus 1:6-11.
  - 3. To exhort and teach all members - Titus 2:1-10.
  - 4. To teach and rebuke - Titus 2:15.
- C. Note from Timothy six portraits of the preacher:
  - 1. First, he is a STEWARDSHIP - (2 Tim 2:1,2).
    - a. Trustees of a spiritual treasure (gospel) (2 Cor 4:7).
    - b. Required to be faithful - (1 Cor 4:2).
  - 2. Second, he is a SOLDIER (2 Tim 2:3,4,8-13).
    - a. He endures hardship - (2 Tim 2:3).
    - b. He avoids worldly entanglement - (2 Tim 2:4).

- c. He knows the captain.
  - d. He understands the enemy - (1 Pet 5:8).
  - e. He knows how to use his armor - (Eph 6:10-17).
3. Third, he is an ATHLETE - (2 Tim 2:5).
- a. Paul alluded to wrestling, boxing, running and exercising.
  - b. One must strive - exert effort.
  - c. To finish the course with joy (2 Tim 4:6,7).
4. Fourth, he is a FARMER.
- a. Plowing, sowing, watering and harvesting (1 Cor 3:5-9).
  - b. A farmer must work (Prov 24:30-34).
  - c. A farmer needs patience (Jas 5:7).
5. Fifth, he is a WORKMAN (2 Tim 2:14-18).
- a. The word, study here does not mean books, but means diligence, zeal.
  - b. "Rightly dividing" means to cut straight and could refer to plowing a straight furrow, cutting a straight board or sewing a straight seam.
  - c. The preacher is a workman in the Word.
  - d. The approved workman will study and make application.
  - e. The approved workman knows that false doctrine is dangerous and opposes it.
6. Sixth, he is a SERVANT (2 Tim 2:23-26).
- a. His will is under the dominion of Christ.
  - b. He possesses a servant's heart (Mk 10:35-44).

## **CLASS # 9 - WORKING WITH ELDERS**

### **Introduction:**

- A. It is very important that preachers understand and respect the divine order for the organization of the church.
1. First, Jesus Christ is the head of the church (Eph 1:22,23; Col 1:18). That means he is founder and foundation (Mt 16:18; 1 Cor 3:11). As such, He has all authority.

Executive authority - HE IS KING.

Legislative authority - HE IS LAWGIVER.

Judicial authority - HE IS JUDGE.

2. Second, Jesus Christ has delegated certain authority to men. He has given elders authority to be elders. Not to make laws, but to execute his work in local churches. An elder's prerogative to oversee does not exceed that of the local church. (Acts 14; 1 Pet 5).
  3. Third, Jesus Christ has given evangelists authority to preach, to establish congregations, to confirm and develop them (Eph 4:11-13).
- B. It is often the case that preachers will work in new areas (mission areas). Where the gospel is taught, converts are made, a church (ecclesia - assembly) is thus born, established. What, then, is the preacher to do?
1. He is to continue to "teach those who are saved" (Mt 28:18-20).
  2. Indoctrinate them (Acts 2:42).
  3. Strengthen and confirm disciples.
  4. Appoint elders when ready (Acts 14:23)

### **I. SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR WORKING WITH CHURCHES BEFORE THEY HAVE ELDERS**

- A. Certain problems will be peculiar to that situation.
1. You (the preacher) will have to take the lead.
  2. You will have to develop teachers.

3. You will have to lead in their business meetings.
  4. You will have to counsel, deal with problems between new members.
  5. Just remember:
    - a. You are nurturing, feeding, caring for babes.
    - b. Be patient and longsuffering.
    - c. Expect babes to falter.
    - d. Teach, train, demonstrate by your example.
- B. Be aware of certain pitfalls where there are no elders.
1. Do not become a pope - "Do it my way."
    - a. Set an example, but do not give an air of infallibility.
    - b. Do not exert too much power - even on the mission field.
    - c. Realize you are human - admit mistakes.
  2. Do not become a hermit.
    - a. Do not become so involved with the congregation that you isolate yourself from other congregations.
    - b. Do not become so involved with the church that you neglect your own family.
    - c. Be involved as much as you can in the community so your influence will extend beyond the church.
  3. Set definite goals.
    - a. Let the members help you with goals.
    - b. Make goals realistic.
  4. Do not allow yourself to become emotionally drained.
    - a. Preachers develop a "nervous stomach"

- b. Remain aloof enough to retain your dignity and sanity.
  - c. Do not lose your sense of objectivity.
  - d. Beware of those who desire to “fill your ears” about problems, etc.
- 5. Take some time off.
  - a. Take your family away.
  - b. Attend a lectureship.
  - c. Be optimistic - avoid depression.
  - d. Do not feel guilty about taking time for yourself.
- C. Some DO'S:
  - 1. Search out and be aware of needs in the church.
  - 2. Pray every day for guidance.
  - 3. Share in the work - learn to delegate. Expect reports.
  - 4. Be sensitive to talent in the church and use it.
  - 5. Train leaders. Start with teaching. Rotate leaders.
  - 6. Seek and accept advice. Know and respect other preachers.
  - 7. Do not use the pulpit to whip - but to teach, build and encourage.
  - 8. Teach the organization of the church and that an elder is not a position, but a work. Having elders for elders sake is not good. An elder who is qualified is a servant, not lord.
  - 9. Teach, teach, teach - the church to be caring, loving and strengthening to one another.
  - 10. Avoid comparing people or congregations. Work with people where they are and seek to bring them where they should be. Accept the church where it is and seek to grow it in the likeness of Christ.

Conclusion:

It is important for the preacher to be training others to be:

TEACHERS.

PERSONAL WORKERS.

LEADERS.

## **CLASS # 10 - PLANNING YOUR PREACHING (PREACHING TO NEEDS)**

### Introduction:

- A. The late Batsell Barrett Baxter once said, "The tyranny of preaching is it becomes a constant challenge - must be done once a week." I might add in many cases much more than once a week.
- B. Many of us preach daily. It is a challenge to stay on top - ready and prepared. It is the burden of preaching.
- C. The Bible, the preacher's textbook, is inexhaustible. It is relevant in any age. It meets all the needs of man spiritually in any generation. It never becomes stale or obsolete.

### I. THE CHALLENGE OF SELECTION

- A. Selection of the topic is about half the job in sermon preparation.
  - 1. An appropriate subject will meet needs of hearers.
  - 2. Sermons are prepared with people in mind, not to fill a time slot.
- B. Topics should be decided with much thought and prayer; not quickly.
  - 1. Actually much time is spent thinking, musing and planning ahead in preaching.
  - 2. Such planning will give variety to preaching.
  - 3. Such will keep the preacher from emphasizing his favorite themes.
  - 4. Planning ahead will motivate the preacher to collect materials - add to his library - it broadens his mind.
- C. Planning enables the preacher to appraise his work.
  - 1. To declare the "whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).
  - 2. Am I preaching what is needed?
  - 3. Does my preaching cover a broad enough field?

4. Is there too much emphasis on some things and too less on others?
5. Do I keep saying the same thing in slightly different words?

## II. WHAT FACTORS ARE INVOLVED IN SERMON PLANNING?

- A. The needs of the congregation.
  1. This depends upon the age, make-up, etc. of the church.
  2. To know the people - their families, struggles, problems and dreams.
- B. The preacher's experience will influence selection.
  1. His educational, vocational and family status will be a factor.
  2. His sorrows, disappointments and joys that make up his personal experience.
- C. The temperament of the preacher will influence him.
  1. If one is pessimistic, he will tend to be mostly negative in his approach.
  2. The optimistic will tend to encourage and inspire.
  3. The "scholarly" will tend to deal with subject-centered rather than people-centered subjects.
  4. The emotional will tend toward superficial enthusiasm rather than Biblical truth.
- D. The main thing is to be balanced, whatever our temperament.
  1. The preacher who really believes the Word of God will speak with conviction, finality, confidence and hope on whatever subject he deals with.

## III. PLANNING YOUR PREACHING SHOULD INCLUDE:

- A. First principles.
  1. These are the basic, fundamentals of the Christian faith.

2. Doctrinal preaching is desperately needed.
  - a. To confirm and build up new members.
  - b. Instruct the young who need a firm foundation for faith.
  - c. To remind older, more knowledgeable brethren lest they forget (2 Pet 1:12; Heb 5:12).
  - d. To keep members informed and alert to every “false doctrine” and “false teacher.” The best way to combat error in and out of the church is to know truth.
3. Topics like:
  - a. The inspiration and of the inerrant Scripture.
  - b. The covenants .
  - c. Authority in religion.
  - d. The nature of God.
  - e. The origin and nature of man.
  - f. The Church - its place and purpose.
  - g. The plan of salvation.
  - h. Worship.
  - i. Apostasy.
  - j. The person and work of the Holy Spirit.
  - k. Grace - faith - works.
4. There is sadly, too little, not too much of this kind of preaching.

B. Practical Sermons on life.

1. The saved must be taught (Mt 28:19,20).
2. The Sermon on the Mount.

3. Privileges and responsibilities of being a Christian.
  4. General themes:
    - a. The need for fellowship.
    - b. Recognizing and using our gifts.
    - c. Developing a servant's heart.
    - d. Growing stewardship.
    - e. The dynamics of worship.
    - f. Personal evangelism.
    - g. Meaningful prayer.
    - h. The assembly.
    - i. The Book of James (practical).
    - j. Moral purity.
    - k. Brotherly love.
- C. Sermons on the struggles of living and coping in today's world.
1. The family.
    - a. Parental struggles.
    - b. Child development.
    - c. Pitfalls (drugs, alcohol, abuse).
    - d. Relationships.
  2. Conquering stress, fear, doubt.
  3. Growing older with dignity.
  4. Current issues in the modern world.
- D. Motivational sermons.

1. Joy and peace.
2. Optimism and faith.
3. Encouragement.
4. Overcoming stress, worry, anxiety.
5. Internal peace.
6. Contentment.

E. Sermons on end times.

1. Judgment.
2. The second coming.
3. Death.
4. Errors of premillennialism.
5. Resurrection.
6. Heaven - hell.

#### IV. THE CASE FOR EXPOSITORY PREACHING

A. What is expository preaching?

1. While difficult to define, expository preaching begins with a larger text in which the theme is determined, the main points coming naturally from the text, with the grammatical, historical and contextual meaning given with a clear application being made to life.
2. Note: biblical, organization and application.
3. Expository is more difficult - demands greater time, but is enriching.
4. It encompasses all needs.
5. It lends itself to preaching through Bible books.
6. It saves the preacher from himself.

B. Expository preaching has these values.

1. It is Biblical - beginning with, staying with and ending with the Word.
2. It grounds hearers in the Word.
3. It inspires great variety and covers a wide range.
4. It reaches all needs, sooner or later.
5. It challenges the industrious preacher and keeps him studious and alert.

## **CLASS # 11 - DEALING WITH DISCOURAGEMENT**

### **Introduction:**

- A. Discouragement is one of the most powerful tools in Satan's arsenal to hinder the preacher in his work. If the preacher is down, he cannot build others up. The preacher is a "human vessel" and like others, is subject to discouragement.
- B. Elijah, one of God's great preacher-prophets became discouraged. He felt the pressure of keeping Jehovah's name alive in Israel in dark days of idolatry. He felt alone! But, he was mistaken. God assured him that there were 7,000 who had not bowed the knee to Baal. Elijah's problem was in trying to keep books for God. His vision and ours is limited! What preacher has not thought at times - nobody cares; no one is interested. God's answer was to get Elijah up and on his way to serve (1 Kgs 19:1-15).
- C. Jeremiah was ready to quit! He was disbelieved, abused, criticized and even thrown into a pit. He was maligned by those in high places. As one man, he dared to keep a nation from destruction, but they would not listen. In his desperation he said, "The word of the Lord has become a reproach" and "I will not think of Him or speak in his name" (Jer 20:8,9). Like Jeremiah, many a preacher has thought in moments of despair of throwing in the towel. But, upon serious reflection "there is a burning fire shut up in the bones" that cannot be held back.
- D. Discouragement, while real, cannot destroy the commitment within the heart.

### **I. WHAT CAUSES DISCOURAGEMENT?**

- A. Disillusionment of young preachers.
  - 1. Things aren't the way they thought it would be.
  - 2. Many do not anticipate the problems, disappointments and troublesome situations they will eventually meet.
  - 3. In preaching the Gospel and working with those who are supposed to be the best people in the world, do not overlook the fact that as human beings from various backgrounds, problems are inevitable.
  - 4. To be forewarned is to be forearmed.
- B. Disappointment in people.
  - 1. When new converts that seem so promising fall away.

2. When members of long standing become involved in personal sin.
  3. When someone you trusted betrays that confidence.
  4. When a member spreads rumor, tries to hinder your influence and destroy your reputation.
- C. Discouragement that comes when one feels that his efforts aren't very fruitful.
1. When you work long hours, prayerfully preparing to speak both publicly and privately, and yet, so few seem to respond.
  2. When you have difficulty getting people to study their Bibles - at home and in Bible classes.
  3. When so few seem interested in sharing their faith through personal evangelism.
  4. When the contributions are lagging when so much needs to be done.
  5. When the spiritual life of the church is not improving at the rate you think it should.
- D. Discouragement due to lack of support.
1. Often a preacher will find it hard to make ends meet on the salary he receives.
  2. His family will suffer.
  3. Preachers now, for the most part, are being more adequately supported.
  4. While it is scriptural to be supported, the preacher must not become mercenary.
  5. At times it may be necessary for the preacher to supplement his income with a secular job as Paul did (Acts 18:1-4).
- E. Discouragement due to brotherhood problems.

1. There are issues and problems faced in every generation by the church. Many of these problems emerge in various forms at different times.
  - a. Be abreast of the issues, but do not become absorbed by them.
  - b. Preach the truth - let men accept it or reject it.
2. Remember that New Testament preachers faced problems peculiar to their time (Acts 15).
  - a. Jew - Gentile prejudices.
  - b. Paul's problem with Judaizing teachers.
  - c. Various perils - (2 Cor 11).

## II. OVERCOMING DISCOURAGEMENT

- A. Since most problems are caused by people (what they do, or fail to do what they say or do not say) remember that PEOPLE are not your master - JESUS is!
  1. The preacher's employer is the God of Heaven.
  2. The commission to preach is from Christ (Mk 16:15).
  3. He has promised not to fail or forsake us (Heb 13:5).
- B. Remember too, that even Jesus had his disappointments.
  1. Simon Peter disappointed Him (Mt 26:69-75).
  2. Many of His disciples turned "and walked no more with him" when He uttered "hard sayings" (Jn 6).
  3. His closest associates misunderstood His nature (Mk 10:35-45).
  4. His own received Him not (Jn 1:12; Mt 23:37).
- C. Never forget that God sees and cares (1 Pet 3:12).
- D. Avail yourself of divine help (Phil 4:5; Heb 4:14-16; Jas 1:5).

- E. Ask yourself and the Lord, "Is it I" who is to blame for the lack of success and then strive to be more efficient in study and work.
- F. Do not get in a habit of becoming a "whiner" or "complainer" when things do not go as you like. When you "get down" get up soon and do something for someone (Elijah).
- G. And always keep in mind that overcoming a difficulty makes you stronger and fortifies for the future.

### III. HOW TO KEEP DISCOURAGEMENT TO A MINIMUM

- A. It is a fact that God's greatest servants have been victims of discouragement.
  - 1. Read the list of Paul's perils (2 Cor 11:23-33).
  - 2. Look at his vibrant attitude (2 Cor 4:7-13).
- B. An old preacher said to young preachers, "Prepare yourself and God will use you."
  - 1. Burn out can be kept to a minimum.
  - 2. A preacher can be kept effective longer by:
    - a. Staying alert. Know what is going on in the world, in the nation, in the church. Attend some lectureships. Go on a campaign.
    - b. Work to improve your personality. Keep growing personally. Stay fresh.
    - c. Cultivate and develop an optimistic spirit. Set positive goals. Do not fall into the trap of being a negative person, down on everyone and everything.
    - d. Develop a hobby. Some diversion. Plant a garden, take a trip, study a foreign language, take a refresher course. Nurture your spirit. Refresh your life. Be more involved with your family.
    - e. Prepare for older age. Be willing to accept reassignment. Retool when necessary.

- f. Be flexible in reaching people: methods change, but the message remains fixed.

Conclusion:

Gospel preachers are human, but most have an intense commitment to serve God. They face many varied pressures because of the nature of their work, living on a tightrope, struggling to do their work and to keep their balance. The spiritual vitality of the preacher depends upon time for meditation, prayer, study, family, friends who will listen, challenge and personal renewal. Such is necessary to avoid spiritual fatigue.



## **CLASS # 12 - CAUTION AND CARE**

### **Introduction:**

- A. "Be not many teachers" said James (Jas 3:1). His intention was not to discourage teaching and preaching, but to emphasize the serious responsibility involved in it. Paul said, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel" (1 Cor 9:16).
- B. In these lessons we have attempted to explore the nature and work of the preacher. We have only covered highlights. In this lesson, "CAUTION AND CARE" we will address some of the pitfalls, mistakes and problems encountered in preaching with the hope that you will be more sensitive to these areas and will therefore, be able to exercise real caution and care in your ministry.

### **I. AREAS IN WHICH YOU NEED TO BE SENSITIVE AND CAUTIOUS**

- A. While being a "people person" do not neglect the most important people in your life - your family.
  - 1. Being a preacher does not excuse you from being a good Christian husband.
    - a. Be considerate (Eph 5:23-33).
    - b. Give her the time she deserves.
    - c. Personal attention will make her happy, loving and helpful as a wife.
    - d. Help with household chores.
  - 2. Give time to be with, to train and discipline children.
    - a. Neglected children in the home can have devastating consequences which may in time destroy the preacher's influence.
    - b. Eli and Samuel made that mistake (1 Sam 3:13).
- B. While the preacher is to serve all people, he must be careful in his relationship with women.
  - 1. Great servants have fallen due to a failure to do this.
    - a. David (the king) succumbed to Bathsheba (2 Kgs 11,12).

- b. The denominational world has been plagued by scandal.
    - c. Some of our preacher-brethren have fallen.
  - 2. Do not allow yourself to be placed in precarious positions.
    - a. When visiting ladies, take your wife with you.
    - b. Remember that some women are designing women.
  - 3. Precautions:
    - a. Treat women with respect (1 Tim 5:2).
    - b. Do not overestimate your ability to withstand temptation (1 Cor 10:12).
    - c. Do not flatter women - they may take it personally.
    - d. Be careful with your hands.
    - e. Be extremely careful in counseling situations.
- C. While the preacher has a right to develop friendships, he should avoid giving special attention to a few.
  - 1. A congregation can detect if a preacher is a respecter of persons.
  - 2. His responsibility is to all - rich and poor; educated and uneducated.
  - 3. It is unwise to be exclusive, aligning with a group or a special interest because such will alienate you from the church as a whole; hinder your influence; deprive you of other wholesome association; blind you to a proper estimate of those so close to you and keep you from being aware of the needs of others.
- D. While the preacher has every right to have and use things, he must be very careful not to pile up debts he can't pay.
  - 1. Many a preacher has ruined his name and influence by failing to pay his debts.

2. In some cases, preachers have moved without making arrangements to pay their bills, and the church has been saddled with their debts. This leaves a bad taste in the community and the church.
3. In some cases, the church has been evil spoken of for years, because of a preacher who didn't fulfill his financial promise.
  - a. Often, good men who follow are looked upon as suspect.
  - b. Heavy involvement in debt can depress and disturb a preacher to the point that his work is hindered.
  - c. His family is embarrassed.
4. Precautions:
  - a. Prepare a budget and live within it.
  - b. Do not buy impulsively.
  - c. Use credit cards sparingly.
  - d. Do not let bills pile up - pay when due.
  - e. Learn to do without.

## II. REAL CHALLENGES IN WHICH CARE MUST BE EXERCISED

- A. Be careful to "preach the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).
  1. Preach what is needed.
  2. Do not hesitate because the theme is unpopular.
  3. Whenever truth is withheld deliberately and men are lost, their blood will be on our hands (Acts 20:26; Ezek 30:16-21).
  4. Evaluate your preaching often. Ask:
    - a. Am I preaching what is needed?
    - b. Am I touching lightly for fear of what men may say?
    - c. Am I covering a broad field?

- d. Do I emphasize one thing to the neglect of others?
- B. Be careful to “convert men to Christ, not yourself.”
  - 1. That was the Corinthian problem (1 Cor 1:12).
  - 2. In church difficulties, do not try to enlist men to your side.
  - 3. Strong preacher personalities have been responsible for dividing the church.
  - 4. Members may become so wedded to a preacher - that they are aloof and non-supportive to the person who follows him.
  - 5. Preachers should strive in their preaching to so develop a church that it will continue to grow and prosper even in his absence (Phil 2:12).
  - 6. No preacher should ever feel that he is indispensable - or that the love and appreciation the church feels for him is a signal that they can't get along without him.
- C. Be careful to preach the old truths in a fresh and meaningful way.
  - 1. There are subjects like the plan of salvation - the church - worship, etc. that must be repeatedly preached.
    - a. Do not make the mistake of “pulling out an old outline.”
    - b. Start over - be fresh - re-study.
  - 2. Things that will help the preacher to be fresh and vibrant.
    - a. Be a keen observer.
    - b. Be alert to good illustrations.
    - c. Study the technique of others.
    - d. Read and hear others' sermons.
    - e. Read homiletic material.
    - f. Learn the writing habit.

- D. Be careful to be simple so the popular mind can understand; yet, thought-provoking for the most serious student.
1. Our audiences are mixed - educated and uneducated; spiritually weak and strong.
  2. H. Leo Boles believed the message should be “put down where the lambs could get it.”
  3. Sublime truth can be taught in an interesting and challenging fashion. Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount is an example of profound truth communicated in a simple and comprehensive manner.
  4. Simplicity is the mark of a truly educated person.
  5. Preaching is directed to the soul of man and when that is touched, the attention is held.
- E. Be careful to detect when your work is ineffective, and be prepared to leave with dignity.
1. Many a preacher has marred an otherwise effective work, because of pride in not departing with grace.
    - a. When asked to leave, he lashes out at the elders and the church.
    - b. The church, consequently, goes through a period of upheaval and unhappiness.
    - c. Often a preacher will seek sympathy from influential members, who malign and criticize the elders. It takes years to get over it.
  2. Do not allow yourself to be used in such a way as to hinder the church.
    - a. If you are asked to leave, do so with grace. You’ll be respected for it.
    - b. Help the church accept and love the one who follows you.

Conclusion:

- A. These are only a few of the areas in which caution and care should be exercised. To all of you who take this course, may God bless your preaching.
- B. The rewards are greater than the difficulties. To see people saved, to see the saved growing is a great reward here. But, Jesus said, "Great is your reward in Heaven."

## **APPENDIX**

### **THE PREACHER AND HIS WORK**

The following series of sermons was delivered  
at the Lectureship of Freed-Hardeman College February 5-9, 1962.



## TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR A PREACHER

C. E. McGaughey

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Preachers should be interested in being just as useful as possible in the Lord's work.
  - 1. The work is so important that we must do it well.
    - a. The results can be very gratifying and far reaching.
    - b. The consequences of not doing it well are tragic.
  - 2. Every conscientious preacher wants to improve his usefulness.
    - a. God grant that none of us are satisfied with our accomplishments or our effectiveness.
      - (1) I am sure that all of us long for greater usefulness for God.
      - (2) On the other hand it is likely that all of us have regrets of blunder, mistakes and ineffectiveness.
  - 3. It is possible for us to improve.
    - a. The young preachers hope for this.
    - b. The older preachers should share that same noble ambition.
  - 4. In our first lesson we shall call attention to ten commandments for preachers.
    - a. By no means does this exhaust the list.
    - b. Yet these are so important that they deserve our most serious consideration.

### DISCUSSION:

- I. Thou shalt be a man of God.
  - A. The preacher must really know God.

1. He should be able to say with Paul, "I know whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that he is able to guard that which I have committed unto him against that day." (2 Tim 1:2)
  2. His acquaintance with God must be more than to be merely on speaking terms with Him. Like Enoch of old, he must walk with Him. (Gen 5:2)
- B. The preacher must be a partaker of God's nature.
1. He should strive to be able to say with Paul, "For me to live is Christ" (Phil 1:21), and "Christ liveth in me." (Gal 2:20).
  2. The results of his knowledge of God and his association with Him should enable him to be a partaker of the divine nature. (2 Pet 1:4)
    - a. The more we are seen with God the more God will be seen in us.
    - b. Nearness to God brings likeness to God.
    - c. We are transformed by beholding. (2 Cor 3:18)
  3. God must not merely be One preached about but a Being whose mercy and goodness have been experienced.
    - a. "Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!  
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O for grace to trust Him more."
- C. Real Christian character must be found in the preacher. It is indispensable to success.
1. Some of the greatest authorities in the field of preaching have made this observation.
    - a. "There was no subject mentioned more often in the Lyman Beecher Lectures than that of the preacher's character. Twenty-nine different lectures mentioned its importance, thus giving it a place of primacy in the list of qualifications for effective preaching. Both by specific statement and by

continuous repetition, the preacher's character was made the foundation upon which all else rises or falls."<sup>1</sup>

II. Thou shalt guard thine influence. Even men of excellent character must be careful of their example and influence.

A. Paul admonished Timothy to be an example.

1. "But be thou an example to them that believe in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity." (1 Tim 4:12)

a. The power of the right example is often mentioned in the Scriptures. (Mt 5:16; Phil 1:27; Eph 4:1; 1 Pet 2:11)

b. The congregation must see in the preacher a practicing of that which he preaches, if his work is to be successful.

1) "You cannot give what you have not got. You cannot create consecration unless you have the consecration. You cannot cause men to do their best unless you live at your best. Learning will not do it. Eloquence will not do it. Even brilliant deeds will not do it. Life giving is in the hands of life possessors. We have seen such men. We know such men, in large groups and small ones. They bring vitality, they create it. They bring the inspiration of perfect devotion, glad and rapturous. They create it because they have it."<sup>2</sup>

B. Every preacher must be exceptionally careful to guard his influence, in refraining from activities approved of by the world and some church members but recognized by more discerning people as unbecoming for a Christian, especially a preacher. (Eph 5:3)

1. He must not tell border-line jokes of questionable speech or suggestive thinking.

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<sup>1</sup>Batsell Barrett Baxter, The Heart of the Yale Lectures, (Maxmillian, 1947), pp. 30,31.

<sup>2</sup>William Fraser McDowell, Good Ministers of Jesus Christ, (New York: The Abingdon Press, 1918), p. 20.

- a. No doubt you have heard people of good reputation tell stories that were “shady” and you never could quite have the respect for them that you had before.
  - 2. While smoking is wide spread among Christians, no preacher should engage in it for it hurts his influence with so many people.
    - a. Many mothers teach their children not to smoke but preachers who smoke make it difficult for this teaching by parents to be as effective as it should be.
    - b. Many denominational people have such high standards that they frown upon this habit and for one of our preachers to be seen engaging in it would handicap him in trying to teach them the way of the Lord more perfectly.
  - 3. He must be careful concerning his recreation and other activities, and even be willing to abstain from some things in which he sees no harm for fear of having the wrong influence. (Rom 14:15)
- C. When the membership or the world has had occasion to see preachers careless and guilty of questionable conduct, his sermons lose their power with them.
  - 1. This has been well said in the words of Howard Crosby, in the book The Christian Preacher.
    - a. “When the world recognizes its own vices in the pulpit, it can receive no heavenly message from that quarter. Evil habits in the minister, even if they do not amount to crimes, have the same general effect. They lead the believer to distrust and the unbeliever to blaspheme.”<sup>3</sup>

### III. Thou shalt preach Christ.

- A. Preaching Christ was the aim of the early preachers. (Acts 8:5, 35; 1 Cor 2:2)
  - 1. They preached Christ crucified for our sins.
    - a. Not just as a great teacher.

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<sup>3</sup>Crosby, Howard, The Christian Preacher, (New York: Anson D. F. Randolph and company, 1879), p. 48.

- b. Not just as a historical character who wielded a great influence on the world.
      - c. But Christ crucified for the sins of men. (Acts 4:12; Isa 53; Gal 6:14; 1 Cor 2:2)
    - 2. They preached Christ's authority. (Mt 28:18)
      - a. We must strive to proclaim and to abide in His teaching. (2 Jn 9)
      - b. His life was held up as the life to be reproduced in His followers. (1 Pet 2:21; Rom 5:10)
  - B. The preacher must emphasize Christ so much that the attention of his listeners will be focused on the Lord instead of his servant.
    - 1. It is not his to show men his learning or what a great orator he is, but to glorify Christ. (1 Cor 2:1)
    - 2. It is not his to review the latest book, to be a skillful politician or tell the brethren how to vote, he is to preach Christ.
- IV. Thou shalt have a passion for souls.
- A. We see our Lord exemplifying this characteristic.
    - 1. His coming was prompted by His love for the lost. (Lk 19:10)
    - 2. His concern for the souls of men is constantly seen during His ministry.
      - a. He associated with sinners even though it brought great criticism. (Lk 15:1,2)
      - b. He forgot His own hunger and thirst in His efforts to win the lost. (Jn 4)
    - 3. The greatest evidence for His concern is seen in His death for our sins.
      - a. He came to give His life a ransom for many. (Mt 20:28)
  - B. Every preacher should seek to be worthy of the compliment given to Timothy who truly cared. (Phil 2:20)

- C. This passion for the lost came from realizing:
  - 1. The value of the human soul. (Mt 16:26)
  - 2. The peril of the lost. (Mt 10:28)
- D. Nothing else will take its place.
  - 1. Education, homiletics and eloquence are fine, but there must be a genuine concern for the lost before one can reach his greatest possibilities as a preacher.
  - 2. The sinner can detect it and be moved by it.
- V. Thou shalt be a student.
  - A. Every Christian is to study God's word. (2 Pet 3:18; Col 3:16)
  - B. Preachers are particularly commanded to study.
    - 1. To "handle aright" the word of truth makes study necessary. (2 Tim 2:15)
    - 2. Timothy was urged "to give heed to reading." (1 Tim 4:13)
      - a. One of the things in which he was to be diligent. (1 Tim 4:15)
    - 3. He was exhorted to take heed to his teaching. This demands study. (1 Tim 4:16)
      - a. Implies much study and care, especially so in the light of Paul's warning that false teachers were going to arise. (1 Tim 4:1-4)
    - 4. He is commanded to speak as the oracles of God. To do this he must know the oracles of God. (1 Pet 4:11)
  - C. In a day when people are becoming better educated, it is imperative that a preacher have a good education.
    - 1. He needs good academic training, especially in history, English, public speaking and many other subjects.
  - D. He must not neglect his study if his sermons and teachings are really to do good.

1. To do the teaching and preaching really needed takes hours of preparation. It is a must if one is to be successful over a long period.
- E. The preacher should begin his preparation early and not try to prepare a sermon in a hurry. It takes time for a lesson or sermon to mature.
1. Illustration: A preacher said, "I prepare my sermon this week and wait until next week to preach them."
  2. A good way to get ulcers is to wait too late to prepare.
  3. If you would be calm and capable of doing your best, be prepared.
- F. I would urge our young preachers to get additional training beyond the B.A. degree. It is more needful now than it was 25 years ago. Our audiences are better educated.
- G. Do not let all your study of the Bible be the classes you teach and the sermons you prepare; have your own program for yourself which meets your own particular needs.
- VI. Thou shalt "preach the word."
- A. This was emphatically commanded Timothy. (2 Tim 4:1)
1. It is just as important now.
- B. It is the message the world needs.
1. The message of salvation.
  2. That which gives the answer to all men's problems.
- C. There is a tendency in recent years to use less scripture and make sermons mere lectures or moral talks filled with stories, illustrations and current events.
- D. Preachers seeking to bring men back to New Testament Christianity must "preach the word."
- E. Our preaching must be distinctive, Bible preaching.

1. While extreme in his treatment, there is food for thought even for gospel preachers in the following quotation from a denominational preacher: "A drastic prescription for the organization church's organization minister is offered by Pastor Floyd Doud Shafer of the Salem Presbyterian church in Salem, Ind., in last week's issue of Christianity Today: 'Fling him into his office, tear the office sign from the door and nail on the sign: STUDY. Take him off the mailing list, lock him up with his books – get him all kinds of books – and his typewriter and his Bible... Force him to be the one man in our surfeited communities who knows about God... Set a time clock on him that will imprison him with thought and writing about God for 40 hours a week. Shut his garrulous mouth spouting 'remarks' and stop his tongue always tripping lightly over everything non-essential. Bend his knees in the lonesome valley, fire him from the P.T.A. and cancel his country club membership... Rip out his telephone, burn his ecclesiastical success sheets, refuse his glad hand, put water in the gas tank of his community buggy (and) compel him to be a minister of the Word.'" - Time, April 7, 1961

F. Our preaching must be "in season and out of season." (2 Tim 4:2)

VII. Thou shalt be humble.

A. Christ was humble.

1. "Who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death on the cross." (Phil 2:6-8)

B. All Christians are to be humble.

1. "Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." (Phil 2:5)
2. "Yea, all of you gird yourselves with humility, to serve one another: for God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble." (1 Pet 5:5)

C. John the Baptist was humble.

1. "But John would have hindered him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me." (Mt 3:14)
2. "He must increase, but I must decrease." (Jn 3:30)

- D. Paul's humility was outstanding.
1. "Unto me, who am less than the least of all the saints, was this grace given, to preach unto the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." (Eph 3:8)
  2. "But by the grace of God I am what I am:....; yet not I, but the grace of God which was within me." (1 Cor 15:10)
- E. A preacher must be careful.
1. Not to display his education.
    - a. By telling of his schooling and how many degrees he has.
    - b. If you really know, let others discover it. One does not have to tell how learned he is.
    - c. By using big words and high sounding phrases. Our Lord used speech that was simple, illustrated in the Sermon on the Mount.
  2. Not to talk about his accomplishments.
  3. Not to use the pronoun "I" too much.
  4. In his reports.
    - a. Illustrations of how not to report, taken from one of our religious papers; names, places and dates omitted. "This will inform the brotherhood that I intend leaving the work here as soon as I can arrange a move to another location. In spite of some pleasant features, the work at this place has proved disappointing in general, especially after the pleasant and profitable years which we enjoyed in our prior work. Since we had hoped that conditions would so improve as to allow a continuance of our work here, I have just now begun to look about for another location. Therefore, I invite correspondence from wide-awake congregations, especially in Texas and Oklahoma, which are seeking the services of a preacher of proven ability and unquestioned character. First consideration will be given those congregations which have a record of internal harmony; never better evident than by the fact that they have not changed preachers every year or so. I shall be very glad to hear from such congregations and

promise them prompt attention to their letter.” - The Firm Foundation

“Attention Elders: Any congregation that is looking for a preacher who is willing to work in the Lord’s vineyard twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, should contact me. I am twenty-seven years old, have been preaching for five years, teach music and chorus organization, sincerely believe in working with young people and with their problems, have had three years of radio experience, and not an anti of any sort, have developed cottage meeting classes in which over half of our converts have come from this source. I can furnish character references or any other references you desire. There is no trouble in the congregation that is forcing me to leave. I desire to leave the immediate area.” The Firm Foundation.

- F. Certainly no characteristic is more becoming to a preacher than real humility.
  - 1. He must avoid all affected humility and be sincere.
  - 2. But genuine humility springs from a grateful heart to God for any ability possessed and for the help given him in its development. “By the grace of God I am what I am.”
- G. No characteristics are any more obnoxious than those of egotism, pride and conceit.
  - 1. It is distasteful to any real Christian and the man of the world does not appreciate it if he detects them in others.

VIII. Thou shalt not be envious.

- A. “One is envious who discontently desires or covets the good fortune or attainments of others.” Webster
- B. Envy is to be laid aside by all Christians.
  - 1. “Putting away therefore all wickedness, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking.” (1 Pet 2:1)
- C. Before the apostles understood the nature of the kingdom, they had selfish ambition for prominence and were jealous and envious of each other. The Lord pointed out their error. (Lk 22:24-30)

1. "But ye shall not be so: but he that is the greater among you, let him become as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve." (vs. 26)
- D. If our brother has superior endowments, he is not to be blamed, for it was God who gave him his abilities, the same God who gave us our capabilities. We should be thankful that He has thus blessed him.
  - E. If his success is the result of his industry and application we should esteem him for his efforts and be thankful that God has blessed him.
  - F. If his efforts have enlarged the kingdom of God, are we not a part of it, and have we not been blessed too? Are we not interested in the same glorious cause?
  - G. "In honor preferring one another." (Rom 12:10)
    1. This passage teaches us not to see who can obtain the most honor but who can confer the most honor.
      - a. This is the opposite of the spirit of the world that can seek only honor.
  - H. "Each counting other better than himself; not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others." (Phil 2:3,4)
    1. Obedience to this passage would contribute toward our own happiness and the joy of others.
    2. This would eliminate the petty jealousies and envies so often found among those who claim to be followers of Christ.
    3. It would humble the ambition of those who like Diotrephes love to have pre-eminence. (3 Jn 9)
  - I. Signs of envy
    1. "Oh, he is good, but shallow, and his work is not substantial."
    2. "He has a lot more help than I do."
    3. "My field is a lot more difficult than his."
- IX. Thou shalt be willing to suffer hardship for Christ.

- A. Paul charged Timothy, "Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus." (2 Tim 2:3)
  - 1. All soldiers should be willing to undergo hardship.
    - a. As Paul had been willing to suffer and had suffered, so Timothy must be willing to bear his share.
    - b. As God did not mean for Paul to be burdened and Timothy to be eased, so he wills that we should be willing to suffer and do our part.
    - c. The missionary and brother in the hard field should not be the only ones to suffer, all should have some hardships along the way.
  - 2. The path of hardship contributes toward making us good soldiers.
    - a. Every man dressed in a uniform is not a good soldier but how the man acts in the crucial moment is what counts. If he will stand for Christ, suffer for Him and undergo hardships for Him then he becomes a good soldier.
    - b. The man who would live a life of ease, who is unwilling to work hard and unwilling to sacrifice time, money and effort, cannot be a good soldier.
  - 3. Every preacher should constantly remind himself of the necessity of making any sacrifice necessary to be a faithful soldier of Christ, "that he may please Him who enrolled him as a soldier." (2 Tim 2:4)
    - a. After Paul had given the long list of sufferings and hardships listed in 2 Corinthians 11:24-27, he still said, "Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect; but I press on..." (Phil 3:12)
      - 1) Such language should cause me to say, "What have I done for Christ?"
- X. Thou shalt give value received, using your time for what it should be used.
  - A. A preacher should be as conscientious, even more so, than any other Christian employee in the service he renders and the time he puts in service.

1. Just because he does not have to punch a clock or have some individual keeping account of his hours, should not be to him a temptation to be slack in his study, his visits and efforts to save others. He has a "Master in heaven" who sees and to Him he will ultimately have to give an account. (Col 4:1)
2. If he preaches to his brethren, who work forty to sixty hours a week, that they should find time to do some work for the Lord, he should not be satisfied to do less himself.
3. Every preacher should keep some sort of a record of his time to see what he does with it. It will help the conscientious man to make a good use of it.
4. Illustration: Preacher who said that he had two places he could go, one where he could fish all week and the other where he really had to work. I do not know which one he chose. He could have had a hard time deciding.
5. Let us be very conscientious about our work and the use of our time for no secular work can compare with the work of a gospel preacher.

#### CONCLUSION:

- A It is hoped that these commandments will be of help to us all in improving our work as preachers of the gospel.
- B May they help us in evaluating our activities as servants of the Lord.



## TEN MISTAKES OF PREACHERS

C. E. McGaughey

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Being a preacher does not exempt one from mistakes.
- B. The same temptations that come to others come to preachers.
- C. There are some mistakes he must guard against especially if he accomplishes the greatest good.

### DISCUSSION:

- I. Neglecting his family.
  - A. A preacher should be an example as a husband and as a father.
    - 1. If he is to have much influence in teaching men how to be Christian husbands, if he is married, he must be an exemplary husband.
      - a. He must be considerate of his wife and love her as the Bible instructs.
        - 1) “as Christ also loved the church.” (Eph 5:25)
        - 2) “as their own bodies.” (5:28)
        - 3) “as himself.” (5:33)
      - b. He must not get so involved that he has no time for his wife, she must not be neglected.
      - c. Without the proper love and attention she cannot be the happy, loving and helpful wife she should be.
        - 1) She has her responsibilities but cannot handle them successfully if she feels her husband is unfair to her.
    - 2. He must remember that God has given to the father definite responsibilities in teaching and training his children. (Eph 6:4)
      - a. He must devote sometime to them.

- 1) It is possible for a preacher to get so interested in the many activities of the church and in saving others that he neglects his own children.
- b. Children detect the lack of interest upon a parent's part.
  - c. If neglected by either parent they are liable to lose their respect for this parent and not have the love due a father or mother.
    - 1) Illustration: One father stayed at his study so much that when he went home and corrected one of his little children, the little fellow was heard to say, "I wish daddy would go home." He did not know his daddy lived in the same house with him.
    - 2) Illustration: A certain preacher, a fine man and very energetic, became so involved in helping to save others that his sons became very unhappy and were losing their love for their daddy because of neglect. Fortunately, an older preacher friend observed this mistake and talked to the father about it before it was too late.
  - d. Too many preachers turn the rearing of their children over to their wives.
  - e. Children in such homes where the father does not share this responsibility with his wife, are liable not to be examples to other young people any more than their fathers are not examples to the fathers.
    - 1) A preacher's children should be examples of what he teaches if he is to be effective as a preacher.
    - 2) The same thing is true of elders and deacons and their children.
  - f. Eli's greatest mistake was in failing to rear his children properly. "For I have told him that I will judge his house forever, for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons did bring a curse upon themselves, and he restrained them not." (1 Sam 3:13)

II. Feeling that he has arrived.

- A. It is possible for one to feel that he is sufficiently trained when he receives his degree or degrees.
  - 1. If such should be the case, it would be tragic, for he needs to know how to use what he has learned.
  - 2. In addition to this, in college one merely touches on some things he needs to study more fully.
  - 3. In college, instead of learning everything, one should learn how to study and must continue to learn as long as he lives.
- B. This feeling of self-satisfaction may not come until after he has collected enough sermons to preach at one place three or four years.
  - 1. Too often preachers depend too much on sermons they worked up or secured from someone else years before.
    - a. Maybe these sermons were appropriate then but circumstances make them inappropriate now.
    - b. To rely on them without much study, and fresh material is to stifle growth.
- C. One can feel that he has a good general knowledge and overlook many great spiritual truths if he feels that what he knows is adequate.
  - 1. Illustration: One day a brother was asked if he studied the Bible. He said, "No, I have read it through and know what is in it."
  - 2. The Bible contains such a wealth of material that it can never be exhausted by the best student.
- D. Past success, an excellent character and a good name can be very rewarding but must not take the place of growth through continuous study.
  - 1. To succeed one must fill his heart with the word of God.

III. Too much social life.

- A. It is good to associate with members and non-members.

1. Christ went to a marriage feast in Cana and into the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus.
  2. He defended His visits in the homes of publicans and sinners.
  3. It should be remembered that in these visits His primary motive always was to glorify God and He succeeded in doing so.
- B. We must be exceptionally careful that our visits do not become too social and not enough spiritual.
1. When one sits up night after night merely playing games to be sociable, it can be devastating to his time and usefulness.
    - a. There is so much that needs to be done in winning souls, reclaiming the wayward, teaching, counseling and comforting that time must be left for it.
    - b. A preacher needs to be known for something else than to be known as a good forty-two or domino player.
    - c. A preacher with a pleasant personality should be thankful to God and should use it to a better use than to be the life of the parties and spend too much time with social engagements.
- C. Thus it is wise for a preacher to be so busy that he can politely excuse himself from many such engagements or else state that his stay must be brief due to previous commitments.
- D. There should be enough capable people in the church that a preacher should not be expected to see that sufficient attention is given to the social activities of the young people.
1. It is definitely the responsibility of the homes to see that these activities are managed, and Christian parents by careful guidance can relieve preachers of that which really should not be expected of them in the first place.
    - a. Certainly any preacher should be glad to cooperate and help with such activities but this definitely is not his responsibility.
- IV. Being indiscreet with women.
- A. This has been the downfall of many great characters.

1. One of the saddest stories is that of David's sin.
  2. One of the most brilliant men I ever knew, now deceased, as a preacher handicapped his influence by his indiscretion.
  3. Just one weak moment has ruined a preacher's influence forever.
- B. Why extreme care should be taken.
1. Some have placed themselves in positions where they are sorely tempted.
  2. Some have been the victims of designing women.
- C. Precautions:
1. Heed Paul's advice as to how women should be treated. (1 Tim 5:2)
    - a. "The elder women as mothers."
    - b. "The younger as sisters in all purity."
      - 1) Be sure that your heart is pure.
  2. Do not overestimate your strength to resist temptation.
    - a. Pray that you will control your flesh.
    - b. Keep yourselves from circumstances where you will be tempted.
  3. Do not flatter women.
    - a. It is a sin.
    - b. Is not good for them.
    - c. Dangerous for you, it may make them think that you are interested in them in a personal way.
  4. Be careful how you use your hands.
    - a. Shake hands warmly and friendly but do not hold their hands.

- b. You can show your sincere spiritual interest in them without patting them on the hands or shoulders.
  - 5. Abstain from calling them by special endearing names.
  - 6. You can be friendly enough without embracing them or by trying to practice "the holy kiss."
  - 7. When visiting women, take your wife or someone with you.
  - 8. When counseling with women be sure that it is under such circumstances that you will not be tempted or criticized.
- V. Giving too much attention to certain individuals and groups.
  - A. A preacher must feel his responsibility to all.
    - 1. He should be concerned about the welfare of the entire membership, the rich and poor, the educated and the uneducated.
  - B. He must not be a respecter of persons and show special consideration to some merely because they are people of position and wealth and then have little time and consideration for others who are not so influential. (Jas 2:1-8; 1 Tim 5:18)
  - C. It is only natural to be drawn to some people more than others and have special friends, but to be with them most of the time is not wise.
    - 1. I have known groups that are together almost every Sunday and made no effort to enlarge the number to include new members or others who really needed spiritual attention. They were interested in each other and formed a little group all of their own.
    - 2. The church is not an organization to be made up of exclusive clubs and social groups.
    - 3. If such exist where a preacher works he must not align himself with any group but be a servant of the entire church.
    - 4. To seemingly identify himself with any one group has several bad results.
      - a. Tends to alienate himself from the church as a whole.
      - b. His influence for good over many will be hindered.

- c. Deprives him and others of profitable association.
    - d. Handicaps him in appraising those so close to him.
    - e. Keeps him from being aware of the needs of others.
  - D. A preacher must be careful to be considerate of all the elders.
    - 1. He must not be friendly with just one elder or a few elders but cordial toward all of them.
    - 2. He must not be content to consult one or a few to the neglect of the other elders.
    - 3. He must not play one elder against another or one group of elders against another group.
- VI. Being mercenary.
- A. Preachers should be supported adequately.
  - B. Generally speaking, the brethren have learned to support preachers much better.
  - C. While preachers should be supported, they must not preach merely to make a living.
    - 1. If this is his primary concern, he has misplaced the emphasis and should enter some field than preaching the gospel.
    - 2. “We must not preach to live, but live to preach.”<sup>4</sup>
  - D. A larger support should not be the determining factor in one’s choice of a field.
    - 1. He should ask, “Where can I do the most good?” “Where is the greatest need?” and “What is the Lord’s will?”
    - 2. The Lord has His own way of taking care of His servants when they put Him first. (Mt 6:33)

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<sup>4</sup>Banister, John, Lubbock Christian College Lectures 1960, (Jackson, Tennessee, Nichols Brothers Publishing Co.) pg. 100.

- E. Supporting one's self as did Paul when he made tents is commendable but when one is adequately supported, for him to get involved in business and neglect the work he is supported to do is a mistake.
- F. When the support is inadequate and the brethren give their preacher permission to supplement his income by some other work, such an arrangement is permissible but not the best for the most productive work.
- G. When a challenging field is presented and one feels that he should go, to refuse to do so merely because there is no raise in support or the preacher's home is not as nice as where he lives, is evidence that too much emphasis is being put on the material.
  - 1. All of us should pray that we will be delivered from such mistakes.

VII. Failing to carefully file material and keep records.

- A. Early as a preacher can, he should set up a system of filing material that he can use in his preaching and teaching.
  - 1. He should form the habit of carefully filing good illustrations, good suggestions, worthwhile articles and other materials that will enrich the lessons and sermons he intends to prepare.
- B. Failing to be systematic in filing can be a very dangerous pitfall.
  - 1. Often one is called upon to prepare on short notice some important lesson or sermon.
    - a. If he has no file on the subject or some kindred theme, he has the task of research without the time to do it.
    - b. On the other hand, if he has arranged his material through the years, much of his work is done already.
  - 2. Frequently one faintly remembers a poem, an illustration or some good article and he wishes for it but cannot find it. Careful filing can eliminate much of this.
- C. He should place his books systematically in his bookcases so he can find one when he needs it.
  - 1. If he doesn't, he will discover very often that the one he needs is out of place and time is wasted looking for it.

- D. If he lends his books, a careful record should be kept or he will lose many of them for good people can be very careless about returning them.
- E. He should carefully put away his sermons.
  - 1. If a sermon was worth preaching the first time, there may be an occasion to use it again.
  - 2. It is impossible to remember all the things worked up through the years. While we should not allow sermons already prepared to keep us from studying, it is unwise to discard them, for in the midst of study, thoughts will come and be recorded that may never come again.
- F. It is good to keep a record of baptisms.
  - 1. It gives one the opportunity of reviewing and evaluating his work.
  - 2. Also, he will meet people years later whom he baptized, and it would be well to remember.
- G. To have a record of funerals preached can be of much help.
  - 1. We need to remember the funeral sermon preached and where.
  - 2. The record of the family and relatives should be kept. Contacts at funerals furnish great opportunities in restoring the wayward and in leading others to Christ.
- H. An accurate record of all sermons preached and where is important.
  - 1. To make a mistake and repeat a sermon at the same place can be very embarrassing.
- I. It is well to keep a list of the calls one makes and the information one wants to remember because more than likely he will need it for future reference.
- J. Make a habit of writing down the things you expect to do.
  - 1. If you rely on your memory, you will forget.
  - 2. It may be a very important appointment or something most urgent.

- K. These things do not take too much if done regularly. It really saves time in the end and pays big dividends.

VIII. Becoming involved financially.

- A. A preacher can very easily lose his good influence by failing to pay his debts.
  - 1. No church wants a man to preach for it with such a reputation.
    - a. More and more churches in checking into the background of preachers are becoming very careful to inquire about their scrupulousness with reference to their obligations.
    - b. This they have every right to do.
    - c. Occasionally some preacher leaves town with a lot of unpaid debts. To save the church further embarrassment, the church assumes the debt and pays it.
    - d. A preacher should be careful when leaving a location that every debt is paid or handled in an honorable manner.
  - 2. Failing to pay one's obligations causes people to lose respect for a preacher and often the cause he represents.
    - a. In smaller towns and cities, particularly, where such things become common knowledge, irreparable damage is done to the church.
    - b. In many instances, good men who follow are looked upon with suspicion for years to come.
    - c. Even worse, some because of this bad influence, are kept out of the kingdom of God.
- B. Becoming involved with debts can hinder preachers in other ways.
  - 1. If he is conscientious, the knowledge of his condition can be depressing and disturbing to the point that he cannot do his best work in study, in the pulpit or personal work.
  - 2. He will not be as free to preach on certain subjects because he feels that it will have little weight due to his predicament.

3. His family can be embarrassed and not feel free.
4. He can be driven to divide his time with secular work.
5. He may be forced by pressure within and without to quit preaching.

C. Some precautions to prevent financial involvement.

1. Prepare a personal budget.
2. Give diligence to live within it.
3. Do not buy things you cannot afford.
4. Do not abuse the installment plan privilege by overbuying.
5. Give careful attention to the smallest bills.
6. Pay when bills come due or make some arrangements with the creditor, do not wait for a second notice.

IX. Taking on too much responsibility.

A. In the first church the apostles said, "It is not fit that we should forsake the word of God, and serve tables." (Acts 6:2)

1. They recognized there was a limit to what they could do.

B. While preachers in this age must be willing to serve in many ways, they must not take on too much responsibility.

1. They can serve on so many committees, promote so many drives, look after so many details that they have little time for study and prayer.
2. One can obligate himself to so many classes and so many sermons that he does not have the time to prepare them properly.
  - a. It is better to prepare well a few lessons and sermons than to half prepare too heavy a load.
3. He must have some time for his visitation of the sick, prospects and the winning of souls.

- C. God intended that the elders have charge of the church and preachers should encourage them to accept their responsibilities.
  - D. The deacons have plenty of duties to perform when the elders wisely point them out and encourage them to do them.
  - E. Also, the other members have their duties and many responsibilities can be delegated to them by the elders.
  - F. When all of this is done, a preacher still will have his hands full with his work.
    - 1. He must not get so busy doing the work of others and neglect his own.
- X. Becoming discouraged.
- A. Causes of discouragement.
    - 1. Disillusionment of young preachers.
      - a. Many do not anticipate the problems, disappointments and troublesome situations that they will meet eventually.
      - b. In preaching the gospel and dealing with those who are supposed to be the best people in the world, often they overlook the fact that as long as one deals with human beings of different backgrounds and different walks of life, problems are inevitable.
      - c. Not expecting these problems and being surprised when they do come, the disillusionment can be quite upsetting.
    - 2. Disappointment in people.
      - a. New converts that seem so promising fall away.
      - b. Some member of long standing whose besetting sin becomes known.
      - c. Someone whom you trusted betrayed your confidence.
      - d. Someone tried to hinder your influence.
    - 3. Discouraged because one's efforts are not more fruitful.
      - a. Too few are led to Christ.

- b. The Bible School is not as large as it should be.
  - c. The church is not meeting the budget.
  - d. The spiritual life of the membership is not improving as rapidly as you would like.
- B. Some remedies for discouragement.
  - 1. Remember that the Lord has His problems and disappointments.
    - a. Simon Peter denied Him. (Mt 26:69-75)
    - b. His own disciples misunderstood the nature of His kingdom. (Mk 10:35-45)
    - c. The Jews rejected His offer of mercy. (Mt 23:37)
  - 2. Never forget that God sees and cares. (1 Pet 3:12)
  - 3. Avail yourself of the divine help at hand. (Phil 4:5; Heb 4:14-16; Jas 1:5)
  - 4. Endeavor to see if you are to blame for lack of success and strive to be more effective by diligent study and work.
  - 5. Keep in mind that overcoming makes one stronger.

#### CONCLUSION:

- A. Every preacher should remember the words, "let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (1 Cor. 10:13)
- B. The same words that Christ spoke to His apostles should be kept in mind constantly, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Mt 26:41)



## TEN PROBLEMS OF A PREACHER

C. E. McGaughey

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. There are many problems that preachers have to face but we shall briefly consider only ten.
- B. There may be others which some would consider weightier.
- C. However, these are vital. We should be aware of them and deal with them correctly if we are to be successful preachers of the Gospel.

### DISCUSSION:

- I. Declaring the whole counsel of God.
  - A. Paul said, "For I shrank not from declaring unto you the whole counsel of God." (Acts 20:27)
    - 1. This means that he declared God's will and tried to do so completely.
      - a. He further explains what he did by saying, "I shrank not from declaring unto you anything that was profitable." (Acts 20:20)
    - 2. This should be the aim of every gospel preacher.
      - a. Living with people and seeing their needs he must sense his responsibility in preaching what is needed.
      - b. He must never shrink back because of fear of making himself unpopular.
      - c. A preacher has definite responsibility to God to proclaim His work, in preaching how to become saved and in proclaiming the duties and responsibilities of Christians.
    - 3. A failure to declare the whole counsel of God makes a minister of the gospel a sinner against the people to whom he ministers and also before God, whose servant he is.

- a. Paul implies that if he had not taught the whole counsel he would not have been free from their blood. (Acts 20:26)
  - 1) The comment of J. W. McGarvey on this point is worth the consideration of every preacher. "It is implied that if a religious teacher does shrink, through any personal or selfish consideration, from declaring the whole counsel of God to those whom he teaches, in some sense the blood of those who may be lost through his neglect will be upon him (cf. xviii. 6; Ezek iii. 16-21). This is an unspeakable fearful responsibility, and it should never be lost sight of."<sup>1</sup>
- B. It would be well for every preacher to evaluate his preaching with reference to this problem by asking himself questions like these:
  1. Am I preaching what is needed?
  2. Am I touching some need lightly for fear of what others might say?
  3. Does my preaching cover a broad enough field?
  4. Is there too much emphasis on some things and under emphasis on other things?
  5. Am I guilty of saying the same thing over Sunday after Sunday but in slightly different words?
  6. Am I guilty of encouraging people to commit one of the sins of the Jews, to "tithe the mint, anise and cummin" and to leave "undone the weightier matters" of the law? (Mt 23:23)
- II. Converting men to the Christ instead of the preacher.
  - A. No faithful preacher would knowingly try to convert men to himself.
    1. However, unconsciously, it is possible for us to make men or disciples just as was done in Corinth. (1 Cor 1:12)

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<sup>1</sup>J. W. McGarvey, New Commentary on Acts of Apostles, (Cincinnati: The Standard Publishing Co.) pg. 189,190.

- B. Sometimes in church difficulties, preachers seek to enlist members on their side until the point is reached where they become disciples of the preacher rather than disciples of Christ.
  - 1. Often members disobey the Lord and divide the church because of the influence of some preacher.
  - 2. Such conduct by both the preacher and the members is sinful.
- C. While preachers should seek to become close to those with whom they work, they must strive to magnify Christ always and encourage the members to put devotion to the Lord above loyalty to the preacher.
  - 1. Frequently members become so wedded to a certain preacher that they are not so very loyal when he goes away.
  - 2. Every preacher should strive to so thoroughly teach others that they will continue to be faithful and grow, even do better, when circumstances make it necessary for him to be absent.
    - a. Paul succeeded in doing this at Philippi. (Phil 2:12)
  - 3. When preachers detect this danger in some of too much personal attachment for them and not enough for Christ, they must be careful to say or do nothing that would encourage such an attitude but rather warn against it.
  - 4. Preachers must not allow their personal joy in the knowledge that they are loved and appreciated keep them from being on guard to protect their friends from the disaster of failing to be converted to Christ.
    - a. With Paul, a preacher should be able to say: "My little children, of whom I am again in travail until Christ be formed in you." (Gal 4:19)
 

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father,... that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; to the end that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be strong to apprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth." (Eph 3:14,17,18)

### III. Properly emphasizing God's grace.

- A. Sinners need to be made conscious of God's love and mercy before they can become Christians.
  - 1. They must be made aware of their sins.
    - a. Our preaching must make men aware of their sins and lost condition. (Jn 16:8; Heb 4:12; Eph 6:17)
    - b. Christ, the greatest expression of God's grace, must be presented as the One through whom salvation comes. (Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12; Heb 7:25)
- B. The Christian needs to grow in his appreciation of the mercy and grace of God.
  - 1. It is when men fail to keep in mind the sacrifice that made their redemption possible that they fail to add the Christian graces. (2 Pet 1:9)
  - 2. There would not be nearly so many casualties among children of God if they could be made to have a deep and abiding appreciation for what God has done for us to save us from sin and bring us heaven.
    - a. Congregations will be much stronger when the hearts of all are filled with gratitude for God's mercy.
- C. Some precautions that God's grace might be properly emphasized.
  - 1. We must be exceptionally careful in baptizing little children.
    - a. There is a tendency for children to be baptized at a very early age.
    - b. We must take care that they realize their guilt before baptism.
    - c. We should be very careful that they realize their need of a Savior and that Christ is the only Savior.
      - 1) To them Christ must not be just a great character of history who performed miracles and went about doing good, but the Son of God.

- d. It is a good practice to talk privately with the young before baptism.
- 2. In our efforts to make the terms of salvation understood, we must not emphasize them so much that we minimize the mercy and grace of God in connection with these conditions that enable us to appropriate this salvation.
  - a. Just because some have made the mistake of teaching salvation by “grace only” and “salvation by grace through faith only” should not cause us to go to the opposite extreme and under emphasize the grace of God.

#### IV. Preaching old truths in an interesting and challenging manner.

- A. There are many things that need to be repeated often in our preaching.
  - 1. Constantly we must proclaim the terms on which God offers men salvation.
    - a. While proclaiming the same conditions we must ever present them in just as interesting and challenging manner as possible.
    - b. A careful study of the Scripture will furnish many approaches to the heart. There is a wealth of material seldom used.
  - 2. We need to speak often of the necessity of worship, the beauty and the results of it.
    - a. Again, we must endeavor to touch the heart of the worshiper by having a deep understanding ourselves of the Bible teaching on these subjects. An abundance of material is available to the real student.
  - 3. Likewise, we have to constantly teach the children of God their duties and encourage them to greater heights in Christian character.
    - a. This makes it imperative that preachers have a deep understanding of spiritual matters by thorough study.
- B. In addition to the study of the Bible, to assist his audience in grasping Scriptural truths, a preacher needs to give much thought to other help that will enforce these teachings.

1. He must be a keen observer of life.
2. He should be alert for good illustrations that grip the attention.
3. He should study the technique of others.
4. He should read the sermons of others, not to appropriate them as his own, but for their style, ideas and procedure.
5. Many helpful suggestions can be found from reading the many good books.

V. Challenging the most intellectual and yet remembering the uneducated and children.

- A. We have mixed audiences and it is necessary to reach both the educated and those who have not had much formal training.
1. Much depends on the attitude of the preacher.
    - a. Illustration: I heard a gifted preacher say that he believed “in putting it in the top shelf so they would have to reach for it.” Another preacher better trained, H. Leo Boles, said, “I believe in putting it down where the lambs can get it.”
  2. Sublime truths can be taught in such an interesting fashion that the trained and untrained will be challenged.
    - a. In the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord spoke great spiritual truths but expressed them in simple language that caught the attention of both the educated and those not so fortunate.
    - b. Through one’s vocabulary may enable him to use large words, the truly educated can use words which all will understand.
  3. There may be times when a scholarly treatise or lecture is necessary at some lectureship or special occasion, but most of the time in our preaching this is not the case and the contents of the sermons can be understood by all if we adjust ourselves to our audiences.
  4. A careful study of the speeches of the educated Paul when he spoke to the learned and unlearned furnishes us great examples of

directness and simplicity that will help to challenge the attention of all. (Acts 13; 17; 22; 26).

- B. By remembering the problem discussed immediately preceding this one and seeking to present old truths in new ways and in an interesting manner this problem can be largely overcome.
  - 1. The approach and manner of presentation helps greatly in catching the interest of those in our audience.
- C. The preparation of the speaker, his earnestness, sincerity and fervor helps to hold the attention of those that hear him, whether young or old, educated or uneducated.
  - 1. Unless one is prepared and has his heart in what he is saying, he should not be speaking.
- D. Our preaching must not be aimed merely to the intellect but to the soul and when the inner man is touched the attention is held.
  - 1. It is not ours merely to teach but also to “reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and teaching.” (2 Tim 4:2) Such preaching quickens the interest.

VI. Stimulating Christians to be soul-winners.

- A. That the early church was a soul-winning institution is very evident from the Scriptures. (Acts 4:4; 5:14; 6:7; 8:4)
  - 1. The early preachers succeeded in causing the disciples to be interested in winning others to Christ.
  - 2. The growth of the early church was phenomenal. (Col 1:23)
    - a. Without the aid of the printing press, radio, television or modern transportation they carried the gospel to the people of that generation.
- B. For a church to be truly apostolic it must in a measure reproduce that evangelistic spirit of the church of the first century.
  - 1. The membership needs to be educated to the great importance of soul saving.

- a. All heaven has engaged in it.
    - 1) God. (Jn 3:16)
    - 2) Christ. (Lk 19:10)
    - 3) Holy Spirit. (Jn 16:8)
    - 4) Angels. (Lk 15:10; Acts 8:26)
  - b. Our own salvation depends on it.
    - 1) The Great Commission makes soul-winning the responsibility of every Christian. (Mt 28:18-20)
    - 2) We disappoint the Lord by failing to carry out the work He died for when we fail to be interested in soul-winning. (Mt 7:21)
    - 3) We are to be like Christ and the man who is not interested in others is not like his Lord. (1 Pet 2:21)
- C. Much attention needs to be given to this phase of church work and in our sermons, in special meetings and through the Bible School, greater emphasis needs to be put on evangelism.
- 1. We are not succeeding in stimulating enough young men to preach the gospel. There is a dreadful shortage of gospel preachers.
    - a. This desire can be planted in the hearts of young if more emphasis is given to it.
  - 2. Too many members have never tried to do any personal work toward winning others to Christ.
  - 3. We need a revival of interest in world wide evangelism.
    - a. The world has barely been touched.
    - b. There is an urgent need of men and women to commit themselves to missionary activity.
      - 1) Here again we see the need of imparting this ambition early in life.

## VII. Developing capable leaders.

### A. In every congregation capable leaders are needed.

1. For a congregation to grow and develop, there must be spiritual bishops to look after the souls of the members. (Acts 20:28; Heb 13:17)
2. To keep the elders from being overburdened with details and unable to devote proper time to spiritual things, it is needful that qualified deacons be appointed to act as servants of the congregation under the supervision of the elders. (Phil 1:1)
3. Men must be inspired to qualify themselves for scriptural elders and deacons.
4. In our haste to appoint them, we must not consider the qualifications lightly. (1 Tim 3:1-10,12,13)
  - a. Illustration: In a place where additional elders were needed they were having difficulty finding qualified men. One man whom they wanted was greatly lacking in one qualification. To hurry up the appointment, one brother suggest, "Just let us waive this qualification."

### B. Much teaching and training is necessary to produce qualified elders and deacons.

1. From the pulpit the qualifications, the work of these men and the attitude of the congregation toward them must be proclaimed until the membership is thoroughly taught.
2. Training classes should be taught so men can be prepared for these works.
3. Good books written by qualified persons should be given to these men so they can have a better knowledge of what is expected of them and how to fulfill their responsibility.
4. They should be encouraged to attend lectureships, such as those conducted at Christian colleges so they can become better qualified for their work.
5. The elders and deacons and teachers might know what other congregations are doing and the growth and needs of the church in

general, they should be encouraged to take some religious magazines and papers. They need to be filled with Bible knowledge and become acquainted with the condition of the church throughout the world.

VIII. Deciding what is most urgent and scheduling our time to perform it.

- A. If a preacher is not very careful he can get involved in so many duties that he cannot perform them all well.
  - 1. Illustration: A certain denominational preacher was heard to say, "Preaching is getting to be a side-line with me. I spend so much time for the Rotary Club and so much time with the Boy Scouts that I do not have much time for preaching."
  - 2. One can become so burdened with the church bulletin that he spends more time on it than he does his sermon.
- B. Like Martha, we need to learn the things most needful.
  - 1. To her Jesus said, "Thou art anxious and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful: for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her." (Lk 10:41-42)
  - 2. So with us there was many worthwhile things, but some are far more important than others.
  - 3. Let us decide what we should do and many of the other tasks can be done by someone else just as well. It will be a blessing to them and free us for something more important.
  - 4. A preacher need to be more than a "glorified bell hop," running errands for everybody.
    - a. Illustration: One preacher remarked to me, "I received a most urgent call to come to a man's home. I asked what was the difficulty. To my surprise he said, 'My cow is sick!'" Actually this is a case of where a veterinarian should have been called rather than a minister of the gospel.
  - 5. Surely every preacher, unless he is an unusual character, has become involved with so many details that at the end of the day he has wondered whether after all he has done the thing that is most needful.

- C. If it was “not fit” for the apostles to “forsake the word of God, and serve tables,” those who preach today can profit by their example. (Acts 6:2)
  - 1. With them we should say, “but we will continue steadfastly in prayer, and in the ministry of the word.” (verse 4)
- D. Our chief concern should be reaching the souls of men for Christ.
  - 1. Let us not get bogged down in so many intricate details that we never get to the task.
    - a. Illustration: When a house is on fire, if the firemen spend too much time coming to the blaze and after arriving wonder where to start and where the water should be put first, it will soon be too late and the house will be burned down.
- E. After deciding what is most important, then a schedule should be made to see that time is not wasted.
  - 1. Like budgets, schedules should be kept to the best of our ability or our time will be wasted.
  - 2. There will be occasions when we must vary from this schedule, but we will accomplish much more by adhering to it than we will without it.
  - 3. Time is important and we have none to waste. (Eph 5:15; Jas 4:14)
    - a. “Only one life,  
T’will soon be past,  
Only what’s done for Christ  
Will last.”
    - b. “What Have We Done Today?”
 

“We shall do much in the years to come,  
But what have we done today?  
We shall give our gold in a princely sum,  
But what did we give today?  
We shall lift the heart and dry the tear,  
We shall plant a hope in the place of fear,  
We shall speak the words of love and cheer,  
But what did we speak today?

“We shall be so kind in the after while,

But have we been today?  
We shall bring to each lonely life a smile,  
But what have we brought today?  
We shall give to truth a grander birth.  
And to steadfast faith a deeper worth,  
We shall feed the hungering souls of earth,  
But whom have we fed today?

“We shall reap such joys in the by and by,  
But what have we sown today?  
We shall build us mansions in the sky,  
But what have we built today?  
'Tis sweet in the idle dreams to bask:  
But here and now, do we our task?  
Yes, this is the thing our souls must ask,  
What have we done today?”  
– Nixon Waterman

IX. Leaving gracefully.

- A. Often when a preacher has done an acceptable work at a place as he departs he will have some grievance against the elders or the church and at the very last create a disturbance.
  - 1. If he is justified in a grievance, why wait to the last to try to correct it?
  - 2. It is much better to try to solve such matters when there is time to do something about it.
- B. If a preacher has an agreement to give notice of two or three months before leaving, let him respect his agreement and never place the congregation where he has been laboring in an embarrassing situation by going too quickly.
- C. If a preacher and the elders have an agreement that he would like for them to tell him when they feel that a change of preachers would be good for the church, he must not be hurt when that time comes but according to his agreement make his plans to move.
  - 1. It is easy for a preacher to feel that the elders are mistaken about his going, it may be that they are sometimes, but if that was the agreement, he must abide by his word.
  - 2. He should not feel that he is “fired” if he agreed to such an arrangement.
  - 3. If he does feel that he is being dismissed, it would be poor judgment to try to create sympathy in the congregation by telling his friends and stirring up feeling against the elders.
  - 4. To insist on staying where the brethren desire a change may destroy the good he has done and even create a division in the church.
- D. To leave gracefully, a preacher should try to finish his work to the best of his ability.
  - 1. When he decides to move or the elders decide that it is time to change preachers, he must not lose interest or slacken his work. He should try to leave it in just as good shape as possible.

- a. He should no more think of departing with things out of order in his work than his wife would think of leaving the preacher's home untidy.
- E. He should seek to prepare the way for the new preacher by building him up as much as possible.
  - 1. The church should be encouraged to accept him and cooperate with him fully.
- F. It is poor judgment to write the new preacher and try to acquaint him with all the problems in the church and the weaknesses he has discovered in the congregation.
  - 1. Certainly no preacher would want the congregation where he has worked to write the congregation where he is going to acquaint it with all his blunders, mistakes and weaknesses.
- G. Do not meddle with the affair of the church after you are gone.
  - 1. If some of the members write you that they do not like the new preacher and criticize him, be very careful what you write in reply that it would be brotherly and fair.
  - 2. If circumstances do not permit you to go elsewhere and you retain your membership in that congregation, be a friend to the new preacher and help him all you can.
- X. Helping men to become "other world" minded.
  - A. By this it is not meant that we must be conscious of the needs in the various continents, that has already been covered in these lectures.
  - B. By this it is not meant that we should encourage men to become more conscious of the moon and stars. That is being well taken care of by the government.
  - C. But, there is a great need that men become more conscious of the habitation of the righteous in the world to come.
    - 1. Jesus has gone to prepare it for His people. (Jn 14:2)
    - 2. It is to be our final abode while we enjoy eternal life. (Mt 25:46)

3. It is a place where we will receive “an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away...” (1 Pet 1:3)
- D. We become so engrossed here that not enough thought is given to the other world.
1. We sing, “O land of rest, for thee I sigh,” but not enough people in the church are really sighing for heaven.
  2. We sing, “We’re marching to Zion,” but often it seems that we have forgotten where we are going.
- E. In this age too much emphasis is being put on the temporal and physical.
1. It is not difficult to get men excited about what they intend to do when they retire.
    - a. They are interested in social security, retirement income, the place where they will spend their declining days, the trips they will take and the things they will see.
    - b. But it is difficult to get many excited about where they will spend their days after retirement and the home the Lord has gone to prepare in the city “Whose builder and maker is God.” (Heb 11:10)
- F. Until we can get men to be other world minded, it will be difficult for them to obey the following instructions:
1. Lay up “for yourselves treasures in heaven.” (Mt 6:19)
  2. Lay “up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on the life which is life indeed.” (1 Tim 6:19)
  3. Set their minds “on the things that are above, not on the things of the earth.” (Col 3:2)
- G. We must remember and faithfully teach others that:
1. “Our citizenship is in heaven; where also we wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Phil 3:20)
  2. We are “sojourners and pilgrims” on the earth. (1 Pet 2:11)

- H.     Becoming more conscious of the other world will have the following results:
1.     Men will become more evangelistic and say as did Moses, "Come thou with us." (Num 10:29)
  2.     We can get greater enjoyment out of self-denial here.
  3.     More attention will be given to sincere worship and service of God as we anticipate being with Him forever.
  4.     The world in which we live will lose much of its attractions for us.
  5.     We can approach the end triumphantly and expectantly as did Paul who said, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain,... having the desire to depart and be with Christ; for it is far better." (Phil 1:21-23)

CONCLUSION:

- A.     Being aware of these problems can help us to give proper attention to them.
- B.     In these and all other problems we must remember that we need the help of God. Let us pray for wisdom from above. (Jas 1:5)

## TEN THINGS THAT MOTIVATED PAUL

by C. E. McGaughey

### INTRODUCTION:

#### A. Circumstances of the text

1. Paul had been warned that “bonds and afflictions” confronted him.
  - a. These things did not move him.
    - (1) He was not frightened or made afraid.
    - (2) He was not deterred from continuing his ministry.
  - b. There are still people who are unmoved by such circumstances.
    - (1) Brother Joseph Naumiuk - since died - was recently imprisoned for his work with the church in Warsaw, Poland.
2. Though unmoved by “bonds and afflictions,” he was moved by other things.
  - a. His unselfish and consecrated life cannot be accounted for except that there were some very strong motivating factors that moved him.
  - b. Let us seek to find out what some of these things were.
    - (1) We shall observe ten things that moved Paul.
    - (2) A serious consideration of these matters should help us “to be followers of Paul” - as Paul was a motivated follower of Christ.

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. God’s love motivated him.

- A. “But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom 5:8)
- B. “And that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.” (Gal 2:20)

- C. "But God, being rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ..." (Eph 2:4,5)
  - D. Christ's love for him so moved him that he could not but act as he did.
    - 1. "For the love of Christ constraineth us." (2 Cor 5:14)
  - E. Like John, he could say, "We love him, because he first loved us." (1 Jn 4:19)
    - 1. Such love still strikes a responsive cord in every man's heart when clearly perceived.
- II. His own love for God motivated him.
- A. He understood that worship and service are meaningless without love.
    - 1. "If I speak with the tongue of men and of angels, but have not love, I am become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal..." (1 Cor 13:1-3)
  - B. He realized that men without love should be punished.
    - 1. "If any man loveth not the Lord, let him be anathema." (1 Cor 16:22)
  - C. He believed that to love God was necessary for things to turn out right.
    - 1. "And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good..." (Rom 8:28)
  - D. He taught that real faith works by love.
    - 1. "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith working through love." (Gal 5:6)
  - E. Thus when God is properly loved, there is a response in the hearts and lives of men.
    - 1. It makes men forget self, love others and serve God. (Jn 13:34; 14:23,24)

III. His gratitude motivated him.

- A. He could forget the marvelous mercy of Christ in forgiving him and allowing him to preach the faith he had once persecuted.
  - 1. “I thank him that enabled me, even Christ Jesus our Lord, for that he counted me faithful, appointing me to his service; though I was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious...” (1 Tim 1:12)
- B. When he thought of the victory that comes through Christ in overcoming sin his thanks went up to God.
  - 1. “Wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me out of this body of death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom 7:24,25)
- C. If the poor Gadarene demoniac published about what Jesus had done for him, should it be any wonder that Paul and the rest of us saved by the blood of Christ should publish abroad what great things God has done for us? (Lk 8:39)
- D. It is because men forget what God has done for them and cease to be grateful that they fail to give themselves completely unto God. (2 Pet 1:9)
  - 1. We should also strive to be able to say as could Paul, “but his grace which was bestowed upon me was not found in vain.” (verse 10)

IV. His sense of responsibility motivated him.

- A. He felt that since Christ had saved him he had a great responsibility to carry the gospel to others.
  - 1. “I am debtor both to Greeks and to Barbarians, both to the wise and the foolish...” (Rom 1:14-16)
  - 2. “For necessity is laid upon me; for woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel.” (1 Cor 9:16)
- B. This should be the feeling of every preacher of the gospel.
  - 1. Having been so greatly blessed we should want others to hear the glorious gospel so they can be saved.

2. We should say, "Who am I that I have been so fortunate to hear the good news when others have not heard?"
- C. A consciousness that God was depending on him moved him.
1. "The ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24)
  2. He knew that Christ had gone into the far country and left his work in the hands of His disciples. (Mk 13:34)
    - a. Who is there to carry the gospel but those who know it and to whom it had been left as a trust?
    - b. Certainly the gospel preacher has a tremendous responsibility and the Lord is depending on him in a special way.
- V. He was vitally concerned about the lost.
- A. He yearned for the salvation of his own people. (Rom 10:1; 9:3)
  - B. The cry of the "Man of Macedonia" touched him. (Acts 16:9,10)
  - C. He was willing to hazard his own life because of his concern. (Acts 24:24)
  - D. He could detect when other preachers really cared. (Phil 2:20)
  - E. This concern he learned from his Saviour. (Lk 19:10; Mt 23:27)
- VI. Knowing that he would have to give an account motivated him.
- A. He believed that the judgment awaited all, including himself.
    1. "For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God." (Rom 14:10)
  - B. He considered himself a steward of God and knew that He required His stewards to be faithful. (1 Cor 4:1,2)
    1. "Here, moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." (vs. 2)
  - C. He felt that he would be displeasing to God if he did not preach.
    1. "For woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel." (1 Cor 9:16)

- a. Having been blessed so much by the mercy of God his conscience would not have let him rest if he had not preached.
  - b. Knowing that God is greater than his conscience he felt that he would be unprepared at the judgment if he did not preach.
  - c. In addition to this, he had received a special mission from the Lord. (Acts 22:16,17)
  - d. To have been disobedient to this heavenly vision would have been displeasing to God. (Acts 22:19)
2. There are many today who preach because they could not be happy doing anything else. Though they did not see a heavenly vision as did Paul, they see such great need and feel under such great obligation to God and to their fellow men they cannot rest without proclaiming the glad tidings. They feel that they would be condemned at the judgment without preaching the gospel. What a power this is in the lives of men to move them.

VII. The desire to complete his task motivated him.

A. He felt that he had a job from the Lord to finish.

- 1. "That I may accomplish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24)
- 2. Like the Lord, he wanted to be able to say, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." (Jn 17:4)
  - a. He wanted to reach as many souls as possible.
    - 1) Even as his third missionary journey was being completed he hoped to go to Rome and even to Spain. (Rom 15:23,24)
    - 2) Even in prison he hoped to be delivered so he could reach more. (Phil 1:25,26)
- 3. At the end he had the satisfaction of knowing that he had done his work. (2 Tim 4:7,8)

- B. All of us as preachers and leaders should realize that there is a work for us to do.

1. "To each one his work." (Mk 13:34)

#### YOUR TASK

"To each man is given a day and a task for the day;  
And once, and no more, he is given to travel this way.  
And woe if he flees from the task; whatever the odds,  
For the task is appointed to him on the scroll of the gods."

"There is waiting a work only your hands can avail;  
And so if you falter, a chord in the music will fail.  
We may laugh to the sky, we may lie for an hour in the sun;  
But we dare not go hence till the labor is done.

"Yes, the task that is given to each man, no other can do;  
So your work is awaiting; it has waited thru ages for you.  
And now you appear; and the hushed ones are turning their gaze  
To see what you do with your chance in the Chamber of days."

– Edwin Markham

- VIII. He realized that there was need for haste as time is brief.

- A. He knew that time here would be brief.

1. "Our outward man is decaying," "for our light affliction which is for the moment...." (2 Cor 4:16,17)
2. "Shall see my face no more." (Acts 20:25)
3. "After my departing," (Acts 20:29)
4. "I am ready to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 21:13)

- B. He recognized the importance of taking advantage of these brief opportunities.

1. "Redeeming the time (buying up the opportunity), because the days are evil." (Eph 5:15)

- C. He realized that his work had to be done now, that it would not wait until the next generation.

1. "Once, and no more he is given to pass this way."
  - a. When these opportunities are gone, they will be no more.
  - b. No wonder we are to buy up our opportunities. They are precious.
2. "The clock of life is wound but once,  
 And no man has the power  
 To tell just when the hand will stop,  
 At late or early hour.  
 Now is the only time you own!  
 Live, love, toil with a will;  
 Place no faith in tomorrow  
 For the hands may then be still."

IX. He was motivated by knowing that Divine help was always near.

A. He believed that the Lord is ever near.

1. "The Lord is at hand." (Phil 4:5)
2. "For there stood by me this night an angel of the Lord." (Acts 27:23)
3. He believed that God was at hand, not only to see but to help. (Heb 4:14-16)

B. The promises of God's help sustained him.

1. "Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer; for I believe God that it shall be even so as it hath been spoken unto me." (Acts 27:25)
2. "And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Mt 28:20)
3. "My grace is sufficient for thee." (2 Cor 12:9)

C. He believed that God has the power to keep his promises.

1. "I can do all things in him that strengtheneth me." (Phil 4:13)
2. "Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think...." (Eph 3:20)

- X. He was moved by the hope of reward in the world to come.
  - A. To see those whom he had taught triumphant and safe on the other side was a reward that constantly moved him.
    - 1. “For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of glorying? Are not even ye, before our Lord Jesus at his coming?.” (1 Thess 2:19)
    - 2. “If any man’s work shall abide which he built thereon, he shall receive a reward.” (1 Cor 3:14,15)
  - B. His hope of sharing in the glorious resurrection of the righteous was a reward he longed for.
    - 1. “That I may know him and the power of his resurrection.” “If by any means I may attain unto the resurrection from the dead.” (Phil 3:10, 11; Phil 3:20)
  - C. The cherished hope of receiving the crown of life continually moved him regardless of how rough the way.
    - 1. “Now they do it to receive a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.” (1 Cor 9:25)
    - 2. “Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness.” (2 Tim 4:8)

#### CONCLUSION:

- A. It would be good for all of us who preach the word of God to study carefully these things that moved Paul to such great consecration and devotion.
- B. May this consideration prove to be a blessing in our lives and help us to be more effective servants of God.