

## PREACHERS

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

INTRO: A preacher is many different things to different people. He is the butt of many jokes. To some, he is a hero. To others, a dead beat. Some may attribute to him a greatness to which he will never really attain. Other may not recognize his true value. Some seek his advice & counsel in almost every facet of life (including areas he knows little or nothing about). Others have no use for him at all till a funeral is to be preached or a wedding conducted. Fortunately, most are between the 2 extremes.

Since I am a gospel preacher & I know intimately several other gospel preachers, please bear with me as I reflect upon some thoughts that come to mind as I think about preachers.

### I. HIS "CALL" TO PREACH.

A. The modern day preacher is not called in the sense that Isaiah, Paul, & other inspired preachers were called in Biblical times. Rom 1:1; 1 Cor 1:1; Road to Damascus.

B. The call of the gospel preacher today comes thru the gospel like the "call" of Christians in general, 2 Thes 2:14.

1. This "call" involves his ability, 1 Pet 4:11.

2. His willingness to accept the consequences.

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. (James 3:11).

a. He will be a victim of a double standard.  
wife, children, habits, etc.

b. He will be misunderstood. Preach on giving,  
ax to grind, etc.

c. But esp., must answer for what he teaches.

3. His opportunity to preach. He can study & prepare in advance. He can live a godly life. Teach a friend, loved one, neighbor--perhaps "help" opportunity to come along--but he can't preach

till the opportunity comes.

## II. PREACHERS ARE PEOPLE.

- A. Some tend to forget this. The preacher will make mistakes. He will commit sins. He may sometimes talk too much. He may have a problem with pride. He may be envious of other preachers more "successful" than himself. But all in all, he is a godly man, trying to be a faithful servant of the Lord, & to help you be one too.
- B. He will occasionally use "poor judgment."
- C. He'll get sick occasionally. He may have sickness or death in his family. He will sometimes get tired, discouraged. Will need a vacation, etc.
- D. He needs to be accepted for what he is.

## III. HIS JOB IS TEACHING & PREACHING THE GOSPEL.

- A. He is not the church secretary. He probably won't mind writing a letter for the church from time to time, but his is no more his duty as preacher than that of any other faithful Christian.
- B. He has not come to this community to be in the marrying business. He probably won't mind preaching a wedding from time to time--may even like to do so but that is not the major function of a gospel preacher. An extension of his work.
- C. He has not come to "run" the church. God desires that scripturally qualified & appointed elders oversee the church. Relatively few preachers are properly qualified.
- D. He is not the only teacher, but should be especially talented in the areas of study, understanding, & presentation, so that he can teach well.
  - 1. There will be other teachers using their ability & opportunity as they are obligated to do.
  - 2. But most of these teachers are not preachers in the

normal sense of that term. Language loses its significance if everyone who can drive a nail is called a carpenter--or if anyone who can stand behind a pulpit & talk for 30 minutes is called a preacher.

Acts 8:1, 4. All preached, but not all were preachers in the normal sense of the term.

#### IV. TEACHING INVOLVES LEARNING.

A. A person cannot teach without imparting information.  
He must know his subject. Must study.

B. Must teach people--not just "teach the lesson."

1. The effective preacher will realize that people tend to act in their own interest, thus he must show them that obedience to the gospel is for their own good.

2. An effective preacher must have a sincere interest in people, especially in their souls.

READ I CORINTHIANS 9:19-22

Illustrate: Roy Cogdill

#### V. PREACHING IS A FULL TIME JOB.

A. Done effectively, it requires many hours of study & prep.

B. In saying preaching is a full time job, I am not saying a preacher cannot or should not do anything else but preach

1. Generally, the more experienced he is in a wide range of subjects & areas, the more effective he can be in reaching the general public with the gospel message.

2. But anything & everything else he does must take 2nd place to his predominant aim--to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ!

3. Preaching should be his obsession. He should talk it, eat it, drink it, dream it. Study. Read. Plan lessons. Build sermons. He will probably not be too good at selling soap or insurance because he is too full of the gospel message to give much emphasis to these lesser products.

C. Circumstances sometimes make it necessary for churches to depend on men who must work full time in secular labor to earn their living, then preach on Sunday. Paul himself did this at times. But even to these men, if they are effective, the preaching takes precedence.

VI. PREACHERS ARE EXPENDABLE. Preaching is not expendable but preachers are.

A. The brethren who invited the preacher to come can invite him to leave.

B. The cause of the Lord does not exist to support preachers; preachers exist to further the cause.

C. READ JOSHUA 1:1-2. Israelites got along without Moses. The church at Shiloh will get along quite well without C. Johnson--& if I ever forget that, I'll be a bigger problem than I've ever helped to solve.

1. Joshua did for Israel what Moses had tried for 40 years to do & failed. My sincere hope & prayer is that the preacher who follows me will be able to do the things I have been unable to do.

2. Your next preacher will not do everything the way I did. Many times he may do them better. He will hold a few views & convictions that are not the same as mine. Give them thorough consideration in the light of the Bible. PLEASE don't confront him with "That's not what CJ said." He doesn't care what CJ said. He wants to know what Paul said, what Peter said, what Jesus said. What God's word says.

La Porte, TX, January 29, 1984  
Exton, PA, January 6, 1985  
Exton, PA, November 10, 1991  
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, May 11, 1997  
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, May 18, 1997