

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“The Kind Of Preacher God Wants”

By Brian Meade

Last year we looked at several articles on “The Kind Of Preaching God Wants,” and I had in mind to complete the other side of preaching by looking at the preacher God desires as well. Both are important to God, and thus needful to be reminded of as necessary.



God has given us ample evidence in the Bible concerning what He wants and expects of us. He does so by what He teaches us in His word, by the example of preachers that He approved by working with and through them, and the conduct that is expected by all Christians who desire to go to heaven.

And in this article, I am also reminding myself, as a gospel preacher, what I should be and what I should do with this great privilege of the greatest work in the world today!

We begin with what Paul tells the young preacher Timothy,

“I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the

truth and will turn aside to myths. But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

Paul gives Timothy so much valuable information about the attitudes needed for the work that must be done! These words by Paul set a high mark for all who would take on the work of preaching the gospel.

He must know:

I. The Kind of Preacher... Views The Work Seriously.

Just as Paul “solemnly” charged Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:1, “in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom” — all gospel preachers should treat the work soberly, with great dignity, and respect in all they do for God.

The opposite of solemn is to be flippant or frivolous, which basically means that one doesn’t care or isn’t serious about what they are doing. Having said that, the preacher of God’s word looks at what he does from the pulpit, and outside the pulpit, as too important to leave to chance or neglect.

He knows that ultimately he works for the Lord, and to Him he will give an account (James 3:1). Therefore, It matters how he views the work of God— for that is the foundation for how he does his work.

II. The Kind of Preacher... Is Devoted To God’s Word.

Paul told Timothy to “Preach the word” in 2 Timothy 4:1, and to be effective in carrying out that charge, he will have to have an extreme devotion to God’s word! He will have to know God’s word before he can ever preach it to others— as someone once said, “You can’t preach what you don’t know!”

Notice what Paul tells Timothy is 1 Timothy 4: *“Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your*

progress will be evident to all. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.”

If the preacher chooses NOT to study very much for his lessons or challenge himself to grow in the word—he will find that his lessons lack depth or will not cover all that the congregation needs to be edified. Therefore, continual study is required or the “well runs dry!”

Sadly, it is the church who suffers the most when preachers feel no need to study hard in the Scriptures.

III. The Kind of Preacher... Diligent & Hard Working.

Paul told Timothy to “do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:5) The last three words mean, “**to fully accomplish** ⇔ **fill entirely** — to accomplish thoroughly or entirely; understood as if filling a container completely.” This will require much work, many late hours, and even getting up early to do all the tasks in fulfilling God’s work in preaching.

Many people in the world think a preacher’s work is only on Sunday, for only a couple of hours. They have no real understanding of all that is involved: the preparations for Bible studies, sermons, evangelism, visitations, writing of articles — and still taking care of household responsibilities of being a good father, husband, and helper around the house.

He understands the wise man’s in Ecclesiastes 9:10, “*Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.*” (See also Romans 12:11)

We must do what we can, while we can. And that brings us to our next point....

IV. The Kind of Preacher... A Good Manager Of His Time.

The minister of God’s word must learn to make good use of his time everyday. And this involves making a list of priorities, planning out his schedule for the day or week, and making sacrifices of non-essential wastes of his time. (Matthew 6:33)

In other words, he must limit his involvement in the affairs of this life. Notice Paul’s words again, “*No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.*” (2 Tim. 2:4) See also Eph, 5:15-16.

V. The Kind of Preacher... Is A Humble Man.

The preacher knows that whatever ability has been given to him is given to him by the Creator; and that no matter what he may achieve, he is still an unworthy servant (Luke 17:10). He knows that “*...God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*” (James 4:6)

So he knows that if he wants God’s approval in what he does—he should never do things to seek the praise and approval of mere men. (Matthew 6:1-5; Galatians 1:10) He seeks the praise from God for what He does! (James 4:10)

VI. The Kind of Preacher... Loving & Kind To All.

Like all Christians who speak the truth, he follows the words of Paul to the Ephesians in “*...speaking the truth in love...*” (Ephesians 4:15) Whether from the pulpit or in his daily life, he must learn to abound in love (Philippians 1:9).

The evangelist loves the church, loves his family, loves his neighbors, and even loves his enemies (Col. 3:14; Eph. 5:25; Romans 13:8; Matthew 5:44).

By doing this, he may not ever have to tell people he is Christian—they can see it in his manner of life! (John 13:35; Galatians 2:20)

VII. The Kind of Preacher... Practices Self-Control.

Notice the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:25-27, “*Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.*”

The minister of God must control and discipline himself so that he will be saved and not “disqualified.” He can tell others how to be saved, but if he himself doesn’t follow in “repentance from dead works”— he may lose everything!

Too many reproaches to the Lord’s name have happened because of a lack of self-control. Preachers have been known to embezzle from the treasury, have affairs with church members, be caught in various lies and coverups— all because they let temptation get the better of them by a lack of discipline. May it never be!

VIII. The Kind of Preacher... Courage & Uncompromising Faith.

Paul told Timothy in that charge of 2 Timothy 4:2, “*preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.*” It takes a great deal of courage to preach the word when the gospel is “out of season.” That means: that men don’t want the kind of preaching that reproves and rebukes sin and error! But yet the preacher still speaks it anyway!

While men may want the preacher in 2 Timothy 4:3-4, who ticked their ears and gives them what they want— it doesn’t have to be that way with him!

IX. The Kind of Preacher... Is A Man of Prayer.

He believes in the power of prayer (James 1:5-6) and that faith is powerful, effective, and beneficial in asking God for help to do the work (James 5:16-18).

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Harris, Hazel Corner, Clay Ford, Clois Wright, and Dan & Linda Hunt, Martha Cottrell (Dan's Mom), Mollie Harris.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Russell Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "How To Study The Bible Pt. 1"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Fred Johnson
The Book of Romans (Kyle Pope)
Lesson 10, Page #57, Question #11
Announcements: Jerry Kennemur
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Doug George
2 Timothy 2:14-15
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper: Sam Johnson
Assisting: Dan Cottrell & Russell Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "How To Study The Bible Pt. 2"
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

January 15th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
The Book of Psalms (Randy Blackaby)
Lesson 7, Page #35, Question #1
Invitation: Brian Meade
Song Leader: Russell Briggs
Closing Prayer: Dan Cottrell