

What Does the Bible Teach About the Preacher?



**Thursday Indepth Bible Class of the
Trilacoochee church of Christ.**

1Timothy 4:6, 9-16

Why Does A Man Preach?

- It is not a life work chosen for its secular rewards.
- He is seldom compensated as well as his skills would be were he to use them in secular occupations.
- He will not likely have a home of his own.
- His profession is considered one of the least desired and least respected in the business community.
- It is a disappointing work in terms of productivity.

Why Does A Man Preach?

- He preaches because he loves.
- He loves God.
- He loves Jesus Christ.
- He loves the word of God.
- He loves his fellow human beings.

What Is A Preacher?

- What on earth in heaven's name is a preacher?
 - Isa. 6:5-11
- He is:
 - An earthly man answering a heavenly duty.
 - He is an earthly man proclaiming what heaven has authorized.
 - He is on earth proclaiming heaven's will by God's grace.

What Is A Preacher?

- Some are unwilling to accept this definition.
 - Hang titles, roles, and responsibilities on him that God never intended.
 - Let's examine this question from a negative and a positive approach.
 - Let's expose the error and expound the truth.

What Is The Perfect Preacher?

- Preaches a riveting, profound lesson in only 25 minutes.
- Condemns sin in such a way that no one feels any remorse or embarrassment.
- He works from seven AM to midnight and is also the janitor and groundskeeper.
- He makes \$200.00 per week, wears new suits, drives a nice car, and contributes \$100.00 per week.
- He is 28 years old with 25 years of experience in preaching.
- He is good looking with no defects in appearance, but is not vain.
- He is always spending time with teenagers, and devotes most of his waking hours with the elderly.
- He makes 15 visits daily and is always in the office when anyone calls.

Attitudes Toward The Preacher:

- Worship of a preacher
 - (wrong)
- Belligerence and disrespect toward the preacher
 - (wrong)
- Preachers are disposable
 - (wrong)
- “He is the brother that preaches for us.”
 - **(RIGHT!)**

Preaching Is Important Business

- God only has one begotten Son, and He made Him a preacher.
- Preachers have an essential role to fill in Church growth and function.
 - Eph. 4:11-12
- Preaching is the medium through which God intended that the world might hear and be saved.
 - 1Cor. 1:17-25
 - Rom. 10:13-17

Preaching: A Misunderstood Profession

- We have many lessons on elders, deacons, & their work; husbands, wives and their roles, etc. Why so few on preachers and their work?
 - Some feel they would be tooting own horn.
 - Some are afraid of what others might think.
 - Potential conflict of interest. “He’s looking for a raise.”
- Important to preach on preaching anyway.
 - Both I, the brethren here who preach, and other potential preachers need a yardstick by which to measure ourselves.
 - Helps brethren to better evaluate an evangelist’s work by the Lord’s standards
 - It is part of the whole counsel of God.

Preaching: A Misunderstood Profession

- What qualifies a man to preach by God's standards?
 - Sometimes it is difficult to live up to God's standards. Much harm can be done by men who fall short.
 - But it is even harder to live up to the arbitrary standards some folks establish for preachers.
- We would not accept personal preferences in the qualifications of elders.
 - We must also use the Bible's list of qualifications for evangelists instead of our own personal preferences.

Man-made Qualifications Examined

- Proper marital status
 - Translation: Married with children
 - On some occasions: A single man who won't need much support
- This qualification would have eliminated three of the finest preachers ever.
 - Jeremiah was forbidden to marry - Jer. 16:2.
 - Jesus never married.
 - The apostle Paul was single - 1Cor. 9:7, 7:7.

Man-Made Qualifications Examined

- Proper education
- This qualification would have eliminated every preacher except for Paul and Luke.
 - Acts 22:3; Phil. 3:7; Acts 4:13; John 7:15

Man-Made Qualifications Examined

- The right age (Hard to determine):
 - Young: “too young to be able to handle our needs. We need an older, more experienced man.”
 - Aged: “too old to have the energy we need to grow. We need a young energetic man.”
- I’ve seen congregations settle for a middle-aged milk-toast, when they could have had young Timothy or an aged John.
 - Both have their strengths and can be an asset to any work.

Man-Made Qualifications Examined

- A good personality
 - Translation: “We want a good mixer.”
- We are building a church of Christ, not a personality cult.
 - 1Peter 3:8; Romans 12:9-18
- What draws people to Christ?
 - 1Cor. 2:1-5; 2Cor. 10:10

Man-Made Qualifications Examined

- Must come well recommended
- We need to learn something: One's friends will always speak favorably, and his enemies won't.
 - A man can be a marital cheat, a lousy worker, and a draft dodger and someone will recommend him.
 - Or he can be a hard-working, family-loving good citizen, and someone will find something to attack in him.

Man-Made Qualifications Examined

- Recommendations are only valid when:
 - The one recommending is well acquainted with the person being recommended.
 - And is well known to those seeking the recommendation.
- A recommendation is only as good as the person making it.
 - Phil. 2:19-20
 - Paul with Corinthians: “examine my work.”
- Not suggesting that you do not investigate preachers; just be careful of glowing recommendations.

Man-Made Qualifications Examined

- And any other qualification not mandated in scripture.
- Bottom line: We should not require more of a man seeking to become an evangelist than does the Lord.

Qualifications God Has Given:

- A genuine man of God
 - Not one who just wears the name, but lives the life.
 - Paul taught this to trainee Timothy.
 - 1Tim. 4:12-16, 6:11
- This characterized other great preachers:
 - Jesus - Acts 1:1.
 - Paul - 2Thes. 3:7-10.
 - Ezra - Ezra 7:10.

Qualifications God Has Given:

- A careful student
- The fundamental characteristic of a preacher is teaching.
 - 2Tim. 2:24
 - Heb. 5:11-14
 - 1Peter 2:2
 - 1Tim. 4:13-16
 - 2Tim. 2:15



Qualifications God Has Given:

- Boldness and confidence
 - Eph. 6:19-20
 - 2Tim. 4:1-4
 - 1Tim. 5:20-21
 - Gal. 2:11
 - Rom. 1:16



Qualifications God Has Given:

- Kindness, patience, and gentleness.
 - 2Tim. 2:24
 - Eph. 4:15



Qualifications God Has Given:

- Steadfastness
 - 2Tim. 4:5
 - 1Cor. 4:1-7
 - 2Cor. 11:23
 - 2Tim 2:3, 3:12
 - John 15:20-22
 - Joshua 24:15
 - 1Sam. 8:7



Shortage Of Preachers:

- One full time preacher for every seven churches.
- One in nine churches is fully self-supporting.
- 332 million people in USA; 8 billion in the world.
- Some of you are going to have to become preachers.
- Parents need to encourage their sons to become preachers.
- Elders need to become active in developing and training them.

