

Fairview Memorial Winter Bible Study

February 3, 2020

"That The Ministry Be Not Blamed"

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Scripture- 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Introduction: I was ask two questions the first night of our study: First question: If the committee selected younger brethren as teachers, for this year; how were you included as a teacher? My answer was simple; I'm in my second childhood!

The second question: How does your lesson fit into the Study Theme, "Looking Unto Jesus"?

Well, According to Eph. 1:20-23, God raised Jesus from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in heaven, and gave him authority far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this world, but also, in that which s to come. And hath put all things under his feet, and **made him head over all things to the church.**

Jesus is the head and founder of his church; and,... he is the "Author" and the "Finisher" of our Faith. (Hebrews 12:2) **Not only personal faith, but doctrinal faith also.** Jesus is the greatest **preacher/teacher** of all time, and,... I feel that, those who are "**called of God, and put in the ministry**" are given an **honorable position:** Not as a leader of Christ, but as a follower of Christ, who's example is worthy for others to follow. The Title "Preacher" is a **title of honor and demands, humility, dedication, and faithfulness.** Those of us who have experienced a Devine Call to preach, should above all others, be "**Looking unto Jesus**". **Paul said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."** (1 Corinthians 11:1)

Jesus set the standard for preaching and teaching; He wrote the book on what to teach; and he set the example for attitude, conduct, behavior, morality and zeal; meaning enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause. (see John 2:13-17) Although my lesson is directed toward those who have experienced a divine call to preach, the same principles apply to every child of God. Churches should not minimize the qualifications or lower the standards for ministers; but rather ministers should rise to meet the demands of the churches, according to the scriptures.

1. **Understanding the ministry.** "The Ministry", is The Ministry of Jesus to the world. The Gospel of Luke is a record of "... of all that Jesus began both to do and to teach until the day he was taken up..." (Acts 1:1-2) After which He empowered the church with the Holy Ghost to continue his ministry to the world. And the book of Acts is a record of the continuation of that ministry, carried on by the Apostles and churches. We are told that Jesus "...gave some, apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor/teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ". (Eph. 4:11-13) These positions are very important to the ministry of the church. In fact these positions of ministry can only be

with men who have experienced a **“Divine Call From God”**; none of which are independent contractors. All must be authorized by the church, and all are subject to the church.

2. The purpose of a divine call to the Ministry: “The Ministry” for the purposes of this lesson is “a position of trust and service within the church”. It provides a particular service; which is, to publicly proclaim the gospel. The Qualifications of this office has definite boundaries, because of the **leadership and example requirements**. (See the Epistles of Timothy and Titus)

The call to the Ministry may include, Evangelism, Mission work, Pastoring, and perhaps other ministries. Some have a calling to minister in one area, and perhaps, some to another. The Holy Spirit will lead and gift preachers for their field of labor, providing enabling grace for our work.

3. Character requirements for the ministry: The Biblical Standards are high! “Blameless” is the word used in 1 Timothy 3:2. That does not mean a man must be perfect, but it does mean he must be above reproach. Nothing in his past, if brought to light, that would bring shame and disgrace upon the church and the ministry. Paul says, “Let a man so account of us as the ministers of Christ, and **Stewards of the mysteries of God.**” (1 Corinthians 4:1) **The way we as ministers are looked upon, and perceived, is very important.** “It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.” Stewards are servants, under solemn obligation to their master. That means, as stewards, we are morally bound to duty and/or commitment. Ministers are accountable! We are accountable for our conduct and behavior; accountable for the things we preach and teach; accountable to the church where we hold membership; and, above all, we are accountable to God. None of us are freelance artist, with no accountability! Also, if we hope to have influence, we “must have a good report of them which are without”. (1 Tim. 3:7)

3. Availability for ministry: I think availability includes eagerness for service. Some will respond if called and given a special invitation to come and preach, but otherwise they are not too interested in church. I want to encourage young preachers and old alike, to lead the way by example. I want to use a real-estate term in connection with ministry availability. That term is “Curbside appeal” and describes a property that grabs your attention when you see it.

I want to encourage our “God Called preachers to **become known as a lover and supporter of the church, and the cause of Christ.** Support your home church! Go to Sunday School and Bible Study; attend special functions such as associations, ordinations, fellowship meetings and gospel singings. Let people know who you are; and that you want to be used in God’s service. Visibility, recognition, and the obvious desire to be a part of the work of the Lord could open doors for appointments, revivals etc., and that could lead to a successful ministry.

4. Study! Study to preach! Brother F. L. Ray taught us; Get a good Bible, a good Concordance, and a good Dictionary. Choose a Bible subject, and use those books to find out all you can about that subject. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher; Write down what you learn, and that

will help you retain what you've studied. Paul said, "Study to show yourself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

The following verses are good scriptural instructions on the reason for study and how to study. Ecclesiastes 12:8-12 Says, "...because the preacher was wise he still taught the people knowledge; yea he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order, many proverbs. The preacher sought to find acceptable words; and that which was written was upright, even words of truth. The words of the wise are as goads (used to motivate) and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given by one shepherd. (Jesus) And further, by these my son be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh".

Study on how to present a message; what thoughts in your judgment should be presented first and what should be last. When you have done that, pray for the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and present your subject as he leads. When churches get acquainted with you, and they find out you have a desire to serve God, and that you can preach the Bible, they will be calling upon you.

5. The Attitude of Ministry: Jesus asked Peter a very fundamental question related to Ministry; He asked Peter: Simon, son of Jonas, Lovest thou me? The whole ministry of Jesus was predicated on love and compassion. If we don't love Jesus enough to be faithful to the trust he left us we won't see much success. If we don't love God enough to hide his words in our hearts it will show. We must love the sheep and lambs enough to feed them. Some, it appears, misunderstand what Jesus said. Jesus did not say, Peter, beat my sheep; he said feed my sheep. What do you feed them? The sincere milk of the Word!

You may say, But Paul said, reprove and rebuke. That's true, but he said do it in love, with long-suffering and doctrine. Teach, the sheep and the lambs, with love, what the scriptures teach and what is expected by the church.

6. Nourish the church. When you are called by a church, consider it a great honor. That means, they have confidence in you. Don't let them down! Love them, nurture them, encourage them and feed their souls with Bible teaching. Don't develop a click in the church; treat everyone with the same love and concern. Pastoring a church can be enjoyable and very rewarding. Always remember **you are their servant.**

Whatever our personal field of service may be in the "Ministry", whether, Pastoral, Evangelistic, Missions, Teaching, or Exhortation, and wherever we serve; nursing homes, radio, TV, tent meetings, we are a very small part of the overall "Ministry of Christ to the World"; Stay humble! "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

Brother W. T Taylor, was a great teacher for young preachers and he told us, Most churches will tolerate poor preaching if they know you love them and that you are doing your best.