



Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

Volume XIX

July 1999

Number 12

Peddling and Piddling Preachers

By

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The work of a gospel preacher should be understood and appreciated. To the extent that this is true will be the extent to which the message he presents will be respected by many auditors. Paul could say: "I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. Yea, ye yourselves know, that **these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.** I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:33-35). Because of his own example, Paul could admonish Timothy and Titus as follows:

"These things command and teach. Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. . . . Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy

profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (1 Tim 4:11-16).

"For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us" (2 Thes 3:7-9).



II Tim. 2:2

"In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works:

in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you" (Tit. 2:7-8).

It is possible that some men have little influence among their associates, and have become poor motivators in their preaching because their preaching has become "piddling" as a direct result of their peddling. Preachers, consider it carefully. The preacher who stands weekly to edify and encourage the congregation should not be offended if encouragement is extended to him, right?

Tent Making

It is often stated when preachers are peddling their wares (vitamins, Amway, Mary Kay products, fans, stocks and bonds) that they are doing as Paul did, making tents to supplement their income. Was this what Paul was doing? (1) Paul worked with his hands to support himself while preaching, when support came to

him from others, he left tent making to be devoted to his preaching. (2) Paul worked with his hands to support those who labored with him, but is this what peddling brethren are doing? Provide us with examples. (3) Paul stated that a preacher should be devoted to study, doctrine, exhortation, etc. Peddling preachers do not have time to talk with people with problems, can hardly be located when needed, and are of little use when found. (4) Paul was constantly concerned with keeping the church pure from false doctrine and false teachers. Peddling preachers do not have time to deal with controversial matters. Moving their "wares" will not allow it.

Honesty in Business

Lest what is being written be misrepresented, understand the following: (1) It is not wrong to be involved in honorable business practices. (2) Making a profit from selling wares may be an honorable business. (3) Honest business practices are in the open and all know that you are in business. Business practices that have to be kept secret are in themselves suspect. Why is this preacher (business person) having to hide what he is doing? I have known men who were in business practices and knew they were neglecting their duties as a preacher or teacher. They have made a choice to pursue their business ventures. This decision is one that only they can make, and I will respect them for it. Just as it is a free moral choice to become a preacher, it is a free moral choice to decide when we put it aside.

Piddling Preachers

What is a piddling preacher? (1) Piddling Preachers draw a salary sufficient to sustain their families from brethren while preaching the gospel but ACT like they are not being sustained and must peddle their wares to live. (2) Piddling Preachers who are being fully supported by brethren to preach neglect their duty to study and present challenging lessons to the congregation. (3) Piddling Preachers who are being supported by brethren present the same warmed over lessons on first principles, even to using the same illustrations week, after



Motivation

week, after week. (4) Piddling Preachers who are being supported by the brethren dance around questions in Bible classes when honest and sincere souls are longing for spiritual food. This is a "Piddling" Preacher!

Are we going to peddle and let the congregation and church suffer in order to have material gain? This decision is personal, I can not decide for you, neither can you make choices for me. However, we do need to do self-evaluation; brethren need to carefully consider; elders need to ponder it well: (1) Is the preacher peddling

to the extent that his preaching has become piddling? (2) Is the preacher in such financial difficulty, hardship, that he must peddle to the extent that his preaching is neglected and his work as a preacher is piddling?

Piddling preachers should repent of their neglect and calling. Brethren who do not support a preacher sufficiently to care for his family should repent and sustain the preacher that his preaching be more than piddling. Elders who have made a decision to support a preacher sufficiently that he not have to peddle to the brethren and others should demand that preaching be more than piddling. The church needs preachers, not peddling and piddling. The congregation needs edifying, fed with both milk and meat, but peddling preachers who piddle at preaching can not do what needs to be done. Preachers are you peddling and piddling? Elders is your preacher peddling and piddling at preaching? Brethren are our preachers peddling and piddling?

The Harvesters

Published Monthly
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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

This article was written for the appendix of the January 2000 Lectureship. Brother Kenyon is now in the process of editing this material. He felt that the article should appear in the Harvesters now because of the content and that it might serve as a reminder of the Annual Lectureship the third week in January. Our theme this year is "Do You Understand Preaching?"

Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

On page four of this issue of the Harvesters is a list of the classes and instructors for the Fall classes at the Florida School of Preaching. Have you considered being a part of one of these classes? Consider with me a couple of items:

Faculty

A major factor in any teaching framework is the instructor. We are proud of the faculty at the Florida School of Preaching. We feel confident that any of the classes would be well worth your efforts to attend. There is no doubt, our faculty has a genuine interest in the student body. Our faculty has a proven record of their interest in the church and the Bible. To be in classes taught at the Florida School of Preaching is to have the Bible upheld as the final authority in all matters religious and moral. Those attending classes may expect the church of Christ to be upheld as the blood bought bride of Christ. We are committed to building faith and not in creating doubt. If you do not have a

current school catalogue call or write for one. You can also find this information on our WEB PAGE (fsop.net). By consulting the catalogue section on the faculty, you may read of the academic qualifications as well as our practical experience of the faculty. We would compare our faculty with any institution and ask you to find a better faculty for training preachers.

Courses

We invite you to consider the courses offered in the Fall semester. (1) The following Bible Textual studies will be offered: Romans, Survey of Old Testament, Pentateuch, Matthew, Revelation, First and Second Corinthians, Wisdom Literature (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Psalms), First and Second Thessalonians. (2) Special studies will include the following: Logic, Topical Bible Studies, Church History and Denominational Dogmas. (3) We offer a class in Computers and Churches. This class will enable students to see how a computer may be of help to them in their preaching and teaching. (4) Extension courses enable those interested in areas beyond the South Florida Avenue location to take advantage of in-depth Bible studies and to receive credit from the school.

Why not make an effort to be a part of the Fall Semester? Tell others of our classes that they might profit from the same. The only expense is the \$5.00 registration fee and the cost of text books for each class.

If you need further information please contact the school. We are interested in you, are you interested in yourself and others?



Orientation And Registration

All full-time students are expected to be present at orientation. This is necessary that all may understand what is expected of them as far as attendance, class work assignments, chapel services, etc. In addition to these items it will be necessary to complete registration forms and to pick up text books for the classes. Faculty members will be there to explain what they expect of the student and what the student may expect from the class. This is not to be considered as an optional matter.

**O R I E N T A T I O N
B E G I N S A T 1 : 0 0 P . M .
F R I D A Y , A U G U S T 2 0 , 1 9 9 9 .**

Monday, August 23 will be the first day of classes. You will need to be present at 8:30 A.M. for the first class. This will be taught by brother Maurice Davis and the class is a textual study of Romans.



**"Do You Understand
Preaching?"
January 17-20, 2000
Florida
School of Preaching
Annual Lectureship**

Registration Schedule

Florida School of Preaching

Fall Semester Begins August 23, 1999

Date _____ Phone _____

Name _____ S.S.# _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check Classes Desired Classes Marked with "*" Are Taught at Extension Locations

| Hours | Course | Instructor | Credit |
|-----------------------|--|------------|--------|
| Monday | | | |
| ___ 8:30 to 12:00 | Romans 21361 | Davis | 3 |
| ___ 1:00 to 4:15 | Logic 31370 | Kenyon | 3 |
| ___ 7:00 to 9:30 | Topical Bible Studies 11334 (High Springs)* | Burgett | 2½ |
| ___ 7:00 to 9:30 | Survey of Old Testament 21360 (Sarasota)* | Stilwell | 2½ |
| Tuesday | | | |
| ___ 8:30 to 12:00 | Greek 21322 | Stearsman | 3 |
| ___ 1:00 to 4:15 | Pentateuch 11364 | Stilwell | 3 |
| ___ 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. | Matthew 31389 (Bushnell)* | Stearsman | 2½ |
| ___ 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. | Miracles and Parables 11316 | Blackman | 2½ |
| Wednesday | | | |
| ___ 8:30 to 12:00 | Revelation 21359 | Stearsman | 3 |
| ___ 1:00 to 4:15 | Church History 21341 | Kenyon | 3 |
| Thursday | | | |
| ___ 8:30 to 12:00 | Computers and Churches 31387 | Stearsman | 3 |
| ___ 1:00 to 4:15 | First & Second Corinthians 11335 | Davidson | 3 |
| ___ 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. | Wisdom Literature 21348 | Kenyon | 2½ |
| Friday | | | |
| ___ 8:30 to 12:00 | Denominational Dogmas 11331 | Daugherty | 3 |
| ___ 1:00 to 4:15 | First & Second Thessalonians 21337 | Kenyon | 3 |

Please Include \$5.00 Registration Fee

PLEASE SEND US THE ADDITIONAL FOUR DIGITS OF YOUR "ZIP CODE" NUMBER.

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