



# Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

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## A Spiritual Principle

It is important that we look for principles when we study the Bible. Not everything is authorized by direct statements in the Bible. Often God's word sets forth a principle and we are expected to see its application in various settings of life.

As Director of Public Relations for the Florida School of Preaching one of my jobs is to seek financial support from churches and individuals. It needs to be noted that I do not exempt my job from the need for Bible authority. If I am going to ask congregations to support the work of the Florida School of Preaching, then I ought to be able to provide a biblical principle that authorizes what I am doing.

In two different situations Paul establishes a principle that it is right for churches to financially support situations where they receive spiritual benefit. In First Corinthians Chapter nine Paul is asserting that it would be right for the church at Corinth to financially support him in his labor among them in the gospel. He argues from the lesser to the greater when he notes that the old law

forbids muzzling an ox "while it treads out the grain." In asking the question "Is it oxen God is concerned about?" he is showing that if an ox should be allowed to reap a reward from its labor, surely God intended that the same should be true of a man. He states the principle clearly in

*If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things?*

...

*It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.*

verse 11, "If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things?"

In Romans Chapter fifteen Paul applies the same principle to a different situation. He had been calling upon churches in Gentile regions to make a contribution to a collection intended primarily to support Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. In verse 27, he states the following: "It pleased them

indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things."



Gene Burgett

For over thirty years the Florida School of Preaching has spiritually benefitted the churches of Christ in training men to do the work of an evangelist. Our graduates have spiritually benefitted churches all over the globe. It is based on this fact that I ask churches and individuals to look at their budgets and consider supporting the Florida School of Preaching. Biblically it is authorized and financially I know the school needs your help.

Any congregations or individuals that would like to learn more about supporting us in the work of training men to preach are urged to contact me. I will be happy to meet with you at your convenience.

Gene Burgett  
352-339-3195  
[burgett@atlantic.net](mailto:burgett@atlantic.net)

## Some Reflections on Preaching

There are times when we need to call attention to the purpose of the Florida



Jackie M. Stearsman

School of Preaching. As the name indicates, preaching is our priority. However, anyone wishing to study the Bible is welcome to attend and take classes. But our primary goal is to prepare men to preach and to encourage preaching.

### Examples

When we review the concept of preaching from a Bible perspective, we may learn much. We are informed that some of the greatest Bible characters are classified as preachers.

(1) Noah was a preacher. "And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a PREACHER of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly" (2 Pet. 2:5 KJV, emphasis added in quotes).

(2) The wise man, King Solomon, was a preacher. "The words of the PREACHER, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. Vanity of vanities, saith the PREACHER, vanity of vanities; all is vanity" (Eccl. 1:1-2). "I the PREACHER was king over Israel in Jerusalem" (Eccl. 1:12).

(3) The Prophet Jonah was a preacher. "Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and

PREACH unto it the preaching that I bid thee" (Jonah 3:2). "The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the PREACHING of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here" (Matt. 12:41).

(4) John the baptizer was a preacher. "In those days came John the Baptist, PREACHING in the wilderness of Judaea, (Matt. 3:1).

(5) Jesus the Christ was a preacher. "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and PREACHING the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people" (Matt. 4:23). "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and PREACHING the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people" (Matt. 9:35).

(6) Jesus chose and prepared the Twelve Apostles to be preachers. "And as ye go, PREACH, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 10:7). "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and PREACH the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15, See also Matt. 28:18-20).

(7) Paul classified himself as a teacher, an apostle, and a preacher. "Whereunto I am appointed a PREACHER, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles" (2 Tim. 1:11).

What do these examples suggest to you? Are there any ideas about preaching that may need refining in your thoughts?

Do these examples suggest to you that preaching is important? May we learn anything about preaching from these great preachers?

### Lessons

I would like to suggest the following lessons on preaching and preachers for our serious reflection.

(1) The message God authorizes to be preached is more important than the messenger. Noah was not a perfect man, but he preached the message God wanted preached. He needed the grace of God as do all, and his failures must never be used as a license to sin or do wrong.

This is certainly indicated by the life of the preacher Solomon and Jonah. Even the great apostle Peter needed correcting, but his inspired message from God did not need correcting. Paul rebuked Peter because his life did not conform to the doctrine/teaching given to him by God (Gal. 2:11-14).

(2) Not all will obey. Only

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1807 South Florida Avenue  
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(863) 683-4043

Editor: Jackie M. Stearsman, Director  
Brian R. Kenyon, Associate Director  
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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

the immediate family of Noah profited from his preaching.

Preachers today must be willing to preach in season and out of season (2 Tim. 4:2). The reaction of the audience to the truth taught must not be the primary motive in our preaching. It is easy for some to find fault with the messenger (or even kill the messenger) when the problem lies with the recipient of the message.

(3) Some may be surprised by the response. We might think that the most blessed would be more likely to receive the message, but this is not always true. We may think that the most educated would likely be the best prospect, but Paul shows that this is far from the truth (1 Cor. 1:18ff.).

While the plan of the Lord was to take the message to the Jews first, He knew that many would reject the gospel and that the Gentile were to be taught. Many of the Jews rejected the gospel preached by Paul, while many of the Gentiles accepted it, and this caused jealousy among the Jews.

(4) We may need to overcome our own prejudices in order to preach the gospel. Jonah did not appreciate his assignment to Nineveh. Peter had a problem with his fellowship among the Jews and Gentiles.

The Pharisees could not reconcile their ideas with Jesus' association with Publicans and sinners. Jesus told them that those they considered the outcast of society would enter the kingdom before the self-righteous Pharisee (Matt. 21:31-

32).

(5) From the examples cited above, we must understand that preaching may cost us dearly. It cost John the baptizer his life (Matt. 14:1-12). It cost Jesus to die upon the cross. A study of the life of Paul will reveal how much he suffered for the cause of preaching. Read carefully Second Corinthians 11:23-33. If secular history is correct, Paul also paid with his life for preaching the gospel. It was common knowledge that many of the prophets paid dearly for the "crime" of preaching the truth and teaching the people (Matt. 23:29-36).

(6) Preaching that is profitable proclaims the whole counsel of God—reproving, rebuking, exhorting with long suffering. Preaching must be done both privately and publicly. The examples above will underscore these vital points.

### **Preaching Is Indispensable**

In living the Christian life, there are many duties and obligations we must shoulder. Some duties are shared with non-Christians. We list a few of these in order to show the distinct obligation placed upon us to preach the gospel. We must take seriously the duty of preaching.

Christians are to be benevolent, but benevolence may be carried on by the civil state and other social organizations.

Christians are to provide recreation for their children and for the individual Christian's health and well being (1 Tim. 4:8). However, there are many organizations that provide

recreation programs that we may participate in that do not even involve Christians to fund or participate in the same.

Education is needed if we are to understand and teach the truths of the Bible. However, secular society provides education, and we may choose to develop educational facilities that provide a moral environment patterned after the precepts of the Bible for educating our young. Education is primarily a duty of the home. The civil state in most countries recognizes the need for educating at least some of its constituents.

HOWEVER, when we consider the subject of preaching we are considering an item that falls squarely upon the church and can not be passed on to other institutions. The home may be unstable and not always qualify to train preachers. The civil state is not under the obligation to train preachers.

When we think of preachers and preaching, we must place a priority in developing and encouraging preachers to preach the truths of God.

The words of Paul to Timothy must be a part of our philosophy and Christian education. "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2).

Do we take seriously this admonition from Paul? To whom do you think Paul placed this duty? Help us prepare men to preach the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?—Editor

## Registration Schedule Fall Semester Begins August 14, 2006

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ S.S.# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

..... Check Classes Desired

| Hours   | Course                             | Instructor | Credit |
|---|------------------------------------|------------|--------|
| <b>Monday</b><br>8:30 to 12:00<br>1:00 to 4:15                        | Hebrews and Galatians (21343)      | Davis      | 3      |
|   | Topical Studies (11334)            | Kenyon     | 3      |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br>8:30 to 12:00<br>1:00 to 4:15<br>7:00 to 9:30 p.m.  | Greek I (21322)                    | Stearsman  | 3      |
|   | Sermon Design and Delivery (21303) | Burgett    | 3      |
|   | Life of Christ (11217)             | Blackman   | 2½     |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br>8:30 to 12:00<br>1:00 to 4:15                     | Life of Paul (21362)               | Stearsman  | 3      |
|   | Ezekiel and Daniel (21314)         | Kenyon     | 3      |
| <b>Thursday</b><br>8:30 to 12:00<br>1:00 to 4:15<br>7:00 to 9:30 p.m. | English Grammar (11324)            | Kenyon     | 3      |
|   | World Religions (21375)            | Wheeler    | 3      |
|   | Greek II (21223)                   | Stearsman  | 2½     |
| <b>Friday</b><br>8:30 to 12:00<br>1:00 to 4:15                        | Old Testament History (21339)      | Elledge    | 3      |
|   | Sermon on the Mount (21380)        | Kenyon     | 3      |

Please Include \$5.00 Registration Fee When Preregistering.

*Return Service Requested*

WEB SITE: [www.fsop.net](http://www.fsop.net)

E-MAIL: [fsop@gte.net](mailto:fsop@gte.net)

FAX: 863-683-0750

PHONE (863) 683-4043 (800) 320-9780

LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33803-2653

1807 SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE

**FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING**

