

Preachers and Preaching

Introduction:

This month marks eight years that I have been working as the local preacher for this church. I would like to take this opportunity to discuss with you the identity, work, and qualifications of a local preacher.

I. The Identity of the Preacher:

- A. We read of men who proclaim the gospel (laboring in the Word of God) in the Bible (see I Cor. 9:6-16; I Tim. 5:17-18).
- B. Preacher (*Kerux*) = “A herald (one who proclaims important news)... one who made proclamation in public assemblies... one who gives notice, announces... to command publicly” (LS 432).
 - 1. Jesus (Matt. 4:23; Mk. 1:14; Lk. 4:44).
 - 2. The Apostles (Lk. 9:1-6) and Paul (I tim. 2:7; II Tim. 1:11).
- C. Evangelist (*euaggelistes*) = “the bringer of good tidings, an evangelist, a preacher of the gospel... one who brings good news” (LS 322).
 - 1. Jesus (Lk. 4:43; 8:1)
 - 2. Timothy (II Tim. 4:5)
 - 3. Philip (Acts 21:8)

II. The Work of the Preacher:

- A. Studying and teaching God’s Word (I Tim. 2:7; 4:13)
- B. Challenging self and others to study and know God’s laws (Ezek. 22:26; II Tim. 2:15) and to never go beyond those laws (I Cor. 4:6).
- C. Planting the seeds of the gospel to the lost (I Cor. 1:21; 3:6-7)
- D. Edifying the saints (Eph. 4:11-12)
- E. A guardian of truth (II Cor. 2:16-17; I Tim. 6:20)
- F. Reprove, rebuke, and exhort with all longsuffering (II Tim. 4:2).
- G. Compensated? (I Cor. 9:6-16)

III. Are there qualifications to preach the Gospel?

- A. Yes!
- B. Must be found pursuing a faithful life (I Cor. 4:1-2).
- C. Must preach truth in love (Eph. 4:15).
- D. Must preach with urgency to save souls rather than for the glory of men (II Cor. 2:17; 11:9; II Thess. 3:8).
- E. Must have the utmost respect for the authority of God’s word.
- F. Must work with elders (Acts 20:17; I Tim. 5:17-22; II Tim. 4:5).
- G. Must have the grit to do the work as listed above (i.e., exposing error / rebuking brethren / never wearing their feelings upon their sleeves).

Conclusion:

I am grateful to God for the opportunity to be with you all these eight years. My prayer is that not only I but that all preachers would meet their authorized responsibilities with a grave spirit. The church needs sound men who have a correct approach to the word of God. Men who have the utmost

respect for the authority of God and are not afraid to speak out at the appropriate time. I hope and pray that out of our local group of saints that one would desire the work of an evangelist.