

# THE PREACHER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

## 2 Timothy 4:1-8

### INTRODUCTION:

- > A. The religious world in general has a very bad misconception of the work of a preacher - he is not a "pastor"
- > B. Even among brethren, this subject needs to be discussed occasionally
  1. Brethren are influenced by the denominational world
  2. May need to defend himself against false accusations
  3. Of course preachers may get out of place and need to be reminded of these lessons themselves
- > C. **(TITLE)** So everyone needs to know what preachers should be doing and not doing.

### DISCUSSION:

- > I. **TERMS USED IN TEXT (Evangelist - Preacher - Minister designate the work and suggest what that work is)**
  - > A. Evangelist - one who announces good tidings (gospel) Eph 4:11; 2Tim 4:5; Acts 21:8
  - > B. Preacher - Crier, proclaimer, herald Paul 2Tim 1:11; Noah 2Pet 2:5; in general Rom 10:14
  - > C. Minister - deacon, laborer, ministrant
    1. Public worker or laborer used of Paul Rom 15:16
    2. An under rower, assistant used of apostles Lk 1:2
    - > 3. In the way "minister" is used most times in scripture it could refer to any member of the church as servant
- > II. **SOME QUALIFICATIONS OF EVANGELIST / PREACHER**
  - > A. Pure and exemplary life 1Tim 5:22; 4:12
  - > B. Diligence and consecration to his work 2Tim 2:15,16
  - > C. Gentle, apt to teach, forbearing 2Tim 2:22-26
  - > D. Steadfast in the faith, loyal and uncompromising in teaching the truth, courageous in exposing false teachers 1Tim 6:3-11; 4:1; 2Tim 3:14-17; 4:1-5
  - > E. Desire to save souls - his own and others 1Tim 4:16
- > III. **A LOOK AT NEGATIVE SIDE OF A PREACHER'S WORK**
  - A. Some cities have a mayor and council form of government and also have a city manager, a professionally trained administrator. They turn the administration of the city's affairs over to him. Regrettably, this system is being followed in many congregations today.
  - > B. Not his work to administer the affairs of the church - This is work of elders 1Tim. 5:17; 1Pet. 5:1-5 (*elders get idea preacher has had special training; more in touch with brotherhood activities and methods; trained under prominent preachers in "Christian College", so elders do almost anything he ask; make him church manager) ("Christian Colleges" led way in innovations. Preachers trained there bring liberalism to churches. Elders give them too much rein)*
  - C. Preachers suggestions to be regarded same as other members – weighed then used only if they have merit

- > D. A preacher should not have to do all the visiting of the sick and negligent. These are not particularly preacher duties. They are Christian duties Gal. 6:1; Jas. 1:27
- > E. Not his work to entertain members and make regular social calls to imitate or compete with "pastors". He may visit more because his schedule allows more time than some members
- > F. Not his work to serve as representative of church in community or denominational projects
- > IV. **LOOK AT THE POSITIVE SIDE: What are his duties?**
  - > A. Read & study God's word 1Tim. 4:13-16; 2Tim. 2:15
  - > B. Preach the word 2Tim. 4:1-4 (Note solemn charge)
    1. Excludes the doctrines of men Rom. 16:17,18
    2. Excludes one's own opinion
    3. Preach ALL of word Acts 20:20,26,27; Matt. 28:18-20
      - a. At times preachers are tempted in this aspect of work. Sometimes ones in error will befriend the preacher, making it difficult to deal with their sin
      - b. Preachers like crowds & fear members be lost
      - c. All are aware of touchy subjects and members
  - > C. "Reprove; Rebuke; Exhort" 2Tim. 4:2; Tit. 1:12,13; 2:15
    1. Preacher not out of place to rebuke misbehavior in assembly, immodest attire, etc., if done with proper spirit, using good judgment. Scripture commands it.
    2. If person becomes angry at rebuke, done properly, they are wrong - rebellious. This is true if one rejects any duty or truth preached from God's word
    3. Will be opposition if "reprove, rebuke and exhort" 2Tim. 4:3,4. Will make enemies if they do their work!
  - > D. To guard the true doctrine
    1. Timothy left at Ephesus to charge some 1Tim. 1:3
    2. Preachers have the duty to warn men who teach false doctrine Tit. 1:10,11
  - > E. To "Persuade Men" 2Cor. 5:11
    1. To believe, repent, confess Christ and be baptized into Christ
    2. To add to their faith 2Pet. 1:5-7
    3. To deny "ungodliness and worldly lusts" Tit. 2:11,12

### CONCLUSION:

- > A. Many times preachers get very little encouragement from the results that they see in people's lives. This is the time Paul called "out of season."
- > B. However, preachers are not responsible for the results, just the preaching of the word - warning - so people are without excuse and their blood will not be on him Ezek. 3:17-21 ←
- > C. The listeners are responsible for the results, they either act in obedience to that which is preached or they reject it.