

The Call To Preach

8/3/2008 – Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

1 Tim. 1:12 *And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;*

Introduction

God does call men to preach. God actually “puts” men into the ministry. Many times mothers and fathers, uncles and aunts, friends and church members decide for a young man that he should be a preacher or would at least make a good preacher. But this is not God’s way. The men who we think would make a good preacher may not make a good preacher at all, and the men who God knows will be his good servants we may think would make horrible preachers.

The call to preach is a very distinguishable call. There is no doubt in the mind of the man being called that God is doing the calling. But how can a man know that he is being called to preach? First, let me say that I cannot tell you if you are called, and your parents and friends cannot tell you, either.

Here are some things, though, that a young man may consider if he thinks he may be called to preach.

I. THERE MUST BE A DESIRE

A. Desire of the Office

1. 1 Tim. 3:1 *This [is] a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.*
2. Paul the Apostle desired his work early. At the time he was saved on the road to Damascus, Paul surrendered completely to God as his Lord saying, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” There must be a sincere desire to serve the Lord if one is willing to do whatever the Lord wants.
3. The Greek word for “desire” (oregoma) means “to stretch one’s self out in order to touch or to grasp something . . .”
4. The strongest desire of a God-called preacher is to stretch himself out in order to touch the will of God and to perform it in his life.

B. Desire of the Word

1. 1 Peter 2:2 *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*
2. The man of God must spend much time in reading God’s word, learning God’s word, and memorizing God’s word; and he must do it in his youth; because in his old age he may not be able to memorize as he once did.

C. Desire the Work

1. Requirements for the work – 1 Tim. 3:1-7
2. Work of an evangelist – 2 Tim. 4:5 *But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.*
3. Work of a missionary – Acts 13:2 *As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy*

Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

- a. The work was done through a local church – whatever work a preacher is to do, he is to do it through a local church – Eph. 3:21 “to him be glory in the church.”
- b. The preachers are to be separated by the church through the leadership of the Holy Ghost.
- c. The preachers must be called of God.

II. THERE MUST BE DETERMINATION

A. A preacher cannot always be a follower. He must learn to be determined in a few things.

B. Determined in Doctrine

1. 1 Tim. 4:6 *If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.*
2. 1 Tim. 5:17 *Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.*
3. A preacher must be determined to preach the true and only Gospel of Jesus Christ and to preach and teach only those doctrines that come from God’s word no matter what other men or women may say.

C. Determined in Ministry

1. Barnabas was determined to take Mark with him, even though Paul disagreed. Acts 15:37 *And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.*
2. A preacher cannot “go with the wind” when it comes to doing God’s work. He is God’s man, and he must alone seek the Lord’s will and act upon the way he is led through the scriptures through his own conscience.
3. This takes determination.

III. THERE MUST BE DEDICATION

A. In other words, the preacher must be faithful.

B. Faithful to Earthly Things

1. Luke 16:11 *If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true [riches]?*
2. 1 Cor 4:2 *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.* This applies to both carnal and spiritual things.

C. Faithful to Heavenly Things

1. Tychicus was known as a faithful servant (Eph 6:21)
2. Epaphras was known as a faithful servant (Col. 1:7)
3. Tit 1:9 *Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*
4. We should be faithful, because God is faithful -- 1 Thes. 5:24 Faithful [is] he that calleth you, who also will do [it].
5. Eccl 9:10 *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do [it] with thy might; for [there is] no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*

D. Faithful To Study

1. 2 Tim. 2:15 *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*
2. Eccl 12:12 *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.*
3. But this does not mean that study is fruitless. It is very rewarding, and we as preachers must spend much time in it.

Conclusion

Now, I am not speaking just to the preachers here today. I am preaching to prospective preachers here. I am speaking to every young boy here today and every young man here today. God may call you to preach; and if he does, you should know these things.

Preaching is the highest calling in the world today besides being called into the Lord's Kingdom, and you young men may be a part of that one day if God calls you. Don't delay your answer to his call. Submit to it early and get busy. We need laborers in the harvest, and you might just be one of those laborers.

Let's all pray that God will call laborers into the harvest. God will do it, but we must be interested in God's work.

I would rather God would call a young man to preach in this church than for a young man to be called in a church that preaches false doctrine.

Every preacher must stand before God for every word he preaches. That is why doctrine is so important. Prov 4:2 *For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.*