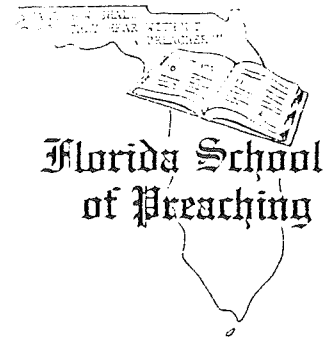


THE HARVESTERS



VOLUME VII

FEBRUARY 1989

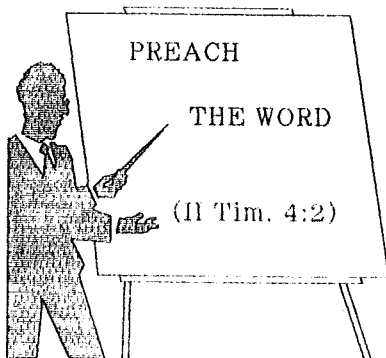
NUMBER 7

Is Preaching Out of Date?

By
Jackie M. Stearsman

To some preaching is an art that has outlived its usefulness. To others preaching is an item in religion that is to be endured with a minimal degree of profit. Yet, to God preaching is a most essential ingredient which may not be eliminated.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Rom. 10:13-15).



PREACHING: SOME INHERENT FACTORS

In preaching there are three integral components: there is the message, the individual who hears, and the preacher. While each is important the message is the most essential. There may be "great communicators", but without the essential message their efforts are but gestures of worthlessness.

PREACHING AND THE PRESIDENCY

In the past year we have gone through a presidential campaign and election. If preaching is out of date those running for president have not discovered it. Each proclaimed the message by which he sought to sway the minds of men and women. Great interest was given to making sure that he be competitive in his ability to communicate his message.

Daily the news media informed us of the "sermons" preached and the merit of the "message" provided. Daily the media made all aware of how important preaching was to winning the election. Daily the media's own "preachers"

would indicate how better it might have been done or how poorly the task was executed.

PREACHING INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY

In recent years we have been impressed with the ability of the preacher from the USSR. He is polished in his demeanor and has a great ability to communicate with the populace. His only handicap is his message. World communism is so void of truth and popular appeal that he must come preaching a different "gospel" for popular consumption while at the same time upholding his creed of communism in real life.

Without a doubt many are swayed by his personal charm and are so influenced with his manner that they forget his basic doctrine.

If preaching is out of date it is strange that the nations of the world are not aware of it. In the United Nations preaching is a daily custom.

No, informed and thoughtful individuals know the significance of preaching. Rather than being out of date preaching is much in demand, and is a perpetual tool when the masses are to be reached

and influenced.

OBSERVATIONS

There are a number of lessons to be learned relative to preaching from the procedure of politics. (1) Preaching is vital to the success of any movement national or international. Preaching is also a most essential component in the cause of Christ. (2) The message is vital in government and it is equally so in religion. The greatest communicator cannot sustain that which is false when people are informed and are interested in truth. (3) Preaching is not instinctive. Men must be trained to preach. Political preachers are constantly coached (trained) to communicate. Preaching the gospel also requires training. (4) Preparing preachers requires funds. (5) The greater our appreciation for the concept of preaching and the message being preached the greater our support will be in training preachers. (6) Those in political circles know that they must prepare their preachers. We must know that God is counting on us to prepare preachers.

The Florida School of Preaching is dedicated to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. The message we proclaim is not out of date and it never will be.

The Florida School of Preaching is dedicated to training preachers. We know that preaching will always be needed and that men must be trained to preach. There was but one who needed no training to preach and he was the Christ.

Christ could have come to earth in any human capacity Divinely possible but he came as a preacher. Heaven knows that preaching is vital and provides us the great blessing of participating in

training preachers (II Tim. 2:2). Those who are in fellowship with us in the training of preachers are in one of the most important ventures known to God and man.

The charge is never old, always relevant, and of the utmost importance-- "preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. . . . do the work of an evangelist, fulfil thy ministry" (II Tim. 4:2, 5).

Will you prepare yourself to preach? Will you encourage another to become a preacher? Will you help us to train preachers. If we do not who will?

December 20, 1988



Dear brother Carr,

With every passing event I am more and more appreciative of the training the school provided me. In almost every event I encountered in the past 18 months as a full time minister the training you provided has been invaluable.

However, in one recent event I feel I was let down. On December 16 I performed my first wedding. No, it wasn't the ceremony that I was unprepared for, even that was covered in school. What the school failed to prepare me for was riding the horse. Yes, you see this wedding was on horseback. It



was a beautiful wedding. The ponies bearing the rings and the flowers were very cute. The bride was gorgeous as she rode in side saddle with a fifteen foot train on her dress. It was an event I will never forget. And then there was Charlie yelling "That's my

daddy" loud enough for everyone to hear.

We are looking forward to attending the lectureship next month and seeing all of our friends that we love so much.

You might want to consider adding riding lessons to the spring semester schedule. Scuba lessons might be nice too, as I have already been approached about an underwater wedding.

In Christian love,

Larry E. Burch

December 28, 1988

Dear Brethren:



We do appreciate the work of the school. Please accept this check with our thanks.

Yours in Christ,

Kelly and Margaret Chastain

We are thankful for the sound doctrine you teach at the Florida School of Preaching. May this help in a small way.



God bless you.

Louie and Barbara Bone

The Harvesters

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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

Total Commitment

By
Barry Kym Polk

When you hear the words "Total Commitment," what comes to your mind? A non-Christian might think of dedication to some job or civic club; a lawyer might think of the outcome of a trial wherein his client was found mentally incompetent. However, the Christian of recent years might very honestly think of a movement within the church which continuously divides the Lord's body. But these two words are good words that should describe our relationship to the Lord. It is sad that the teaching concerning our dedication to the Lord has been diverted by two words to false teachers. So many are trying to make us take our eyes off of Christ and concentrate on other things.

Jesus wanted men to be true followers of him. It was Jesus' desire to reach the heart of his followers. He knew that the heart of man rules everything man does. Jesus said, ". . . for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matt. 12:34). Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Brother George Bailey said, "The heart of man's problem is the problem of man's heart." Jesus quoted Isaiah's prophesy to the hypocritical Pharisees. "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me teaching for doctrines, the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:8-9). Jesus wanted total commitment to his teachings. Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me" (Matt. 16:24). Put selfishness out of your

heart and follow Jesus without question.

There is a need for totally committed people in the Lord's Church. One will not win the battle against Satan if he is constantly thinking about what he wants to do. Many lives are taken up in pleasure and good times. The Lord doesn't want one to live a life of boredom. In fact, an abundant life awaits us if we will follow the teachings of Jesus (John 10:10). Christians are to be dedicated to the Lord's service above all. It is so sad when it seems like pulling teeth to get people to give an hour for Bible study and an hour for worship on Sunday morning. Many excuses are given for not worshipping but these same people vow they are dedicated to the Lord's work. When questioned about their absence from the worship one receives a barrage of the good things they have done in the past week or a testimony of their value to Christ.

Total commitment is not just being good, it is having our minds set upon consistent service to the Lord. This means being diligent in doing good and in being good. We need to continually evaluate ourselves. Paul wrote, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith, prove your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Cor. 13:5).

Paul had previously said, "For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable" (I Cor. 15:16-19). If Christ is not resurrected then he died like all men die; if he is not raised he did not take our sins with him; we

have hope only in this life; and we are of all men most miserable.

But Jesus did come forth from the grave! We must strive to be like him in this life. Live for him with the commitment of Jesus on the cross. We need the commitment like Paul who was stoned for preaching the truth. We need the dedication of Peter who boldly preached the first Gospel sermon. We need the consistent practice of pointing out error in one another in kindness, remembering that the church of our Lord must maintain its purity.

James said in James 2:10, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." This is not to say we must be sinlessly perfect but to say we must strive for perfection. We must be mature enough to know that we do fall. We must not turn our heads in pride and say, "Who me? ain?" When in fact we did. John said, "If a man accuses you of sin you have committed to confess it and pray for forgiveness (I John 5:16).

We need total commitment to Jesus. We need to get rid of sin for our lives and to maintain a vigil against Satan. Who is Satan after anyway? Is he seeking the individual of the world? No, he is not. He is after the Christian. He wants all he can get to follow him. He already has the world and he wants you and me. Let us be totally committed to the Lord. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

It is sad that some do not have the commitment of some first century Christians. We need that commitment. Let us deny ourselves, take our cross and follow Jesus. (Brother Polk preaches in Groveland and is a part time instructor with us, Editor.)

Lectureship Highlights

The recent Lectureship, "For Such A Time As This", was attended by several hundred people during the four day session, January 16-19, 1989.

STATES REPRESENTED

Registered as attending were individuals from:

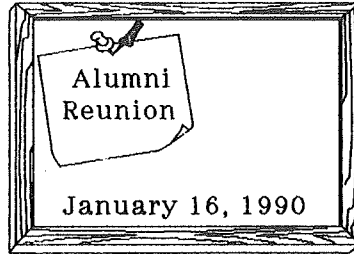
Alabama
American Samoa
Arkansas
Canada
Florida
Georgia
Indiana
Kentucky
Michigan
New York
New Jersey
North Carolina
Ohio
Tennessee
Virginia

ALUMNI ATTENDING

The following alumni registered:

Leslie Bland, Tommy Blewett, Haward Brooks, Charles Burch, Larry Burch, Gene Burgett, Bill Clayton, Bill Cooley, Keith Cozort, Maurice Davis, Jimmy Ezekiel, Raul Garcia, Bill Goldman, John Griffis, Adrian Harper, Jimmie Hill, Charlie Jones, William Kerrison, Marlin Kilpatrick, Robert Lindsey, Robert Lupo, Jerry Mackey, Bernard McKiever, Charles Orr, Stephen Rosenzweig, Lester

Starling, Chris Steele, Ben Sumrall, Terry Wheeler, Trent Wheeler, Glen Willcut, and Robert Williams.



Arrangements are being made for next year's Lectureship. The former students are planning a reunion for Tuesday evening of the Lectureship week.

More information will be announced at a later date.

Thank You!

Our appreciation is extended to those who were so generous and diligent in making this Lectureship a great success. Many made sacrificial contributions to defray the costs involved. Some who participated on the programs came at their own expense, refusing to be reimbursed for their expenses.

This sacrificial generosity which makes the Lectureship possible is a great blessing to the students, beyond this, it is a means of strengthening the church in Florida and

throughout the nation as indicated by the large numbers attending from other states.

The ladies of the congregation did their usual superb job in providing refreshments to the guests during the breaks. The fellowship was made more enjoyable due to their efforts.



L U P O ' S
P R O V I D E
S C H O O L W I T H
N E W C O P I E R

The Florida School of Preaching could not exist if it were not for the sacrifices of others.

In order for students to attend they must be helped some while in school full time. Gracious brethren have always assisted our students and the students are grateful for such help.

The appreciation of students was underscored recently by Robert and Dolores Lupo. Upon Robert's graduation in January they presented Brother Carr with a Minolta 370Z Copier for the school.

We appreciate Robert and Dolores and are deeply moved by their sacrificial gift and perception of the need of the school.

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