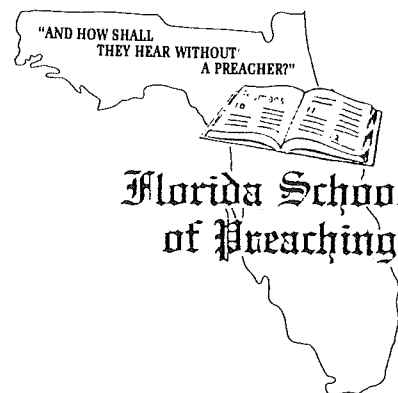


# THE HARVESTERS



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GUEST EDITORIAL

## A Minister's Apologia

If I had the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, the meekness of Moses, the strength of Samson, the obedience of Abraham, the compassion of Joseph, the poetic genius of David, the prophetic voice of Elijah, the courage of Daniel, the greatness of John the Baptist, the endurance and love of Paul—I still would not receive the praise of all men.

I learned this early in my ministry and, for some time, it brought grief to my heart. I sincerely wanted to do my best and when I did and received unjust criticism—this was a bitter pill to swallow. But I learned what all men who would serve in the ministry must learn. I learned that true success came only in being God's man—and that God's man is expendable. And if I receive all the praise of men, and in so doing, fail in serving the Lord, I am a real failure. But if I please the Lord by doing my best to serve Him, even though I do not gain the praise of men, I am a real success.

So I have become

accustomed to the fact that when I stand for the right, all will not stand with me. When I stand for revealed truth, all who hear will not accept. When divine principle is followed, all will not agree. I expect to be loved by some—and

"I do not like thee, Dr. Fell. The reason why I cannot tell. But this I know and know full well, I do not like thee, Dr. Fell!"

hated by others. Sinners, happy in their sin, will not like my stand for righteousness. Unbelievers will question my faith. False brethren, moved by envy or other base motive, will treacherously seek to weaken or ruin my ministry. I must sometimes stand alone.

At times I will have to deal with unreasonable men ("for all men have not faith") whose motivation is like that of him who did not "like" Dr. Fell: "I do

not like thee, Dr. Fell. The reason why I cannot tell. But this I know and know full well, I do not like thee, Dr. Fell!"

But praise be to God. I serve a risen Saviour who stands with me as long as I stand for Him. And thus, my oftentimes faltering spirit is braced for steadfast and "patient continuance in well-doing." For I am confident if I do my best to do His will, weak as it may be, He will bless my effort. If I honestly err in judgment, He patiently leads me to the right path. My talent, whatever it may be, He will develop as I use it. My will is overcome by His will.

**It is not easy to be a minister—but it is a blessing to the soul.** [Emphasis in original.]

/s/ An Older Preacher

[From POWER, March 1992. Brother Carr gave me this as we were finishing the school year. He called my attention to it and said I would want to read this and perhaps put it in the Harvesters for our readers. I think I know why. Editor.]

## Affliction and Pressure In Preaching

By  
Wallace Maxwell

"To suffer afflictions, to be troubled, has reference to suffering due to pressure of circumstances or the antagonism of persons" (I Thess. 3:4; II Thess. 1:6-7); also with reference to physical needs (Phil. 4:14). Some people seem to think elders, preachers, and other Christians do not suffer persecution in this great country. They fail to understand that pressure is the greatest stress servants of the Lord face today. In our brief article three sources of tribulation (*thlipsis*, Greek) will be noted as they refer to preachers.

First—"Want, distress, lack of physical things." This type of persecution has affected this preacher, many of his predecessors, and continues to affect some preachers today. The preacher's inability to maintain a standard of living equal to the average family in the congregation, the lack of adequate medical insurance, and the inability to save money for emergencies has been and continues to be a pressure faced by many preachers.

Second—"The pressure of circumstances." Preachers often find themselves in circumstances not of their own making. The collision course of individuals or groups of individuals within the congregation places the preacher in a position where he is subjected to great pressure. The "squeeze" may cause him to move, to develop

ulcers, or both. He is in a no-win situation, a situation he is powerless to resolve.

**"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).**

**"And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended" (Mark 4:16-17).**

Third—"The pressure of persecution that comes from the antagonism of persons." The members of the congregation who are immoral or unscriptural are tolerant of the preaching of the truth until they know the preacher is aware of their circumstances. Once they know the preacher is cognizant of their error or misconduct, they will begin to put pressure upon him from every possible source. The pressure will result in one of three things: (1) They will change congregations; (2) The preacher will change congregations; (3) They will repent, which is less likely.

These pressures have affected preachers in different ways. Some have given up preaching, some have developed

ulcers, some have developed family problems, and some have become bitter. Others have become more resolved in suffering for Christ knowing they have a greater reward in heaven. [Wesconnett Church of Christ Bulletin, April 12, 1992.]

## The Wonder Of Jesus' Words

By  
Marlin Kilpatrick

Life is full of things which truly amaze us. In the scientific world the life-principle found in the seed upholds the Bible as being true (cf. Gen. 1:11). The scientist who denies the existence of God cannot duplicate the handiwork of the Creator. When one considers the wonder of electricity he stands amazed. Our lives would be greatly altered if the laws of science which God set in motion, at the beginning, were never discovered. As note worthy as the foregoing is, the truly greatest wonder of all things is found in the words of Jesus.

When Jesus had ended his great sermon, the scriptures declare, ". . . the people were astonished at this doctrine. . ." (Matt. 7:28). Too, when the

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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

people heard his explanation of Isaiah 61:1-2, it is stated, "And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. . ." (Luke 4:22). It is vitally important that the wonder of our Lord's words sink deep into our hearts.

### The Calling Words Of Jesus

The greatest invitation that anyone will ever hear and accept was made by Jesus (Matt. 11:28-30). Our Lord's call was a beckon to all of mankind. It was extended on an impartial basis. The gospel of Christ is the message that all must hear, believe, and obey, if salvation from sin is to become a reality. Mankind is called through the gospel (II Thess. 2:14). In New Testament times our Lord used his apostles in this wonderful work. Today, he uses his inspired word, rightly divided and correctly proclaimed by his faithful men (cf. II Tim. 2:2). Oh, the wonder of this invitation!

What is the nature of our Lord's call to the lost? Mankind is called out of sin by the teaching of Christ (John 6:44-45). Jesus' call to the lost requires repentance and baptism on the part of the sinner (Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38). When one obeys the gospel he is called into fellowship with Christ (I Cor. 1:9). This fellowship requires that one live a life of holiness and service in the kingdom of God (I Pet. 1:15-16; Matt. 16:24). Dear reader, have you answered this call?

### The Convincing Words Of Jesus

**"The officers answered,  
Never man spake like  
this man" (John 7:46).**

The wonder of our Lord's words may also be observed in their power to convince the saint or sinner. The parables demonstrate this marvelous truth. Who has not been moved by the parable of the lost boy (Luke 15:11-24)? Only a cold, calloused heart would not be touched by this revelation of our heavenly Father's love and his willingness to forgive our sins. Many sinners have been moved to obedience when they were brought face to face with the parable of the soils (Luke 8:4-8). Here, the sinner is made to realize that it's his acceptance/rejection of the wonderful words of Christ that will determine his eternal destiny. One is made to recognize his need for salvation by the convincing words of Jesus; nothing else has such convincing power.

### The Convicting Words Of Jesus

The words of Jesus are powerful (Luke 4:32). When one is convicted it is because his guilt has been established. It was because of such conviction that the Pharisees sought on more than one occasion to kill Jesus. The 23rd chapter of Matthew demonstrates the tremendous ability of our Lord's words to convict the sinner. Today, Jesus convicts people of sin through the preaching of his

words—the gospel (cf. Acts 2:37). The writer of Hebrews writes of the convicting power of God's word (Heb. 4:12). If we fail to obey the gospel, the words of Jesus will convict us at the last day (John 12:48). When the pure gospel of Christ is preached, the honest heart will receive it, faith is produced, and salvation from past sins is assured (Luke 8:15; Rom. 10:17; Mark 16:15-16).

### Conclusion

The wonder of Jesus' words make our salvation possible. No one can be saved that ignores the call of Christ. Unless we are convinced of our need for salvation and that the words of Christ are our only means of obtaining that salvation, we shall be eternally lost. The conviction in one's heart of his sins, enables one to see his lost condition, and what he must do to make himself right with God. Dear reader, have you obeyed the gospel of Christ? all who fail to do so will be lost (II Thess. 1:7-9). Oh, the wonder of Jesus' words, they are words that lead unto eternal life (John 6:68).

### Appreci-O-Gram To Brother and Sister Carr

Brother and Sister  
Carr,

Of course I have been aware for a time that you were about to retire, but I want to take this particular moment to say "thanks" for the many years of productive service.

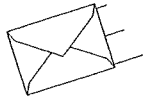


I can relate to the difficult and burdensome task in beginning and sustaining such an endeavor. The decisions are hard, the heartaches heavy, and the needs never-ending. But, the rewards are many.

May God grant you both many happy and useful years!

In Christ,  
/s/ Dale Larsen

May 14, 1992



Dear Jackie,

Greetings! We trust that all is well with you, your boys, and the school. We're doing fine. We've had 3 baptisms since we arrived here March 1. Our new building is about finished. Hopefully, we will be able to begin using it by July 1. I know July 1 will be a milestone in your work. I have all confidence that you will do a great work as Director of the school.

Jackie, I've enclosed an article for the Harvesters. If you can use it, go ahead and do so. If you have any suggestions that may help me in writing such articles, please let me know. I would appreciate it.

Keep up the good work!  
Give brother Carr and the others my regards. Thanks.

In Christ,  
/s/ Marlin Kilpatrick  
Folkston, Georgia

**Sympathy  
To  
The Blackman Family**

Sister  
Louise W. Blackman was buried May 26, 1992. Louise was the wife of J.H.



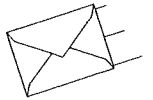
Blackman, Jr., Secretary of the Board of Directors and long time teacher in the *Florida School of Preaching*. In fact J.H. and Louise date back to the beginning of the school.

Each year they worked very diligently in the Annual Booster Banquet. Their labor of love has long been appreciated by those who knew them and the daily working of the school of preaching.

Brother B.C. Carr conducted the service and J.H. read a poem he had written as a tribute to departed Louise. We extend our warmest regards to the Blackman family in this hour of

grief.

**FACULTY  
AND BOARD  
MEMBERS**



The Family of Louise W. Blackman acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy. Thanks for the beautiful flowers sent during our time of trials. The sympathy shown us during this time has been greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten. May the Lord bless you and keep you in His care.

/s/ The Blackman Family

**Just A Note**

The Annual Booster Banquet will be in September this year. We appreciate all who support the school enabling preachers to receive vital training in the cause of the Lord. If you are a booster of the school you will not want to miss it.

We will be in communication with our boosters by mail.

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