

# CALLED TO PREACH

## *I. God Calls His Preachers*

**A. Not everyone who says he comes from God has heaven's commission.** "Therefore *thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not*, yet they say. Sword and famine shall not be in this land; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed." (JEREMIAH 14:15)

**B. An old Southern saying has Scripture warrant; some were called, some were sent, and some just got up and went.** "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!" (ROMANS 10:15)

**C. A preacher must not only be sent, he must also be sent by God.** "And *no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.*" (HEBREWS 5:4)

**D. The church confirms what God has done and it must be certain not to confirm what God has not done when identifying ministers.** "*Neglect not the gift that is in thee*, which was given thee by prophecy, *with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery*" (1 TIMOTHY 4:14) "*Lay hands suddenly on no man*, neither be partaker of other-men's sins: keep thyself pure." (1 TIMOTHY 5:22)

## *II. Look for Signs of God's Call*

**A. God's preachers concentrate on God's message.** "But *speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:*" (TITUS 2:1) "*Sound speech, that cannot be condemned*; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you." (TITUS 2:8)

B. God's preacher will be ardent about communicating what he knows even when he knows only a portion of the full Bible message. "And a certain Jew named *Apollos, born at Alexandria*, an eloquent man, *and mighty in the scriptures*, came to Ephesus. This man was *instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit*, he spake and *taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John*" (ACTS 18:24-25)

C. Apollos was open to learning more when he encountered other believers who had richer experience and deeper insight into God's message. "And *he began to speak boldly in the synagogue* :*whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly*" (ACTS 18:26)

**D. The true biblical preacher will not let the times or the seasons distract him from his assignment.** "*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine*" (2 TIMOTHY 4:2)

E. True preachers will not attempt to accomplish with human methods what is entirely God's work. "And my speech and *my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power*" (1 CORINTHIANS 2:4)

**F. God's preachers avoid spending all their time condemning other preachers; truth, not error, is what matters.** "The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and *he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD.*" (JEREMIAH 23:28)

### ***III. Good Preaching Will Be Balanced***

A. Good preaching touches the entire counsel of God. "For I have not shunned *to declare unto you all the counsel of God.*" (ACTS 20:27) "**Declaring the end from the beginning**, and from ancient times *the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*" (ISAIAH 46:10)

B. Genuine preachers fit the parts of Scripture together to show the larger patterns of God's revelation; **the Geometry of Scripture and the Puritan Principle display the mind of God.** "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, *a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" (2 TIMOTHY 2:15)

C. Good preaching will also be appropriate to the audience; street corner audiences and seminary chapels commonly have different needs. "*I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.*" (1 CORINTHIANS 3:2)

**D. Good preaching will equip people to learn more and more of the mind of God and then, as the hearers develop, will deliver richer and richer truths.** "For when for the time *ye ought to be teachers*, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For *every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil*" (HEBREWS 5:12-14)



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