

Voice of Baptists

"The Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." **Isaiah 40:3**

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF PASTORS

By Kenneth W. Massey

"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry"

1 Tim. 1:12

I not only believe in a God-called ministry, but I also have experienced this call. My parents did not call me. My church did not call me. The Holy Spirit of God impressed me with a call to preach that has been with me ever since that March night in 1962. Any man who preaches without this call is a hypocrite, and the man who has heard this call and fails to preach is a coward. Paul told Timothy to "fight the good fight of faith." God's men are soldiers who must fight and endure hardness in the battle.

Ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ should be flames of fire though mild-mannered in demeanor. The Scriptures describe the preacher's character in detail. He is a man above ordinary consequence in the church. God calls men from every station in life. There is no way for man to understand God's ways in whom He chooses for the divine ministry. I've seen handsome preachers, though not many. I know men of eloquent speech, but most are not. I believe that different pastors in a church provide for her diverse needs in teaching and example. Some men are more bold than others. Some are more humble than others. No two of us are exactly alike in presentation though our doctrines are identical.

When you stand in your pulpit next Sunday and look out over the audience, what do they ask? Do they ask, "are you socially accepted?" Do they ask, "have you walked with men?" Are they wondering about the labels in your clothing? NO! They are crying out, "Preacher, have you been with God? Have you a message from God for us?" The poor sinner longs for someone to point him to the precious Lamb of God that takes away the

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They Won't Miss Me

"They won't miss Me," said the mother as she repeatedly left her children for rounds of teas and parties. The devil did not miss the children either.

"They won't miss Me," said the soldier as he went a. w. o. l. But he spent 30 days in the guard house after that.

"They won't miss Me," said the man on the assembly line, as he slipped away without permission. But that airplane crashed and killed his brother for lack of a single part.

"They won't miss Me," said the sentry as he slipped away from duty. But the enemy surprised and massacred his comrades that very night.

"They won't miss Me," said the Christian worker as he shed his responsibility in a day of crisis, and then wondered why his country gave way to softness and demoralization.

"They won't miss Me," said the church member as he omitted worship one Sunday, and then another, for trivial reasons, and then wondered why he no longer enjoyed a victorious Christian life.

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Six Reasons For Sunday School

1. THE BEST BOOK is studied and taught; and I want to know it and follow it in my every day life.

2. THE BEST DAY is utilized and observed; and I wish to keep holy the holy day.

3. THE BEST PEOPLE are assembled and enlisted; and I desire the blessing of their fellowship and friendship.

4. THE BEST INSTITUTION is awake and at work for the Master; and I ought to invest myself where I will do my utmost for Christ and the Church.

5. THE BEST DEVELOPMENT is assured and attained; and I yearn to grow mentally, morally, and spiritually.

6. THE BEST EQUIPMENT is supplied, adapted and inspired; and I want to be thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

-Selected

Church Membership Beatitudes

Blessed is he who will not strain at a drizzle and swallow a down pour.

Blessed is he who tries a little harder when all around say, "It can't be done."

Blessed is he whose program contains prayer meeting night.

Blessed is he who serves faithfully on a committee.

Blessed is he who loves his church before his business.

Blessed is he who invited people to church and comes along himself.

Blessed are those who never gossip about the faults of the church but work to make it better.

Blessed is the church officer who is not pessimistic.

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sin of the world. Ezekiel said, "Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves. Should not the shepherds feed the flock?" Ezekiel 34:2

"FOR YE SEE YOUR CALLING, BRETHREN, HOW THAT NOT MANY WISE MEN AFTER THE FLESH, NOT MANY MIGHTY, NOT MANY NOBLE ARE CALLED; BUT GOD HATH CHOSEN THE FOOLISH THINGS OF THE WORLD TO CONFOUND THE WISE; AND GOD HATH CHOSEN THE WEAK THINGS OF THE WORLD TO CONFOUND THE THINGS WHICH ARE MIGHTY; AND BASE THINGS OF THE WORLD, AND THINGS WHICH ARE DESPISED, HATH GOD CHOSEN, YEA, AND THINGS WHICH ARE NOT, TO BRING TO NOUGHT THINGS THAT ARE: THAT NO FLESH SHOULD GLORY IN HIS PRESENCE." 1 Cor. 1:26-29

One of the greatest pitfalls for the young preacher to avoid and for all preachers to avoid is **taking glory that belongs only to God**. We must constantly be on guard against this. Loving church members will unthoughtedly encourage the pastor to the point of praise. We should always accept encouragement with humility. When someone says something nice about my sermon or my character, I have tried to make this standard reply - If I do any good, it is God working through me; if I fail, I deserve all the blame for He has never failed me.

It is so easy for us to think too highly of ourselves. That provokes jealousy into the ministry. Always remember God got along

without you once and he could get along without you again. He also chastens His preachers for misconduct.

A preacher down home told a pastorless church the other month that he felt led to their church. Let the churches seek the pastors and not preachers seeking pastorates. It's alright to have a desire to the office of pastor if that is God's call for your life. Paul said, "he that desireth the office of a bishop (pastor), desireth a good work." (1 Tim. 3:1) I guess we have all been fools to ourselves, but we ought to be fools for Christ's sake.

A quote from F.W. Lambert's "The Preacher"

"Which of you didn't gloat to yourself when you 'skinned em alive?' Did you ever tell yourself that you were destined to become the greatest preacher of your generation? Which of you has not sadly whispered to yourself, 'the church will never recognize what they have in me until I'm gone, and then it will be too late for them.' Which of you never showed more brass than brains? Which of you never shed a few secret tears as you dreamed of the sad day to come when you would have to break the hearts of your people as you told them of your resignation? Incidentally, resignation day tears in your congregation may be tears of joy and triumph in disguise."

PASTORS MUST STUDY THE WORD OF GOD AND THEN PREACH WITH SIMPLICITY AND SINCERITY. Preparing a sermon is one thing and preparing the preacher to deliver the sermon is another thing. Through prayer and meditation we can become the intended vessel for God that the excellency of the treasure be not lost. You may have the finest sermon ever in your head, but if it fails to flow from your heart as the Spirit prompts it will not accomplish God's purpose. Pray as you study the word of God. Pray as you prepare your sermons! Pray while they are singing that last song before you take the stand! I try to always say, "Father, help me tell them about your blessed Son and for your glory."

PASTORS MUST VISIT! We must visit the sick. We must visit the unsaved. We must visit the widows and the orphans. We need to visit delinquent church members. We need to visit the homes of all our members. It is a special joy for a church member to have their pastor visit in their home and have a prayer before departing. We should talk with them about lost children in the family or those saved but not living for the Lord. Please let your members know that God needs them

and you need them and certainly the church needs all her workers. I CANNOT OVER EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF PASTORS VISITING. You cannot build a compassionate house without it. The intangible produced through this intimacy is priceless. It takes time to visit. You must sacrifice hours away from the family or television, but it will pay dividends at the church door. Young and middle age pastors should avoid visiting young women who are at home alone. The devil will start a rumor too heavy to bear if one practices such. Visit the young women members when you know their husbands are at home and this way you will protect their good name as well as yours.

Every pastor pops off sooner or later and says, "I would leave the church if so many were opposed to me!" One of the most helpful things to a life-long pastor is knowing when to leave a church. It's rare for a man to spend his entire life with one church. This has been done. Charles Spurgeon served the Metropolitan Church of London his entire ministry which ended at the age of 57. O.H. Morrow served Old Union Church for forty-one years. We should be prayerful about taking a church, about remaining at that church and about leaving the church. Don't let one or two members run you away from the church. Remember, if someone opposes you and you are simply preaching the word of God, it is God he opposes. You should never take that as personal. Some pastors when opposed by members come down from the pulpit into the altar place and make great prayers asking for God to move the opposition. Did you ever read of Christ doing that? No, Never. The faithful pastor will make progress in spite of his opposition. There will usually be someone in your church and mine who prefers to have another preacher for pastor, but that doesn't mean he or she disrespects you or would hurt you. Brethren, that's just plain human nature.

I have been grossly misrepresented by some on the subject of all pastors entering the ministry full-time. The Lord intends for every church to meet every Sunday. The seven churches of Asia had seven angels (pastors). That teaches plainly that each church had a pastor. A church with ten members should meet every Sunday, and if yours isn't, you should teach them to forsake not the worship. Now, some churches are too small in number to financially provide for their pastor's needs. They need a pastor. We may have our greatest success in churches just like this. The pastor must work to provide for his family, and the man who won't provide for his own is worse than an infidel. Some of the happiest years for me was working with small churches and holding secular occupation simultaneously. Next year I may again serve a church too small to provide my living, but I will work with my hands. I WISH

EVERY PASTOR COULD RECEIVE SUFFICIENT MONEY FROM THE CHURCH THAT HE MIGHT DEVOTE EVERY WAKING MOMENT TO GOD'S CAUSE. That's the happiest a pastor will be on earth.

Pastors should learn how to work with their deacons for the greatest accomplishments. Some pastors try to do the deacon's job. That leaves the deacon trying to do the pastor's job and everything gets out of balance. I believe in and practice regular meetings with the deacon body in the churches I serve. No action there is imposed upon the church against the will of the church, but the church leaders need to think together and discuss church affairs together in the best interest of the church. I'm not talking about private meetings to plot against individuals in the church.

Pastors, let the churches run their business. You have ample opportunity to teach them all things in your sermons. When they get in business meetings, you moderate for them.

The Parson Tells How To Get Church Members

Dear Friends:

I'm a country preacher with a big wife and a little church. For the past several years, I've had two places I could talk— at church and down at Zeke's Feed Store. Well sir, the ole feed store shut down the other day and I lost one of my main talking places. So you see the mess I'm in, friends. I need somebody to talk to. Looks like about everybody else says something in the paper, so I thought I'd try.

Friends have you noticed the churches these days? Why they're really on the move. I haven't figured out where to yet, but there's no doubt we're moving. For instance, have you noticed how everybody's out trying to get new members? You know why? Well, they've got quotas now.

Oh, it don't make too much difference if they're converted or not—just get em—that's the important thing. As a matter of fact the other day during that rain one of our worst sinners hollered, "Thank God, it's raining," and before he got it all out four preachers were fighting to see which church he would join. It seems they thought he had made a profession of faith.

Oh, it's tough these days, friends. I don't get much time for reading the Good Book or praying because the number one job is to get members. Believe me, it's hard work to make it sometimes.

Every year we wind up having to get somebody else's members. And, the hard thing about this is that some of em don't wanta change. I saw two preachers after a man the other day, and boy was he stubborn. It seems he didn't wanta leave his church. All they got out him was his britches leg. (lost in the scuffle)

My neighbor Clem says he likes all this fuss over him. Why, when he moved to town a preacher come and mowed his lawn. One day he came and baby-sit, so Clem and his wifw could go out for supper.

One a my neighbor preachers said the other day that his church voted to give green stamps to new members.

Excuse me friends, I've enjoyed this little chat, but I just saw the moving van pull in down the road. I gotta go find my lawnmower.

Yours truly,
Parson Jones

The World's Bible

Christ has no hands but our hands

To do His work today,

He has no feet but our feet

To lead men in his way.

He has no tongue but our tongues

To tell men how He died,

He has no help but our help

To bring them to His side.

We are the only Bible

The careless world will read,

We are the sinner's Gospel

We are the scoffer's creed.

We are the Lord's last message

Given in deed and word,

What if the type is crooked?

What if the print is blurred?

What if our hand are busy

With other work than His?

What if our feet are walking

Where sin's allurements is?

What if our tongues are speaking

of things His lips would spurn?

How can we hope to help Him

And hasten His return?

To hasten our Lords return,

We truly need much power,

So let us all be Spirit filled,

And waiting Him each hour.

In an hour that we think not,

He said He should appear,

Then let us walk in Holiness,

And meet Him with a cheer.

BULLETIN

Five sound, energetic, enthusiastic, industrious Baptist families to relocate in the Denver-Aurora, Colorado area to work with the Colorado Missionary Baptist Church. Any interested qualified person may contact Mr. Luther Jent, 45 Garfield St., Denver, Colorado 80206. Urgent inquiries can be made by phone: 303-377-5050.

NOTICE!

Hauser Missionary Baptist Church is in need of a pastor. We ask that you blend your prayers with ours that God will choose out a shepherd to lead our flock. That God's Will will be done.

Anyone interested may contact:

Deacon Larry Ross

234 Ridge Road

North Bend, Oregon 97459

Phone: (503) 756-5732

Patricia Ann Conyers

Assistant Church Clerk

A Good Thought

It is not what we eat but what we digest that makes us strong; not what we gain but what we save that makes us rich; not what we read but what we remember that makes us learn; and not what we profess but what we practice that makes us Christians.

Secret Of Power

Much was said in the early part of Spurgeon's ministry about the secret of his power. President Garfield heard him and said, "There's no secret about it; he simply believed God's word with all his heart, and preached it with all his might. And when a man comes to believe that as firmly as he does in his own existence, the objections and guesses of the infidel and destruction critic are no more to him than the hooting of owls in the darkness of the forest."

—Copied

God Narrows The Choice Of Man To Two Avenues

By Walter V. Deweese

Matthew 7:13 and 14

Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life and few there be that find it.

God here narrows the choice of man down to two ways. The strait gate and the narrow way which leadeth unto life and the broad way which leadeth to destruction. With this very minimum of choices and the difference between the two so great it seems there can be but one choice.

If All Agree

If all or most all agree on the strait gate, why then the multitude who choose the way to destruction. It seems altogether likely that most of the broad way travelers only intend to travel a short while and then turn to the strait way of life. This does have some appealing qualities to the natural man if we could overlook the dangers involved.

How far can man travel down this broad way before he must change? Man does not now have, nor has he had in the past, the answer to this question. The answer to this great question lies in the infinite wisdom of God. Each day that men wait on this matter is a day of grace, an extension of the permissive will of God.

Way of Destruction

Consider the way of destruction. The way of destruction here means loss and is

awfully significant. The way is broad in that there is room for every type of sinner. The staggering drunkard, the dishonest, the unclean, the proud and haughty formalist have each sufficient room for one to think himself better than the other and yet all to be on the road to Hell. The Pharisee and the Publican were living examples of the broad way. The Pharisee thanked God he was not as other men, but, alas, he too was on the way of destruction.

A crowded way

We cannot help but notice the Saviour's mention of the sad fact "many there be which go in thereat," A crowded way, yes, crowded with the willful sinner. Crowded into this group are people who must push over early religious training, people who only intend to travel a short way, people pushed along with the crowd. There is but one end to this road and God uses the word destruction. As sure as the stone sinks into the sea will men perish who love and follow sin. "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life that both thou and thy seed may live.

The strait way is on open way. Rev. 3:8 Behold I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it. The way was closed and barricaded by sin and fenced up by the law. Christ opened the way by his obedience unto death to consecrate for us a new and living way. He says "I am the way, the truth and the life." There are no back doors to the Kingdom of God.

Narrow Way

The way is a narrow way. Self righteousness, self will and the way of men are not admitted here. The gate is as narrow as the new birth which does not require that we understand God's way but only that we trust in his way. Though it be narrow it leads to a large place.

It cannot here be denied that the narrow way travelers are in the minority. Few find this way because few seek it. Many intend to forsake sin and come to God but unfortunately many never find the door to life. Some shun it, some put it off and thus hope to stumble into the way by chance. This is no chance way. Strive to enter in is God's solemn injunction to his creation.

Baptist Progressor, 1964

I Know Something Good About You!

Wouldn't this old world be better,
If the folks we meet would say;
"I know something good about you,"
And then treat us just that way;
Wouldn't it be fine and dandy,
If each hand-clasp warm and true,
Carried with it this assurance:
"I know something good about you!"
Wouldn't things here be more pleasant
If the good that's in us all
Were the only thing about us
That folks bothered to recall.
Wouldn't life be lots more happy
If we'd praise the good we see,
For there's such a lot of goodness
In the worse of you and me!
Wouldn't it be nice to practice
This fine way of thinking too—
"You know something good about me,
I know something good about you!"

Author Unknown