

WHAT THE BIBLE REVEALS ABOUT PREACHERS

Preachers are necessary to preach **the Word of God**. The Holy Spirit instructed Paul to write Timothy and tell him (and all preachers) to, “**Preach the word**” (2 Tim. 4:2). Also, in Romans 10:13-15 he wrote, “...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!*” Did you know my feet are beautiful? They are spiritually, but certainly not physically.

Preachers do not have the liberty to preach anything other than the all inspired Word of God! **1)** They must not preach themselves. Paul said, “*For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake*” (2 Cor. 4:5). **2)** They must not preach the doctrines and commandments of men. Jesus condemned it by saying, “*This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth 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). Far too many preach themselves and/or the doctrines and commandments of men.

Preachers have been given the command to preach the Word of God regardless of how it’s received by the hearer! “*Preach the word; **be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables***” (2 Tim. 4:2-4). “*But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine. ...These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee*” (Titus 2:1,15).

Preachers are to be supported in their work of preaching the Gospel. This involves encouragement and commendation as well as finances. First Corinthians 9:14 says, “...*The Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.*” Also, Galatians 6:6 says, “*Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.*” The word ‘communicate’ is the word for financial support. To the church at Corinth, Paul wrote, “*I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service*” (2 Cor. 11:8). Hold up the hands of Gospel preachers!

— *Garland M. Robinson*