

Church of Christ

...Heart to Heart...

Brethren have their standard set for the preacher(s) in each congregation. Many have ideas of what a preacher should and should not do. Some take the attitude that he is “paid” to do a work. Others think he is to be everywhere and anywhere there is a gathering of brethren. I can personally testify that preaching is one of the most difficult tasks I have undertaken because of so many demands placed on you from different ones. It can be very rewarding and at the same time, very discouraging.

Paul gave the preacher Timothy instructions about what the Lord expects from the preacher, and it makes one realize what the Lord holds the preacher accountable for. (Because of space, I won't be able to quote the verses, only give the reference.)

I Tim. 1:3-5, the preacher is instructed to instruct ones not to teach strange doctrines. Preachers are to hold to the word, staying away from things that make people speculate. God's goal is to build faith through His word, not ideas and comments that bring people into speculation.

I Tim. 4:11-12,16, preachers are expected to show themselves as an example, especially if they are young. They are to pursue a life of purity in their speech, conduct, love and faith. They are to pay close attention to themselves and what they teach. There is nothing worse for a man of God than to stand in front of people, teaching something and not follow it himself.

I Tim. 6:11-12, the preacher must pursue in his life righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. They are not to pursue riches or money.

I Tim. 6:17-19, the preacher is to instruct those with money to be careful and not be fixed on their riches. They are to instruct the rich in good works, be generous and ready to share.

II Tim. 2:14-15, the preacher is not to be a word wrangler and needs to warn others not to do the same, but be diligent in his labors to be approved by God.

II Tim. 2:22-26, the preacher is to flee from youthful lusts and refuse ignorant and foolish ideas, knowing they produce quarrels.

II Tim. 3:14-17, the preacher is to hold to the word at all cost. The word will equip and make him adequate for every situation.

II Tim. 4:1-2, the preacher is warned God and Jesus Christ are watching closely what he teaches. Holding only to the word keeps things on track and keeps out evil.

II Tim. 4:5, the preacher is to be sober in all things. Soberness is the idea of keeping your head in tough situations. Holding to the word keeps soberness intact.

The sincere preacher realizes some brethren will fall away, some will argue and be argumentative and others will try to hinder things with their own thoughts. He must hold to the Lord with right attitudes. These things you, as brethren, should always expect from your preachers! Think about it!!!

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