



The Southeast Sower

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“God’s Qualifications for Preachers” (Jordon Smith)

*The Southeast
Church of Christ
meets at:*
*35 Walnut Ct.
Mogadore, OH 44260*
Phone:
330.628.7432

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study:

10:00 am

Worship:

10:55 am

6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:

7:30 pm

Congregations, as well as individual families, have a responsibility to raise up good, faithful, God-fearing men to participate and serve in the worship services and help them become the future leaders of the local congregation in the way of the Lord. This means that the parents need to teach their sons the commandments of God. Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus in Ephesians 6:4, “*And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*” Paul then wrote to Titus describing the duties of the older Christian men telling them that they need to be sensible, sound in faith and slow to anger. The older Christian men are to be an example and to lead the younger men in the way of the Lord. In regards to the young men who aspire to become preachers, the older

members (men and women) and more importantly the parents need to teach these men the qualifications God has for the preacher and not the qualifications man has created.

Too many Christians are looking for, or require aspiring preachers, as James Needham wrote in his book *Preachers and Preaching*, to obtain a secular education, have a “dynamic” personality, be sociable, handsome, hold common interests with the congregation, have multiple recommendations, be a certain age and be married with a family. Brother Needham points out in his book, “These are some of the man-made qualifications which the brethren have invented. Not a one of them can be found in the New Testament as a requirement of a gospel preacher” (pg. 32).

If congregations use the qualifications I

listed above, the future of the church is in grave danger. Congregations will overlook many men that are faithful, God-fearing, knowledgeable men because they may not meet all or most of the qualifications they have invented. Likewise men who meet the man-made qualifications but are not strong, faithful, knowledgeable hard-working men will become preachers and lead the church down a dangerous path.

Now that we have looked at the man-made qualifications, let us consider what qualifications God has given that we need to be teaching and looking for in our young men.

In 2 Timothy 2:24, Paul wrote, “*The Lord’s bondservant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged.*” Parents, as well as the older members, need to teach the young men to

be gentle and able to “deal with different people of varying dispositions under diversified circumstances” (Needham, pg. 33). Gentleness does not mean that we preach the gospel “softly.” 1 Thessalonians 2:2 says, “...we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.” Secondly, God requires the preacher to be forbearing. Vine says this word “denotes patiently forbearing evil” (Needham, pg. 35). If one cannot be patient with the shortcomings of brethren and is unable to endure the afflictions Paul described to Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:4, then he is not qualified to become a preacher. Thirdly, the young man who aspires to become a preacher must be able to teach the gospel. Some men just do not have the ability to teach, this does not mean that they are not valuable to the local congregation; it just means that their talents are in different areas. In 2 Timothy 2:25 Paul wrote, “*in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves*” (KJV). Meekness, in this passage, means humility and having the correct mindset and attitude in regards to themselves.

The preacher cannot think of himself above the other members, but needs to realize that he too is there to worship and serve the Lord. He is to serve the members by teaching them the commandments of the Lord. He should NEVER consider himself above any other. Jesus taught us that the master is not above his serv-

ant and neither is the teacher above the student. He must also be sober and be able to make sound judgments and not rash decisions. This will come with time and maturity. Finally, the preacher is to be faithful and able to be trusted. 2 Timothy 2:2 says, “*the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*” The preacher is to protect the word of God and guard it against false teachers and idle babblings.

If congregations would follow these requirements we can insure a positive future for the church. If parents instill these teachings into their sons and demonstrate the reasons why they should desire to become deacons, elders and preachers, the impact on the future of the church would be astounding and could help solve some of the problems congregations are facing today. We need to teach the younger men to desire to serve the Lord and actively participate in worship and to be ready in season and out of season to spread the gospel message.

A SINCERE PRAYER

(John Burton)

I often say my prayers,
But do I ever pray;
And do the wishes of my heart
Go with the words I say?

I may as well kneel down
And worship gods of stone
As offer to the living God
A prayer of words alone
For words without the heart
The Lord will never hear:
Nor will he to those lips attend
Whose prayers are not sincere.

SENTENCE SERMONS

1. Many have the right aim in life. We just never get around to pulling the trigger.
2. When you flee temptation, make sure you don't leave a forwarding address.
3. Experience is one thing you can't get for nothing.
4. The person who persists in courting trouble soon will find himself married to it.
5. Triumph is “umph” added to “try.”
6. Life is short, but it gives us plenty of time to outlive our good intentions.
7. No matter how it turns out, there is always some person who knew it would.
8. Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees.
9. Even though the tongue weighs practically nothing, it's surprising how few persons are able to hold it.
10. People will take your example far more seriously than they take your advice.