

A GOOD MINISTER

AND

A GOOD CHURCH

Johnie Edwards

A good minister will help make for a good church. Writing Timothy, Paul said: *“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a **good minister** of Jesus Christ...”* (1 Tim. 4:6). A good minister will:

REMINDBRETHREN. Since we forget so soon, all of us need reminding (1 Tim. 4:6; 2 Pet. 1:12). So, don’t get upset when you are reminded of your duties.

STIR US UP. Peter penned: *“Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance”* (2 Pet. 1:13; 3:1). All of us need a good stirring up from time to time! Right?

SPEAK THE TRUTH. Writing the Ephesians, Paul said: *“But speaking the truth in love...”* (Eph. 4:15). Truth must be spoken with love for lost souls!

SPEAK BOLDLY. Paul uttered: *“...that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel”* (Eph. 6:19-20). Too many speak softly and tread lightly, fearful of hurting feelings!

AVOID SOME THINGS. Some preachers think they have to be involved in every thing that is going on among brethren! Paul told preacher, Timothy: *“But refuse profane and old wives fables...”* (1 Tim. 4:7; 2 Tim. 2:16). This kind of meddling will *“...eat as doth a canker”* (2 Tim. 2:17)! A good preacher has plenty to do without getting involved in such!

FLEE SOME THINGS. Like Joseph, preachers may have to run away or flee from some things (Gen. 39:7-12). Timothy was told: *“Flee also*

A good church will contribute to the making of a good preacher. A good church will:

HAVE FAITHFUL BRETHREN. The church at Colosse had *“...faithful brethren”* (Col. 1:2). They are dependable and can be relied on.

SUPPORT THE PREACHER. The church at Philippi serves as a great example of supporting preachers! Paul was thankful *“For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now”* (Phil. 1:5). The word *“fellowship”* is a spiritual sharing with the preacher. *“...concerning giving and receiving...For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity”* (Phil. 4:15-16). By the way, these funds were sent directly to Paul, not through some human agency! Some churches have been known to *“muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn...”* (1 Tim. 5:18; Dt. 25:4)! Could this be the reason Paul wrote: *“Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel...”* (1 Cor. 9:7-14)! Some churches will let their preacher go for years without a pay raise or even a cost-of-living increase. Sad! What about vacation and sick-leave pay? How does this church rate?

BE UNITED. Jesus taught: *“...every house divided against itself shall not stand”* (Mt. 12:25). This is true of the church. A good church knows this. The good church at Philippi was taught to have *“...one mind”* (Phil. 1:27; 2:2). Psalm 133:1 says: *“...how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”*

ALWAYS OBEY. Paul saw the obedience of this good church. *“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your*

youthful lusts... ” (2 Tim. 2:22). A good minister will do this!

PREACH THE WORD. This is the work of a preacher in three words! *“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season...” (2 Tim. 4:2).* These are the preacher’s marching orders. Preach the word when folks like it and when they don’t!

BE BALANCED IN HIS PREACHING. Both positive and negative preaching is necessary. Both covenants teach it. God informed Jeremiah: *“See, I have set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant” (Jer. 1:10).* Four negatives and two positives! Paul charged Timothy: *“...reprove, rebuke, exhort” (2 Tim. 4:2).* Two negatives and one positive!

own salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil. 2:12). What a great quality!

WORSHIP GOD. A good church will be found worshipping God. *“For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh” (Phil. 3:3).* There are five channels of New Testament worship: preaching, Lord’s supper, giving, prayer and singing (Acts 2:42; Heb. 2:12).

BE STEADFAST. The Colossians were said to be a steadfast church. *“For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order; and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ” (Col. 2:5).* A good church will foster steadfast members like the teaching of 1 Corinthians 15:58: *“be ye stedfast.”*

THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

*“...that we may **give thanks** to thy holy name, and glory in thy **praise**” (1 Chr. 16:35).*

*“...to **give thanks** and to **praise** the Lord” (1 Chr. 25:3).*

*“And Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses, every man according to his service, the priests and Levites for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister, and to **give thanks**, and to **praise** in the gates of the tents of the Lord” (2 Chr. 31:2).*

*“Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing; thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness; To the end that my glory may sing **praise** to thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will **give thanks** unto thee for ever” (Ps. 30:12).*

*“I will **give thee thanks** in the great congregation: I will **praise** thee among much people” (Ps. 35:18).*

*“So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will **give thee thanks** for ever: we will shew forth thy **praise** to all generations” (Ps. 79:13).*

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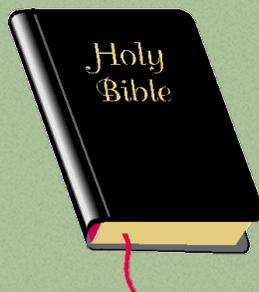
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