

MY AIMS AS A PREACHER

I suppose we all have some goals or aims toward which we strive. Surely, all of us should have. I believe preachers need to carefully study the work that God has set out for them in His Word and then analyze the work they are doing. The result should be the setting of some goals and the statement of some aims that reflect what God expects of them.

In 1968, I first committed to paper my aims as a preacher. It does me good to reflect on these periodically, lest I forget them. I also think that those with whom I work should be aware of these aims and reminded of them occasionally. The reasons why I do some of the things I do and do not do some of the things I do not do are because of these aims. Therefore, my brethren are not only **entitled** to know them. They **need** to know them.

I aim to:

1. Be true to God's Word, regardless of the consequences, inconveniences, criticisms, or costs.
2. Seek God's approval above that of all others, in spite of what or how many men (or women), including relatives and friends, may disapprove.
3. Seek to gain as much understanding of God's Word as my abilities and opportunities may allow.
4. Distribute to as many as I can what I have learned about God, Christ, and the Gospel.
5. Have something to say worth listening to each time I get up to preach or teach.

6. Remember that I have a family and that I have family responsibilities as well as my responsibilities as a preacher.
7. Provide a worthy and pure example of conduct for all ages of people to follow, but especially for the young.
8. Deal as fairly and as equally with every person, friend or foe, as I possibly can.
9. Refrain from being vengeful toward those who disagree with me, oppose me, or mistreat me.
10. Learn the difference between important and unimportant things and leave the unimportant things for last.

I am painfully aware that I often fail to measure up to my aims. I am also painfully aware that I will be criticized and misunderstood if I do measure up to some of them. However, until someone can help me see more Scriptural and honorable aims, these shall continue to guide me.

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