**Called to “Preach”?**

 Throughout the Bible, we find God, in His sovereignty, calling specific people for specific tasks. Just to mention a few: He called Abraham to leave his people and father the nation of Israel; He called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt; He called twelve specific men to be His apostles for His earthly ministry; and he called Paul to be the Apostle to the Gentiles.

 While God can still call specific people to perform specific tasks, I find it a tragic mistake when individuals **“feel”** that God is calling them into a ministry based on a feeling or an emotional event rather than on prayer and studying God’s word rightly divided. I Timothy chapter 3 is a great chapter for one to read and search his own heart should he desire to pastor a church. Notice that the scripture does not say that “you will be called of God.” What is does say is that the desire will be there and that the office is indeed a “good work.” Verses 2 through 7 then give some qualifications for not only the individual to use to examine himself but also for a group of believers to use when searching for a pastor. While there are several qualifications listed, I will only elaborate on two: (1)apt to teach and (2) not greedy of filthy lucre.

 The qualification of “apt to teach” would necessarily include at least knowledge and good communication skills. If a pastor does not possess these two attributes, that particular church is programmed for failure. Many pastors have a great knowledge of the Bible but fail to understand and apply the Truths correctly because they fail to **RIGHTLY DIVIDE** these Truths ( see II Timothy 2:15-16). This would account for all of the different denominations with all of their different doctrines.

 Finally, beware of the “wolf in sheep’s clothing.” Many a congregation has been left devastated by individuals who present themselves as “servants of the Lord” when in reality they are unscrupulous people looking for a way to “line their pockets” with absolutely no regards for the church(s) that they are destroying.

 Our prayer today should be that pastors around the world would open their minds and hearts to God’s Word rightly divided; That they would preach salvation through believing that Christ died for their sins, was buried and rose 3 days later (I Corinthians 15:1-4); That they lead their congregations to Ephesians 1:13 and show them that they are sealed with the Holy Spirit when they believed**. “ Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God”( II Corinthians 5:20).**

Are you an ambassador for Christ? Are you equipping yourself to become a good ambassador for Christ? As an ambassador, are you able to show someone how to be reconciled to God?

Have a blessed day!

Yours in Christ

Ambassador Phil