

The Preaching Moment

by Wayne Goff

“Education is a shared commitment between dedicated teachers, motivated students and . . . high expectations.” — Bob Beauprez

So what does this quote have to do with preaching? Preaching and teaching God’s Word is God’s way of building up His church and maintaining it as He would have it. The preacher’s job is to study, assimilate and then relay the message to the listeners. Notice Paul’s instruction to the young preacher, Timothy, in 1 Timothy 4:15-16:

“Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

Do you see the process? (1) **Meditate** on God’s Word, (2) **“give yourself entirely”** to it, (3) **take heed** to yourself and the doctrine (self-application), and (4) **continue** in them for your salvation and for those who hear you. This is the duty of all “dedicated teachers.”

Each **“motivated student”** (Christian) should come to the Bible class or sermon with the **intent** of learning something from God’s Word, or of being reminded of something, and then taking it home with them to meditate and apply to themselves. Solomon taught this long ago in the Old Testament, Ecclesiastes 5:1:

“Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil.”

Pardon my saying so, but over my long preaching career there have been many in the audience who seemed to offer **“the sacrifice of fools”** — passing notes, clipping fingernails, enduring what they consider to be a “long, boring diatribe,” etc. — rather than coming to the House of God with the **intent** of being *fully engaged* with their hearts and minds in every act of worship — singing, praying, giving, communion, and the preaching/teaching of God’s Word. None of these five acts of worship can be done properly without a fully engaged mind. Dear reader, be sure you challenge yourself to come to the House of God every time with true commitment.

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