

FOCAL POINT - 2013

Wednesday, 2:20 PM

Mike Vestal

“The Preacher As A Steward: Entrusted With Education”

Introduction

1. There are 3 temptations in particular that assail gospel preachers: the temptation to *shine*, the temptation to *whine* and the temptation to *recline*.
2. POINT: IF YOU TAKE CARE OF THE DEPTH OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, HE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOUR MINISTRY’S BREADTH, LENGTH AND HEIGHT. DON’T STOP GROWING! (See 1 Timothy 4:15-16).
3. GUIDELINES FOR GODLINESS from 2 Timothy 2 -
 - (1) Be a Good Steward (2:1-2) - Must Manage God’s Gifts / Blessings
 - (2) Be a Good Soldier (2:3-4) - Must NOT be Diverted
 - (3) Be a Good Athlete (2:5) - Must Properly Compete
 - (4) Be a Good Farmer (2:6) - Must NOT Evade the Work
 - (5) Be a Good Workman (15) - Must NOT be Careless but Careful
 - (6) Be a Good Vessel (20-21) - Must be Clean / NOT Polluted
 - (7) Be a Good Servant (24-26) - Must NOT be About Self
4. In particular, this study is INTENDED TO BE ABOUT A PREACHER AND HIS CONTINUED STUDY (ESPECIALLY AS IT CONCERNS HIS READING AND HIS STUDY).

15 BASICS ABOUT A PREACHER & HIS BOOKS

1. Books are TOOLS, not crutches! If books not working with / for you, they're working against you (cf. Matt. 12:30).
2. Our books should be about QUALITY, not merely quantity. 50% off garbage is STILL trash.
3. ALWAYS think with the HEAD of a SCHOLAR, but the HEART of PREACHER. The true advanced (terminal) degree is, "Well done" (Matthew 25:21).
4. READ (& Digest) great books by brethren; but DON'T just read books by brethren. Truth and helpful information CAN be found elsewhere.
5. Read with the wisdom of DISCERNMENT (Phil. 1:9-11; Heb. 5:11-14).
6. "1 Timothy 4:15-16 Principle" - Study so that your progress is obvious.
7. As a general rule, AVOID buying ENTIRE SERIES.
8. As another general rule, AVOID the "star-struck" author syndrome. While some authors do consistently produce excellent material, many others are just repeating the same thing with a different title (at 20-40 bucks a pop!).
9. Stay current in your reading - Become aware of better books by consulting truly knowledgeable and helpful advisors. 1 Chron. 12:32 applies here.
10. Books ABOUT the Bible are great; however, they are not substitutes for the Bible itself. Master THE Book!
11. Build a great library over time. If done too quickly, it may well become more negative than positive as to your stewardship. See Luke 12:13-21.

12. Only very rarely pay FULL PRICE for a book. Simply too many options now.
13. Avoid the IMPULSE buy. Too much “Achan Syndrome” in book purchasing.
14. Give good books to good people, and call it an INVESTMENT.
15. Make proper arrangements for your books should you leave this earth.

75 Books by Brethren

Every Young Preacher Should Own (Eventually)

1. “Difficult Texts of the New Testament Explained” (Fort Worth Lectures, Winkler, ed)
2. “Difficult Texts of the Old Testament Explained” (Fort Worth Lectures, Winkler, ed)
3. “What Do You Know About the Holy Spirit?” (Fort Worth Lectures, Winkler, ed)
4. “Premillennialism - True or False?” (Fort Worth Lectures, Winkler, ed)
5. “The Holy Scriptures” (Fort Worth Lectures, Winkler, ed)
6. Questions and Answers to the Open Forum (2 Volumes, Guy N. Woods)
7. “Your Marriage Can Be Great” (Thomas B. Warren, ed)
8. “Hardeman - Bogard Debate”
9. “Instrumental Music in New Testament Worship” (J. D. Bales)
10. “God’s Prophetic Word” (Foy E. Wallace)
11. “New Testament Commentary on Acts” (J. W. McGarvey - Most prefer the Original ed)

12. "Gospel Advocate Commentary on James, Peter and Epistles of John" (Guy N. Woods)
13. "Isaiah" (Homer Hailey)
14. "Revelation" (Homer Hailey)
15. "New Testament Commentary" (Wayne Jackson, 1 volume)
16. "Acts" (Jimmy Allen)
17. "Hebrews" (Jimmy Allen)
18. "Know Your Bible" (Frank J. Dunn)
19. "Living Messages of New Testament" (Spiritual Sword, Warren and Elkins, eds)
20. "Living Messages of Old Testament" (Spiritual Sword, Warren and Elkins, eds)
21. "The Church of Christ - A Biblical Ecclesiology" (Everett Ferguson)
22. "Backgrounds of Early Christianity" (Everett Ferguson)
23. "Philippians" (Wayne Jackson)
24. "Gospel Advocate Commentary on John" (Guy N. Woods)
25. "John" (2 volumes, Sweet Series / ACU Press, Frank Pack)
26. "How We Got the Bible" (Neil Lightfoot)
27. "Baptism" (Everett Ferguson)
28. "Why I am a Member of the church of Christ" (Leroy Brownlow)
29. "Koinonia" (Fellowship) - (Jimmy Jividen, Gospel Advocate)
30. "The Timeless Trinity" (Roy Lanier, Sr)
31. "20 Years of the Problem Page" (Roy Lanier, Sr "Best of. . ." Firm Foundation section)
32. "Warren - Flew Debate" (Warren)
33. "Warren - Ballard Debate on Salvation" (Warren)
34. "Our God - A Sun and a Shield" (Warren)
35. "The Holy Spirit" (Gus Nichols)

36. "The Work of the Holy Spirit in Redemption" (Franklin Camp)
37. "Systematic Theology" (Rex Turner, Sr)
38. "The Heart of the Yale Lectures" on Preaching (Batsell Barrett Baxter)
39. "Contending for the Faith" (G.C. Brewer)
40. "Let's Go Fishing for Men" (Homer Hailey)
41. "Go Ye Means Go Me" (Ivan Stewart)
42. "Search For the Ancient Order" (Multi volumes, Earl I. West)
43. "The Elder and His Work" (Robert R. Taylor)
44. "The Minor Prophets" (Homer Hailey)
45. "The Fall of Unbelief" (Roger Dickson)
46. "Gospel Advocate Commentary on Acts" (H. Leo Boles)
47. "Romans" (R. L. Whiteside)
48. "The Hub of the Bible" (J. D. Bales)
49. "Traditions of Men Versus the Word of God" (Alvin Jennings, ed)
50. "Denominational Doctrines" (Jerry Moffitt)
51. "Showtime" (Dan Chambers)
52. "The Church, the Falling Away and the Restoration" (J. W. Shepherd)
53. "Women to the Glory of God" (Spiritual Sword Lectures, Laws, ed)
54. "Why Has All this Happened to Us?" (Job and the Problem of Suffering) (W.T. Hamilton)
55. "Matthew" (2 vols, Sweet Series / ACU Press, Jack P. Lewis)
56. "Matthew - Mark" (J. W. McGarvey)
57. "Acts" (Wayne Jackson)
58. "Romans" (Spiritual Sword Lectures, Warren and Elkins, eds)
59. "Studies in Colossians" (John Kachelman)

60. "Before I Die" (Studies in Timothy & Titus, Wayne Jackson)
61. "1 & 2 Thessalonians" (Sweet Series / ACU Press, Raymond Kelcy)
62. "James" (J. J. Turner)
63. "Revelation" (Spiritual Sword Lectures, Laws, ed)
64. "Cover to Cover" (Johnny Ramsey)
65. "Bible Treasures" (Johnny Ramsey)
66. "The Bible Doctrine of Final Things" (Robert Taylor, Jr)
67. "The All-Sufficiency of the Gospel" (Melvin J. Wise)
68. "Expositions of the Expositor" (Winfred Clark)
69. "Great Preachers of Today" Series (George Bailey)
70. "Leadership" (J. J. Turner)
71. "Evidences of Christianity" (J. W. McGarvey)
72. Various Class Books / Sermon Outlines - Wendell Winkler
73. "Shall We Know Each Other in Heaven and Other Sermons" (Guy N. Woods)
74. "Rust as a Witness" (V. P. Black)
75. "Questions Answered" (Lipscomb & Sewell)

*Note #1 - Mentioning any book does NOT indicate 100% endorsement of ALL its contents.

**Note #2 - There are many more good books out there by brethren. This is just a good general listing regarding where to begin.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

A Few Recommendations to Help in Your Preaching / Teaching

New Testament Commentaries (NOT by Brethren, and in NO certain order)

Matthew

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|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Don Carson (EBC) | (2) Grant Osborne (ZEC) |
| (3) R.T. France (NIC) | (4) Craig Blomberg (NAC) |

Mark

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| (1) James Edwards (Pillar) | (2) R.T. France (NIGCNT) |
| (3) William Lane (NIC) | (4) David Garland (NIVAC) |

Luke

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (1) David Garland (ZEC) | (2) Darrell Bock (BEC) |
| (3) Joel B. Green (NIC) | (4) I. Howard Marshall (NIGCNT) |

John

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|-------------------------|--|
| (1) Don Carson (Pillar) | (2) Andreas Kostenberger (BEC) |
| (3) Leon Morris (NIC) | (4) J. Ramsey Michaels (NIC replacement vol) |

Acts

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|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| (1) F.F. Bruce (NIC) | (2) John Stott (BST) |
| (3) I. Howard Marshall (TNTC) | (4) Darrell Bock (BEC) |

Romans

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|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Doug Moo (NIC) | (2) John Stott (BST) |
| (3) Thomas Schreiner (BEC) | (4) Leon Morris (Pillar) |

1 Corinthians

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|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) Gordon Fee (NIC) | (2) David Garland (BEC) |
| (3) Craig Blomberg (NIVAC) | (4) Leon Morris (TNTC) |

2 Corinthians

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|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| (1) Paul Barnett (NIC) | (2) Murray Harris (NIGCNT) |
| (2) David Garland (NIC) | (4) Colin Kruse (TNTC) |

Galatians

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| (1) John Stott (BST) | (2) F.F. Bruce (NIGCNT) |
| (3) Richard Longnecker (Word) | (4) Thomas Schreiner (ZEC) |

Ephesians

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|----------------------|---------------------------|
| (1) John Stott (BST) | (2) P.T. O'Brien (Pillar) |
| (3) Harold Hoehner | (4) F.F. Bruce (NIC) |

Philippians

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|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) P.T. O'Brien (NIGCNT) | (2) Gordon Fee (NIC) |
| (3) Moises Silva (BEC) | (4) J.A. Motyer (BST) |

Colossians / Philemon

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) P.T. O'Brien (Word) | (2) Doug Moo (Pillar) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|

(3) J. D. Dunn (NIGCNT) (4) David Garland (NIVAC)

1 & 2 Thessalonians

(1) Gordon Fee (NIC replace vol) (2) Leon Morris (NIC)

(3) Gene Green (Pillar) (4) John Stott (BST)

1 & 2 Timothy & Titus

(1) William Mounce (Word) (2) John Stott (BST)

(3) Phillip Towner (NIC) (4) D. Edmond Hiebert (Moody)

Hebrews

(1) William Lane (Word) (2) Paul Ellingsworth (NIGCNT)

(3) F.F. Bruce (NIC) (4) Phillip E. Hughes (Eerdmans)

James

(1) Douglas Moo (Pillar) (2) Craig Blomberg (ZEC)

(3) Scot McKnight (NIC) (4) J. Alec Motyer (BST)

1 Peter

(1) Wayne Grudem (TNTC) (2) Thomas Schreiner (NAC)

(3) Peter Davids (NIC) (4) D. Edmund Hiebert (Moody - Very Pre.)

2 Peter & Jude

(1) Peter Davids (Pillar) (2) Douglas Moo (NIVAC)

(3) Michael Green (TNTC) (4) Richard Bauckham (Word)

1 -3 John

(1) John Stott (TNTC) (2) Colin Kruse (Pillar)

(3) Ronald Yarbrough (BEC) (4) I. Howard Marshall (NIC)

Revelation

(1) G.K. Beale (NIGCNT) (2) Robert Mounce (NIC)

(3) Grant Osborne (BEC) (4) Craig Keener (NIVAC)

*Note #1 - Mentioning a commentary is NOT an endorsement of 100% of its content.

**Note #2 - Keep in mind that all commentaries are NOT created equal. They serve different purposes, and I have mentioned some especially helpful for exegetical and theological purposes.

***Note #3 - This information presented by Mike Vestal at Focal Point - 2013, San Marcos, TX