

“DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST”

I can't tell you how honored I feel to have been given the opportunity to serve the Lord by serving this congregation as her "permanent" preacher. In the past twenty-some years, I have filled the pulpit a number of times and my designation has been something like that of "associate" or "fill-in" or "interim." Never, until now, has there been a situation where I felt that I might be in the position where I could be the regular minister. Regular, in that the elders are not looking to replace me. I am still "part-time," since I continue to teach school, but I will be spending more and more time at the building and taking on more responsibility.

As I promised those in attendance this past Sunday morning, I will continue to preach what Paul called "sound doctrine." In a world where so many are losing focus on what the Bible really says, my aim is to preach the gospel in its simplicity. Paul gave Timothy some very valuable pieces of advice in several places in his letters to Timothy. I intend to follow Paul's advice:

"...set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity." (I Timothy 4:12)

"...devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching....Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourselves and your hearers." (I Timothy 4:13-16)

"Do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord..." (II Timothy 1:8)

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15)

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and

how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (II Timothy 3:14-17)

"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage –with great patience and careful instruction.... keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry." (2 Timothy 4:2, 5)

And Paul told Titus:

"Teach what is accordance with sound doctrine." (Titus 2:1)

"In everything set (them) a good example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned..." (Titus 2:7-8)

Let me say as well (as if it wasn't already obvious) that I will continue to use MUCH Scripture in my sermons. I feel we need to hear what God has said to us through his inspired writers, not what I think it says or means. For that, I am not apologetic!

Please attend our worship services as often as you possibly can. Invite others that you believe need what we offer. I need and must have your help if we are to succeed here at Columbus Avenue.