

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Review Republican  
12-14-17

By Pastor David W. Cheatwood  
Of the Hedrick Church of God  
[info@hedrickchurchofgod.org](mailto:info@hedrickchurchofgod.org)

### HOW IMPORTANT IS PREACHING?

There was a butcher who ran a little shop on the edge of London. He decided one Sunday that he would go into town and hear the great preacher, Charles Spurgeon. His wife chose not to go with him. So the butcher went to town, went to church, and returned home. That afternoon his wife began to question him about the service.

“What songs did they sing?” He said, “I do not remember.” “Well, what was his text?” Again he said, “I do not remember.” Somewhat exasperated, his wife wanted to know: “What good did it do for you to go to church this morning?”

The butcher was quiet for a moment. And then he said, “What good? I will tell you what good. You know those scales out in the shop that really weigh just 14 ounces to the pound? Well, before we open for business in the morning, I am going to correct those scales to where they weigh a full 16 ounces to the pound.”

### Titus 1: 5-9 (NASB)

5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, 6 namely, if any man be above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. 7 For the overseer must be above reproach as God’s steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not found of sordid gain, 8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, 9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

The butcher mentioned above was touched by sound preaching that touched his life and made a difference in what he thought and how he acted. His wife wasn’t impressed with why he went because he didn’t seem to remember what she thought was the important stuff. Still, the word of God spoke by Spurgeon changed this man’s life.

We sometimes forget how important it is to be in church and hear the message the pastor has prepared. If we miss a Sunday will it really matter? You wouldn't think of missing a meal or your afternoon snack would you? Don't you think the spiritual food you hear is important for your spiritual nourishment?

I remember the story of the man that was questioned about the sermon he had heard on Sunday. He could not answer the questions asked of him concerning that sermon. Then he was asked, "Then why do you bother going to church?" He thought about that for a while and answered, "Do you remember what you had for lunch yesterday?" The person he was talking with didn't remember what he had for lunch the day before. The man then asked, "Was that meal important to your health and well being?" "Well of course" was the other mans reply. He continued, "I believe that I need my spiritual food so that I might continue to follow God's plan and hopes for my life. I may not remember what was said, but I know that deep down in my soul I retain that instruction and benefit from it every day."

The Apostle Paul was writing to Titus and reminding him why he had been chosen for his responsibilities. He was assigned the task of finding the right leaders for the church in Crete. He was to be looking for a special man who had certain attributes that would lend themselves well to teaching others about the things of God.

What were the qualities that Paul saw were important for Pastors and Elders?

He mentions that they must be men who are living their lives in obedience to God and His Word. He didn't want leaders who said one thing and then did another. There is too much of that in the world already.

He wanted men, who had one wife, and valued his family and their walk before God and man more than anything else, men who saw their responsibility to raise his own family in the ways of God. What good would he be in leading others to follow God if he couldn't lead his own family?

His children must be willing to follow God's rules and not fight God's leadership in their lives. When our children are unruly and acting out in poor ways we need to stop what we are doing and sit down with them and teach them the proper way to behave and interact with others.

God is looking for men who take good care of what He has given them. He is looking for men who seek God's will instead of their will. He is looking for men who are slow to anger, can handle his drinking, isn't a bully and not greedy. The leader of the church must live an honorable life before God and His people.

He must know the Word of God and be able to explain it to his people.  
So What Does This Mean For Our Lives?

The butcher was changed by the words Spurgeon spoke. He must have also been impressed with the way Spurgeon lived his life. But most of all he was touched by the Word of God and saw a need for change in his life. How about you? Are you attending Church regularly and listening with the intent to grow and mature in your walk before God and man?

For more information, Pastor David W. Cheatwood may be reached at [info@hedrickchurchofgod.org](mailto:info@hedrickchurchofgod.org)