

Gleanings from the Missionary

THE KOKENZIE FAMILY
November 2011

SOLID BIBLE TEACHING AND PREACHING

God can use any believer. The Holy Spirit is more than capable of molding the believer's words into a coherent message. In fact, this is the Holy Spirit's regular work. God, however, prefers using the believer who truly *knows the Bible*, someone from whose lips can come forth a *solid sermon*. When we talk of solid Bible teaching and preaching, we refer to clear exposition of Scripture. It is such a clear communication of truth that it brings the audience nearer to God, without producing doubts or confusion. It is solid because it takes into account two important facets of Scripture: (1) What the Scripture says, and (2) Why the Scripture says it. The first is the thesis and the second is the verdict. The first is the information, the second is the intent of God in revealing that information to man. The first builds a base of truth in the mind of the hearer, the second moves the hearer to act on that truth. The first is revelation; the second is motivation. The first is declaration; the second is application. Enter into the study of such a man at work, and you will enter into a factory of thought. He pores over the Scriptures, determining context, doctrine, grammar, chronology, key words, key verses, overarching thoughts, and truth versus error. For one sermon, this work can take hours upon hours, and yet the work may still remain undone. The man of God knows a message is not fit to be spoken just because he understands it. He must also organize his findings into a coherent whole so that his vast and varied audience can equally understand it. He must determine the best way to communicate the most in the short time available to him. The second stage of preparation can sometimes be just as grueling as the first, and cannot be underestimated in its value. If in the end, the audience cannot in simple terms repeat what has been said *and why* then it cannot truly be called a solid sermon at all. If, on the other hand, the message is intelligibly replicated in the hearts of the hearers, the preacher's task for that sermon is complete. He then returns to his study, and begins again. A church is built by solid Bible teaching and preaching.

MOTIVATED IN FIVE MINUTES

Every believer at some point believes he could do more for God. There comes a point for the majority, however, when they continue their usual religious routine without substantial *forward* progress. They take no new steps of faith. What would motivate you most to serve God? *Five Minutes* * Suspended over the lake of fire? * At the foot of the cross? * Realizing completely all you have in Christ? * Completely aware of all God could do through your life if you gave it completely to Him? * Completely aware of the consequences of living outside the will of God? Doubtless, five minutes meditating on any one of these propositions would revolutionize the believer's life. Some of these propositions, however, are impossible and others are not feasible in only five minutes. How shall we then *encourage ourselves in the LORD* (I Sam. 30:6)? We must make use of the Bible. The single reason genuine believers lack greater motivation is that they have distanced themselves from the truth by neglecting to put faith in all the Bible says. Take what Charles Spurgeon said to heart, "One reason why some of you do not rest in Christ as you should, is because you do not get right down flat onto his words, and trust wholly to them" (*Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, Spurgeon, Sermon 2636 located at www.spurgeongems.org, 1882, PDF, p.6).