



Gospel Ministry Wisdom

Lesson 1

Selected by God for Gospel Ministry

I. THE GOSPEL MINISTRY:

A. Definition: A life vocationally committed to the furtherance of the gospel through preaching.

1. Every believer is commissioned by God to further the gospel message and cause of Christ.
2 Corinthians 5:18-20
2. No special *call* or commission is needed.
3. However, that does not mean that every believer is selected by God for vocational ministry which includes preaching and pastoring.

B. God selects some men to represent Him vocationally as gospel ministers.

1 Timothy 1:12

1. The gospel ministry becomes their life's vocation; not a sideline, but their vocation and livelihood.
 - a) They may have to *make tents*, but tent-making will never be their vocation.
 - b) "*Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel,*" **1 Corinthians 9:12.**
2. The concept of special, God-selected messengers for God is a vintage biblical concept.
 - a) **O. T.** Noah, Moses, Samuel, Jeremiah, Isaiah.
 - b) **N. T.** Peter, Paul and the other apostles, Timothy, Barnabas, Titus.
 - c) "*Overseers*" who "*have the rule,*" **Acts 20:28. Hebrews 13:7, 17.** Elders. Pastors.

II. KNOWING THAT YOU WERE SELECTED BY GOD.

A. It is possible to *choose* the ministry when God is not in the choice.

1. There is a *romance* to the ministry. (medieval Catholic boys)
2. Men can choose the ministry as they would any vocation.

B. How to know when you are chosen by God.

1. Your choice must be in total harmony with God's written Word. **Romans 3:4**
2. Your choice must be totally selfless. **Luke 14:11. Romans 8:8**
3. Your choice must take into consideration the providence of God. **Romans 8:28. Colossians 1:16-17**
4. The result of a right choice will be peace. **Philippians 4:6-7**

III. THE GOSPEL MINISTRY WILL TEST YOU.

A. Satan has an endless number of ways to try you.

1. Paul. **2 Corinthians 4:7-12**
2. Personal testimony.

B. The ministry is a very lonely place.

1. God's minister bears ultimate mortal responsibility for the work.
2. So often you can't share with anyone, even your mate.

C. You'd better be sure God put you into the ministry.

1. The gospel ministry is a glorious calling. **2 Timothy 4:8. 1 Peter 5:1-4**
2. The gospel ministry is not all glamor.
3. Make "*sure.*" **2 Peter 1:4-11**