

DO WE UNDERSTAND THE PREACHER?

By Keith Greer

When I began my work as a gospel preacher over twenty-seven years ago, I thought I had a pretty good feel of what to expect. Yet, until you are actively doing the job one cannot comprehend the true nature of this type of work.

Since that time, I have had many peaks and valleys. In the beginning I talked to other preachers, seeking advice. What I learned is that no two preachers have the same approach. I even began to learn, by experience, that different approaches are needed in different parts of the country. Naturally, I turned to the one true source for my answers-the word of God!

"For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. "{Acts 20:27} "And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. "(J Corinthians 2:4,5) "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. " (2 Timothy 4:2) I always try to keep these passages, and many others, before me to remind me of the grave duty God has given to evangelists.

Still, I am convinced that many do not understand the preacher. Do you think it is easy to preach sermons which are controversial and negative? Preachers must always preach what is needed by the local church. Sadly, we must use our human judgments to make these decisions. Do I always use the best judgment? Are all my lessons the ones which are sorely needed? To be sure, I have made, and will make mistakes in the future. Yet, to the best of my ability, and with the Lord's help, I will make the best decisions I can possibly make. One day I will stand and give an account for every sermon I have preached. This comes with the job.

In my work here at Harrodsburg there is one message I have tried to convey to the brethren-I have a deep love for the welfare of your souls. I do not preach to keep people happy, but informed. My judgment is not always perfect, but I'll work hard to be as close as I can! Be patient, please. ***