WHAT IS THE KEY TO BEING A SUCCESSFUL AND EFFECTIVE PREACHER?

SEE: I Timothy 4:16

Today there exist many conflicting voices, books, seminars, etc., as to what makes for successful and effective ministry. They in effect say, "If you do these 7 things, push the button and pull the lever -- out pops success!" How can we be successful preachers and teachers of God's Word?

A. God's 2 Priorities for Preachers

1. "Take heed to THYSELF"

a. Personal holiness # 1 priority
My Personal Life – Note v.12
My Family Life

b. Have the right motivation

Needed:
1) A love for God and His Word

2) A love & burden for others

c. Beware of comparing yourself with others

2. "Take heed . . .unto the DOCTRINE"

(Doctrine = teaching)
You must take heed to:

a. The content of your teaching (what you say)
According to I Timothy 4:13, preaching involves:
1) Reading the Scripture ("give attendance to reading")
2) Applying the Scripture ("to exhortation")
3) Explaining the Scripture (to "doctrine")

b. The method of your teaching (how you say it)

B. God's Promises for Preachers

1. You will save yourself.

"Save" = to deliver
You will deliver yourself form being a casualty or castaway in the ministry.

2. You will save those to whom you minister.

Many lives are (in a sense) dependent on our being what we should be and doing what we should do.

a. They will be saved from doctrinal error.

b. They will be saved from ungodly behavior.

WHAT IS BIBLICAL PREACHING?

Preaching is simply the communication of God's truth, so that the truth is comprehended, applied, and lived (obeyed).

God-Honoring Preaching Will Follow the Outline of II Timothy 4:1-2.

These are the essential elements to God-honoring preaching:

1. The urgency of our message (v. 1).

2. The method of our message (v. 2) - "Preach!" (Herald out)

3. The content of our message - "The Word" (the written Word).
Not merely about the Word or with the Word, but the Word.

4. The frequency of our message - "Be instant in season, out of season."

- When it is easy and when it is not easy;
- When it is popular, fruitful;
- when people want to hear and when they don't…

5. The mode of our message

a. "Reprove" - to prove with evidence so as to bring conviction of sin (aimed at the intellect)

b. "Rebuke" - to seriously warn; to sternly or sharply rebuke (affects the emotions)

c. "Exhort" - to urge, encourage, to admonish (changes the will)

6. The manner of our message

"All longsuffering and doctrine"

a. "Longsuffering" - patience to repeat and re-preach principles - "line upon line, precept upon precept."

b. "Doctrine" - our preaching must contain teaching or it is un-Biblical.