

Message #42**Ecclesiastes 12:9-10**

If you ever want to meet a most miserable person, one who is empty, unfulfilled and depressed, find some preacher who is no longer pastoring a church and who didn't feed his flock when he was pastoring.

Solomon was a preacher. This Hebrew word "Qoheleth" means he was one who called an assembly of people together to address and instruct them. He expounded the Word of God. When he was drifting away from the Word and will of God, he was miserable and he was empty. But when he was in the Word teaching and preaching, he found real meaning and fulfillment.

THE PREACHER FINDS REAL MEANING AND FULFILLMENT WHEN HE IS CAREFULLY AND SYSTEMATICALLY MINISTERING GOD'S WORD TO PEOPLE.

Here are some of the most powerful verses on pastoral ministry in all of the Bible. Here is a good reality check for every minister who stands in a pulpit and for every congregation who goes to church.

MARK #1 – The fulfilled preacher is wise . 12:9a

The Hebrew word for "wise" is one that means to be shrewd or sagacious in the sense of being able to judge and make the intelligent or crafty decision, especially from God's perspective (Gesenius, p. 277).

God does not want His preachers or His people simple or silly. He wants them wise and skilled in His Word.

James said, "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment: (James 3:1). When one approaches God's Word, one had better be asking God for His wisdom to handle it.

MARK #2 – The fulfilled preacher will teach . 12:9b

Now we may carefully notice that the preacher's responsibility is to teach knowledge to the people. It is not to entertain them. It is not to emotionally move them, although emotions come into play. It is to teach them knowledge about God, His Word and His doctrines.

The Apostle Paul said, "In the church I desire to speak five words with my mind that I may instruct others..." (I Cor. 14:19). Giving knowledge to God's people is to be a high priority of the preacher. He must teach so God's people can have knowledge.

MARK #3 – The fulfilled preacher will study to teach. **12:9c-10**

There are at least five didactic study methods the fulfilled preacher will pursue:

Didactic Study Method #1 - The preacher will ponder. **12:9c**

The word “ponder” indicates that the preacher will carefully weigh the text. The picture is that of putting a text of Scripture on a scale and then carefully seeing how it weighs by a very careful examination (*Ibid.*, p. 26).

Didactic Study Method #2 - The preacher will search out. **12:9d**

The phrase “search out” is one that means to carefully investigate and explore. It is the idea of exploring the unknown by careful search and investigation (*Ibid.*, p. 301)

Didactic Study Method #3 - The preacher will arrange. **12:9e**

The word “arrange” is one that means to set-up or to make straight in a right way (*Ibid.*, p. 873). The wise preacher will be one who carefully arranges a text. He will organize it the right way so that it can be accurately handled.

Didactic Study Method #4 - The preacher will use words. **12:10a**

A wise preacher will do his best to put his Biblical studies into delightful words. That word “delightful” is one that speaks of words which are pursued, which are a delight or desired by the congregation (*Ibid.*, p. 296). Although a preacher is not out to entertain the audience, he must stand before an audience and communicate words to them and the wise minister will do his best to use words which are right and worth hearing.

Didactic Study Method #5 – The preacher will write words. **12:10b**

There is an old saying of homiletics that was first made by Sir Francis Bacon: “Reading maketh a full man; speaking a ready man, writing an exact man.”

Notice carefully what the preacher will want to write—“words of truth correctly.” The preacher will desire to accurately communicate God’s truth.

One who wants real meaning and fulfillment in life will take a very serious approach to the Bible.