

Old Union Ministers School 2010
Our Place in His Service – Lesson Outline

Reading lesson: Romans 12:1-8

Lesson Text: John 13:16

There are many aspects to this subject for both preachers and every child of God.

- It is very important for every child of God to find their place in His service.
- It is especially important for God called men to find our place in His service.
- Young preachers need to search for their place in God's service.
- Middle age preachers need to fill our place and continue to search for God's will for their place in His service.
- Older preachers need to maintain and continue to seek God's leadership and direction for their place in God's service.

There are different types of places we occupy in His Service:

1. Physical place: We need to serve God in the location he leads us and places us. (Acts 16:6-10)
2. Place of behavior and appearance: in school this was referred to as "Department or conduct" and "Dress code". Demonstration of respect for and to God's call and the ministry. (1 Timothy 3:14-15; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23)
3. Moral place: There is a standard expected that the man of God is to walk in and maintain. (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9)
4. Emotional place: ups and downs; highs and lows (Ephesians 2:4-6; John 14:27 and John 15:18-20; 1 Peter 4:12-13)
5. Mental place: study, knowledge acquisition (1 Timothy 3:2; 2 Timothy 2:15-16; Titus 1:9)
6. Spiritual place: relationship with the One that saved and called (John 15:16; John 17:17-23)
7. Place of fellowship: with the Lord, His church and our brothers and sisters (John 15:12, 17; Acts 2:46-47)

A couple of questions that we need to continually ask ourselves:

1. What is my place in His service?
 - Fellowship with the Lord - personal close relationship (1 Peter 5:6-7; James 4:7-8)
 - Preach the Word
 - Be instant in season and out of season
 - Reprove, rebuke, exhort with patience and sound scriptural teaching (2 Timothy 4:2)
 - Watch in all things
 - Endure afflictions
 - Do the work of an evangelist
 - Make full proof of our ministry (2 Timothy 4:5)
2. How do we find our place in His service?
 - Prayer – pray without ceasing
 - Study to show thyself approved
 - To be a workman that needs not to be ashamed
 - To rightly divide the Word of Truth
 - Willingness to serve
 - Willingness to go where the Spirit leads
 - Personal responsibilities
 - Self watch
 - Piety – unwavering devotion to Christ and His cause.

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- o Personal character and behavior

Each one that God has called has a unique place to fill, to exercise our unique spiritual gifts. It is incumbent upon each of us to seek His will to find that place.

- Different burdens and work (Ephesians 4:11-16)
 1. Apostles
 2. Prophets
 3. Evangelists
 4. Pastors & Teachers
 5. Missionaries

Apostles – special office appointed directly by Christ – along with Christ, examples for us (Strong’s) (from *apostello*); a *delegate*; specially an *ambassador* of the Gospel; officially a *commissioner* of Christ [*“apostle”*] (with miraculous powers) :- apostle, messenger, he that is sent.

Prophets – (Strong’s from a compound of *pro* and *phemi*); a *foreteller* (*“prophet”*); by analogy an *inspired speaker*; by extension a *poet* :- prophet.

Evangelists – (Strong’s from *euaggelizo*); a *preacher* of the gospel :- evangelist.

Pastors – (Strong’s) of uncertain affinity; a *shepherd* (literal or figurative) :- shepherd, pastor.

Pastor Qualifications:

I. 1 Timothy 3:1-7	II. Titus 1:6-9
1. Blameless (1)	1. Blameless (1)
2. Husband of one wife (2)	2. Husband of one wife (2)
3. Vigilant	3. Rule over his children (14)
4. Sober (11)	4. Not self-willed
5. Of good behavior (12)	5. Not soon angry
6. Given to hospitality (9)	6. Not given to wine (8)
7. Apt to teach (16)	7. No striker (9)
8. Not given to wine (6)	8. Not given to filthy lucre (10)
9. No striker (7)	9. Lover of hospitality (6)
10. Not greedy of filthy lucre (8)	10. Lover of good men
11. Patient	11. Sober (4)
12. Not a brawler	12. Just (5)
13. Not covetous	13. Holy
14. Rule his own house well (3)	14. Temperate
15. No novice (15)	15. Holding fast the faithful word as taught (15)
16. Have a good report of those without(outside the church)	16. Able by sound doctrine to exhort and convince gainsayers (7)

Teachers – (Strong’s from *didasko*); an *instructor* (genitive or special) :- doctor, master, teacher.

It is incumbent on each of us to search out our place in His service.

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- Unique gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)
 - Diversity of gifts – one Spirit
 - Diversity of administrations but one Spirit

God has called us to a very special and high calling. With this calling comes many opportunities and blessings. With it also comes much responsibility and duty.

We should not take the responsibility lightly.

As pointed out in the reading lesson, we are not to exalt ourselves. However we should not put ourselves down. Since it is not our ministry but the Lord's, we should exercise care about making disparaging comments about that ministry.

Romans 10:15 "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Humility with boldness is needed.

A story told by Brother Emit Strode:

"A young preacher was given an appointment at a neighboring church. After being introduced by the pastor, he stood head held high and marched into the pulpit. After struggling to deliver a message for a few minutes, he closed and dropping his shoulders he meekly took his seat. After the service the older pastor lovingly told the young man that if he had gone into the pulpit like he came out; the Lord could have let him come out like he went in."

While we should not think too little of ourselves as described in the reading lesson we should not think too highly of ourselves either.

Be careful not to be overtaken by loving and admiring disciples – remember they are disciples of Christ not of the preacher or pastor.

Unmarried men, be watchful over your behavior.

Married men, be watchful of your behavior.

Care should be exercised not to think we have any power or ability within ourselves. We do have influence and should exercise great care in the exercise of that influence – it should be Spirit directed and/or scripturally directed.

We should exercise care of entering the pulpit with a personal agenda. We should always enter the pulpit willing to deliver the message or present what God has sent.

Our place in the beginning of our ministry may not be our place as it develops and draws to a close. We need to be continually prayerful and watchful to be where God wants us to be.

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A young, new preacher was walking with an older, more seasoned preacher in the garden one day and feeling a bit insecure about what God had for him to do, he was inquiring of the older preacher. The older preacher walked up to a rosebush and handed the young preacher a rosebud and told him to open it without tearing off any petals.

The young preacher looked in disbelief at the older preacher and was trying to figure out what a rosebud could possibly have to do with his wanting to know the WILL OF GOD for his life and for his ministry. Because of his high respect for the older preacher, he proceeded to TRY to unfold the rose, while keeping every petal intact...It wasn't long before he realized how impossible it was to do so.

Noticing the younger preacher's inability to unfold the rosebud while keeping it intact, the older preacher began to recite the following poem...

UNFOLDING THE ROSE

It is only a tiny rosebud,
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I.
GOD opens this flower so sweetly,
When in my hands they fade and die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I think I have wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?

So I'll trust in Him for His leading
Each moment of every day.
I will look to him for His guidance
Each step of the pilgrim way.

The pathway that lies before me,
Only my Heavenly Father knows.
I'll trust Him to unfold the moments,
Just as He unfolds the rose.

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