

MR PREACHER

A Challenge From The Rev Dr J. Graham Miller To His Students At Melbourne Bible Institute

PREACHING changed the face of Scotland. The only weapons John Knox had for the overthrow of popery, of tyranny and of ignorance were the burning heart, the Bible, and the pulpit. He spoke for God.

God has ordained these means for the reformation of nations, the reviving of churches, the raising of preachers, the edifying of congregations and the salvation of the lost.

By the preaching of Ambrose in Milan God spoke to Augustine. By the preaching of Savonarola God spoke to Florence. By the preaching of Whitefield and Wesley God spoke to Britain. By the preaching of hundreds of young men today God will encourage His dispirited people, banish ignorance, plant faith in His Word, and kindle the steady fires of revival in church and nation. A lost generation will be found and fed.

Where are these hundreds of young men? God is calling, but many are hesitating to answer the call for a number of reasons.

The preaching office is in disrepute. On all sides you hear inhibiting talk about the problem of communication, the generation gap, the changing structures of the Church. These are rationalisations for an age which has lost its pulpit power.

Mr Preacher, do you think you belong to a dying race? Never!

Good preachers are disciplined men of the Word. They have experienced its power in their own lives. They refuse to believe that God has changed His chief weapon for the saving of sinners, the maturing of Christians, and the renovation of society.

All over the world there are conspicuous Bible ministries today. But they are the exception. They need to become the rule. The younger churches are crying out for expository preachers. In the home churches exposition is a lost art. God promises no blessing on the clever preacher; and there is too much slovenly preaching.

The preacher's Gospel is the whole Bible with Christ as its centre. He spends a lifetime in conscientious presentation of every facet of God's many-sided revelation. This taxes all his powers of mind and heart. But it proves satisfying, edifying and revolutionary. And he is a man of prayer.

Is the sickness of the church a reason for turning away from the charge to Preach the Word? Were Hosea, Jonah, Jeremiah deluded?

When God says 'Preach!' we preach; nothing stops us. Nothing except ourselves. We assist Satan by our guilty silence.

A Bible College can help to fashion preachers. It can ground them in the Bible – read, marked, learned and inwardly digested. It can school them in their use of their Sword. It can lay a firm foundation for the later years in a theological college. It can establish a life-long pattern for the soul's fellowship with God.

Fewer men are entering the ministry today. It is a bad omen for our future. There are reasons for this, but they are bad reasons.

Mr Preacher, if God is calling you to show yourself approved unto Him, let nothing stand between you and His perfect will. One biblical ministry can produce a dozen preachers. The dozen can, in God's good time, produce a hundred.

Will you be that minister?'