

This Is The Place

- Introduction:
1. Before one can be a preacher, he must first be a student.
 2. We just introduced a new group of young men who are preparing themselves to teach and preach the word of God.
 3. A “school of preaching” is nothing new. The Old Testament indicates that the great prophets Samuel, Elijah, and Elisha may have been involved in a “school” of prophets (1 Samuel 19:20; 1 Kings 18:4; 2 Kings 2 & 4).
 4. That’s precisely what the Karns congregation has committed themselves to doing for more than the past 45 years.
 5. Today, I want to speak to both the students and the church about what lies ahead of us.

I. The Importance of Preaching

- A. One of the mistakes Christians make is in our focus.
 1. We talk about lost souls and pray for a great harvest.
 2. However, Jesus calls for us to pray for workers (Luke 10:2).
 3. There is a difference in the two. One places the responsibility on “them,” while the other places the responsibility on “us.”
- B. (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 23:46-47; John 20:21).

II. To The Students - You’re In The Right Place!

- A. I don’t know of another congregation quite like the Karns Church of Christ.
- B. This congregation sustains a relationship with preachers like none other I’ve ever known.
- C. In 2014, 233 people at Karns were related to a gospel preacher!
- D. This congregation has committed itself to the support and training of over 400 men, spanning 43 years who have come here to be trained to preach the gospel.
- E. This congregation has invested several million dollars in training men to preach.
- F. Therefore, take full advantage of what you have been given. You have a stewardship entrusted to you (2 Corinthians 4:1-2).
- G. While you’re going to be busy students, remember that you’re still members of the church, and have obligations to work, edify, help the church fulfill its kingdom agenda.

II. To The Church - You Bear Much Fruit Through These Men

- A. (Philippians 4:15-17).
- B. How much fruit do you think the support and training of well over 400 preachers is credited to your account? God only knows!
- C. You have purposefully and intentionally cultivated an environment for the development of preachers.
 1. Good preachers aren’t born, they’re made by intentional sacrifices, planning, and prayer.

- Conclusion:
1. May we continue to work together to do all we can to spread the good news.
 2. A man would frequently pray, concerning me, “Lord wear him out in your service.” If I may revise that, I’d ask that we all die used up, empty, and spent in service to God!