

**SOME PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS FOR THOSE
WHO ANTICIPATE ENGAGING IN
PUBLIC MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

In two messages I would like to share with you some expertise and a few experiences I have accumulated during some 40 years of speaking and preaching. Although my observations come from a personal point of view, I trust that some of them will be of some help to you as you contemplate public ministry of the Word.

As to my plan, I expect to say something about seven areas of concern, including the following:

- (1) Some observations regarding acceptance of invitations to minister the Word
- (2) Some observations regarding advance acceptance of offered hospitality
- (3) Some observations regarding preparation of the subject and content of messages
- (4) Some observations regarding miscellaneous matters preceding the meeting
- (5) Some observations regarding miscellaneous matters of decorum during the meeting
- (6) Some observations regarding remuneration for services performed
- (7) Some observations regarding conservation of the materials of public ministry of the Word

I hope to cover three of these areas in this message, and the remainder in a subsequent message.

I. First of all, let me share SOME OBSERVATIONS REGARDING ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATIONS TO MINISTER THE WORD

A. Invitations can roughly be divided into four classes:

1. Invitations to speak

These would include testimonies, reports, devotionals, Sunday school lessons, young people's talks, Sunday morning and evening messages, and formal sermons; as well as special occasion talks at banquets, theological societies, conferences, sunrise services, evangelistic meetings, classroom lectures, chapel messages, and convocation, baccalaureate, and commencement addresses.

2. Invitations to provide some form of leadership

These would include part-time, interim, and student pastorates, assistant pastorates, directors of youth, music, visitation, and