

My Aims as a Gospel Preacher

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It is always helpful to have a roadmap when traveling, whether on literal roadways or on the journey of life. With this in mind, I present the following as the “map” I aim to follow in my life and work as a Gospel preacher:

1. **I aim to be true to God’s Word, regardless of the consequences:** “Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you” (Mat. 5:11–12).
2. **I aim to seek the approval of God and His Son above that of all others:** “Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).
3. **I aim to gain as much knowledge and understanding of God’s Word as my abilities will allow:** “...Give heed to reading, to exhortation, to teaching... Be diligent in these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy progress may be manifest unto all” (1 Tim. 4:13–15).
4. **I aim to impart to as many as I can, by every honorable means, my knowledge and understanding of God’s Word:** “And the things which thou hast heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2).
5. **I aim to say something worth listening to when I stand up to preach:** “Preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching” (2 Tim. 4:2).
6. **I aim to remember that I have a family and that I have responsibilities as a husband and a father as well as a Gospel preacher:** “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it;... And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 5:25; 6:4).
7. **I aim to provide a worthy example for all ages, especially the young, to follow:** “...Be thou an ensample to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12).
8. **I aim to deal fairly and equally with every person:** “I charge thee in the sight of God, and Christ Jesus, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing by partiality” (1 Tim. 5:21).
9. **I aim to refrain from being vengeful toward those who disagree with me or treat me wrongfully:** “Avenge not yourselves, beloved, but give place unto the wrath of God: for it is written, Vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompense, saith the Lord” (Rom. 12:19).
10. **I aim to learn the difference between the more important and the less important and do the most important things first:** “But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Mat. 6:33).

[Note: I wrote this article when I was a young preacher. I wish I could say that I have followed faithfully my “roadmap” of aims. Alas, better than any others, I recognize that my actions have not always kept pace with my aims. Even so, I have found that rereading these aims through the years has helped me remember what I set out to do with my life. I hope that others who preach the Gospel, especially those still in the early years of their work, will likewise find them beneficial. I wrote these ten aims originally (minus the Scripture quotations) for and they were published in the June 1967 issue of *The Minister's Monthly*, edited by Frank L. Cox and published by the Gospel Advocate Co.]

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