

The Preacher

“...They continued to preach the good news”
(Acts 14:17, *NIV*).

Have you ever stopped to consider, “What is a preacher?” William Evans in *How to Prepare Sermons* defines a preacher as someone who is “separated by God for the specific work of preaching the Gospel and is a man who from one side of his nature takes in the truth from God and from the other side gives out that truth to men. He deals with God in behalf of men; he deals with men in behalf of God.”

A quick trip through Scripture will uncover what God has in mind when He calls preachers. Warren Wiersbe in *Dynamics of Preaching* provides a list adapted and expanded in this lesson.

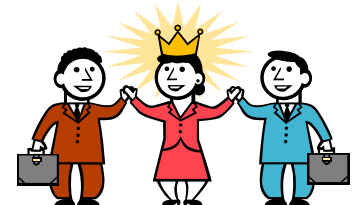
Fisherman



“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men’” (Mark 1:16-17, *NKJV*).

Ambassador

“For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. We are Christ’s ambassadors, and God is using us to speak to you. We urge you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, ‘Be reconciled to God!’” (2 Corinthians 5:18-21, *NLT*).



“And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds” (Ephesians 6:19-20).

Witness



“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard”
(Acts 4:20).

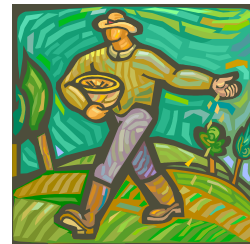
“To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins” (Acts 10:43).

“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God” (1 Corinthians 2:1).

“Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me” (Acts 26:16-18, *NIV*).

Sower and Harvester

“Do you think the work of harvesting will not begin until the summer ends four months from now? Look around you! Vast fields are ripening all around us and are ready now for the harvest” (John 4:34-35, *NLT*).



“Who is Apollos, and who is Paul, that we should be the cause of such quarrels? Why, we’re only servants. Through us God caused you to believe. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us.

My job was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God, not we, who made it grow. The ones who do the planting or watering aren't important, but God is important because he is the one who makes the seed grow. The one who plants, and the one who waters, work as a team with the same purpose. Yet they will be rewarded individually, according to their own hard work. We work together as partners who belong to God. You are God's field, God's building — not ours” (1 Corinthians 3:5-9, *NLT*).

Builder



“Because of God’s special favor to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any other foundation than the one we already have – Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:10-12, *NLT*).

“This I make it my ambition to proclaim the good news, not where Christ has already been named, so that I do not build on someone else’s foundation, but as it is written, “Those who have never been told of him shall see, and those who have never heard of him shall understand” (Romans 15:20-21, *NRSV*).

Shepherd

“After breakfast Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’

‘Yes, Lord,’ Peter replied, ‘You know I love you.’

‘Then feed my lambs,’ Jesus told him.

Jesus repeated the question: ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’

‘Yes, Lord,’ Peter said, ‘You know I love you.’

‘Then take care of my sheep,’ Jesus said.

Once more he asked him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’

Peter was grieved that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, ‘Lord, you know everything. You know I love you.’

Jesus said, ‘Then feed my sheep’” (John 21:15-18, *NLT*).



We feed the flock by providing instruction to our members.

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears” (Acts 20:28-29, *NIV*).

“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:2-3).

Rescuer



“And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh” (Jude 23).

“Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to death; don't stand back and let them die. Don't try to avoid responsibility by saying you didn't know about it. For God knows all hearts, and he sees you. He keeps watch over your soul, and he knows you knew! And he will judge all people according to what they have done” (Proverbs 24:11-12, *NLT*).

“Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?” (Zechariah 3:2, *NIV*).

Spiritual Parent

“After all, though you should have ten thousand teachers (guides to direct you) in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in



Christ Jesus through the glad tidings (the Gospel). So I urge and implore you, be imitators of me. For this very cause I sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and trustworthy child in the Lord, who will recall to your minds my methods of proceeding and course of conduct and way of life in Christ, such as I teach everywhere in each of the churches” (1 Corinthians 4:15-17, *AMP*).

“For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, 12 encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory” (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12, *NIV*).

“You are witnesses, [yes] and God [also], how unworldly and upright and blameless was our behavior toward you believers [who adhered to and trusted in and relied on our Lord Jesus Christ]. For you know how, as a father [dealing with] his children, we used to exhort each of you personally, stimulating and encouraging and charging you to live lives worthy of God, Who calls you into His own kingdom and the glorious blessedness [into which true believers will enter after Christ's return]” (1 Thessalonians 2:10-12, *AMP*).



Priest of God

“To be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:16, *NIV*).

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Soldier

“Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. And as Christ's soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in the affairs of this life, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you in his army. Follow the Lord's rules for doing his work, just as an athlete either follows the rules or is disqualified and wins no prize” (2 Timothy 2:3-5, *NLT*).



Herald of the King



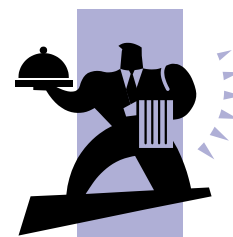
“Preach the word of God. Be persistent, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to right teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever they want to hear. They will reject the truth and follow strange myths. But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at bringing others to Christ. Complete the ministry God has given you” (2 Timothy 4:2-5, *NLT*).

“Salvation that comes from trusting Christ — which is the message we preach — is already within easy reach. In fact, the Scriptures say, “The message is close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart”” (Romans 10:8, *NLT*).

“[And this He will do] provided that you continue to stay with and in the faith [in Christ], well-grounded and settled and steadfast, not shifting or moving away from the hope [which rests on and is inspired by] the glad tidings (the Gospel), which you heard and which has been preached [as being designed for and offered without restrictions] to every person under heaven, and of which [Gospel] I, Paul, became a minister. [Even] now I rejoice in the midst of my sufferings on your behalf” (Colossians 1:23-24, *AMP*).

Steward/Servant

“For we speak as messengers who have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He is the one who examines the motives of our hearts. Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you very well know. And God is our witness that we were not just pretending to be your friends so you would give us money! As for praise, we have never asked for it from you or anyone else. As apostles of Christ we certainly had a right to make some demands of you, but we were as gentle among you as a mother feeding and caring for her own children. We loved you so much that we gave you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too” (1 Thessalonians 2:4-8, *NLT*).



““These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved””, (Acts 16:17, *NIV*).

“So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:1-2, *NIV*).

“I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ” (Ephesians 3:7-8, *NIV*).

Teacher



“And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles” (1 Timothy 2:7, *NIV*).

“And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher” (2 Timothy 1:11-12, *NIV*).

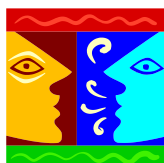
Prophet

“Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7).

The main role of the prophet was to bear God's word for the purpose of teaching, reproof, correcting, and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16). Whether warning of impending danger or disclosing God's will to the people, they were similar in function to the modern preacher in the church. Prophets were referred to as messengers of the Lord (Isaiah 44:26; Haggai 1:13), servants of God (Amos 3:7), shepherds (Zechariah 11:4, 7; Jeremiah 17:16), and watchmen (Isaiah 62:6). (Taken from *Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*)



Voice



“He said, I am the voice of one crying aloud in the wilderness [the voice of one shouting in the desert], Prepare the way of the Lord [level, straighten out, the path of the Lord], as the prophet Isaiah said [Isaiah 40:3.]” (John 1:23, *AMP*).

Living Epistle

“But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience” (2 Timothy 3:10).



Messenger



“For I am, by God's grace, a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles. I bring you the Good News and offer you up as a fragrant sacrifice to God so that you might be pure and pleasing to him by the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:15-16, *NLT*).

Swordsman

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:17-18, *NIV*).



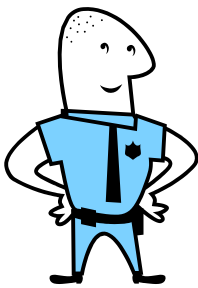


Earthen Vessel

“However, we possess this precious treasure [the divine Light of the Gospel] in [frail, human] vessels of earth, that the grandeur and exceeding greatness of the power may be shown to be from God and not from ourselves” (2 Corinthians 4:7, AMP).

Watchman

“Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me” (Ezekiel 3:17).



“I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence” (Isaiah 62:6).

“Obey your spiritual leaders and submit to them [continually recognizing their authority over you], for they are constantly keeping watch over your souls and guarding your spiritual welfare, as men who will have to render an account [of their trust]. [Do your part to] let them do this with gladness and not with sighing and groaning, for that would not be profitable to you [either]” (Hebrews 13:17, AMP).

“On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed-God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else” (1 Thessalonians 2:4-6, NIV).

Man of God

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV).



Study Questions

1. How did William Evans define a preacher? _____

2. Write out 2 Timothy 3:16-17. _____

3. Fill in the chart below.

The Preacher	Reference
	Mark 1:16-17
Ambassador	
	Acts 4:20
	John 4:34-35
Builder	
Shepherd	
	Jude 23
Soldier	
Priest of God	
	2 Timothy 4:2-5
	Acts 16:17
	1 Timothy 2:7
Prophet	
Voice	
	2 Timothy 3:10
	Romans 15:15-16
Swordsman	
Earthen Vessel	
	Isaiah 62:6
Man of God	