



bits from bob....

Does the sermon live at your house?

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"Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching...." (1 Tim. 4:16)

I do not know the original source of this illustration.

A couple was driving by the preacher's house when their young daughter suddenly exclaimed, "There's the sermon's house." Identifying the preacher with the sermon may seem normal. I have a different question. Does the sermon live at your house?

Think with me! Should not this statement be true of every Christian? Does the sermon live at your house? Paul admonished Timothy to pay close attention to his life, his example, and his teaching. Our lives speak louder than our words. Actions speak louder than words. "What you do speaks so loudly I can't hear what you're saying." Arthur Pink wrote, "Two things must never be separated--sound doctrine and holy deportment." In his famous definition of preaching, Phillips Brooks spoke of preaching as "truth and personality." The connection between logic and life, preaching and practice, creed and conduct, doctrine and duty must be obvious to all.

I like the definition from a few years ago, attributed to Andrew Hairston: "The Christian's life is the Lord's audiovisual." Every Christian is called to be light and salt and leaven. Most people need to see sermons as much as they need to hear them. The poet wrote, "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day."

Brother McCullough was extremely hard of hearing. He was present at every service, sitting near the front, with his hearing aids screeching, turned up to maximum volume. I asked him if he could hear anything that was said. He admitted that he heard very little. I asked him why he continued to attend so faithfully. He said, "I want people to know which side I'm on!"

Here is truth. In our lives and in our homes, the sermon either lives or dies. Can others see the sermon at your house? In your life?