

## **Why I Chose to Preach**

By Bob Young

To choose preaching or ministry as one's calling and life's work is an easier decision for some than for others. Sometimes those who struggle the most with the decision are among those who become most useful to God. When I was asked to write about the reasons I chose to preach, six influences came to mind.

**Many Christians encouraged me to preach.** The elders in the church where I grew up encouraged me to preach. I chose to preach because other people affirmed my early efforts and encouraged me. The church selects its preachers by encouraging those within the church who have potential and talent. A part of that process is recognizing those young men with the talent and heart to preach. Members of the church encouraged me; my mother encouraged me.

**I met preachers I admired.** I chose to preach because of preachers I knew and liked. During my teen years, preachers were often a not-so-desirable group and did not appear to have much fun. Do not be afraid to get acquainted with your preacher! He may be having more fun than you realize.

**I wanted to do something for God.** I chose to preach out of gratitude for God's goodness toward me. I chose to preach because I believed I could glorify God by preaching.

**I saw preaching and ministry as a challenge.** I believe that in preaching and ministry one gets to be a pioneer. No one has walked the exact path I am walking today. The church has never been at this place in time before, never at this place on the journey, never in need of the exact word from God that is needed in this hour. Good preaching will never be replaced with DVDs or video clips. Only preachers can bring the word from God that is needed at a certain moment.

I grew up in a small church, in a mission field, and **I saw a need to be met.** I chose to preach because I thought I could help the church by doing so. I saw then, and see today, that there is a shortage of effective preachers.

**I like helping people.** God gave me a heart of compassion. I chose to preach because I thought I could help people with the problems of their lives, and especially with the biggest problem which is life without God. For me, the opportunity to help people has been the greatest blessing of ministry. The result has been relationships with those helped, words of gratitude, and life-long friendships.