Rules For Preachers

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INTRODUCTION

- First and 2 Timothy and Titus, obviously, are Paul's inspired epistles to younger preachers.
- 2 Corinthians is a similar book, but in 2 Corinthians, Paul is not instructing someone else. He is really defending himself as a preacher of the gospel.
- These lessons and these rules really apply to all Christians. It's just that Paul is applying them to himself as a preacher of the gospel.

1 Live the Simple Life

2 Corinthians 1:12; 2 Corinthians 2:17

- For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God.
- Simplicities may be best defined by looking at its opposite as used in this context. Its opposite would be duplicity.
- In other words, Paul said, What you see is what you get. I don't have a hidden agenda.
- For we are not, as so many peddling the word of God.
- We're just simply preaching the gospel. We're just simply living good, godly Christian lives, and that's it.

2 Understand the Job

2 Corinthians 2:14–16

- Now thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, that through us diffuses the fragrance of his knowledge in every place.
- He is saying, my job is simply to put the scent out there, diffusing the fragrance.
- Paul understood that the gospel was always going to have dual effect. Those who are saved and those who are perishing.
- To some, it's the smell of life. And to others, it's the stench of death. But Paul says our job is simply to diffuse the aroma.
- No, there still must be some tact, some thought given to the presentation of the gospel.
- Every time it's preached, it does its job.

3 Remember the Focus

2 Corinthians 3:2–3

- You, Corinthians, are our epistle, written in our hearts, known and read by all.
- Paul says, you, speaking to these Christians, you are what it's all about.
- We have to remember that, again, not just in the preaching of the gospel, but in the living of the gospel, that it's about people.

- Don't get so focused upon the details of what you were doing and forget about why we are doing those.
- O Corinthians, we have spoken openly to you. Our heart is wide open.
- He understood that it was about people. And he was not afraid to show and express that emotion.

4 Always Try to Fight Fair

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

- Though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God, in pulling down strongholds.
- Paul says we are engaged in a spiritual battle, and so this will be a spiritual exercise.
- And so we don't change the gospel. We don't prop it up. We don't decorate it with anything of any kind of fleshly, worldly appeal. We just preach the gospel. That's fighting fair.
- Not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth, commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
- Paul says when it comes to the gospel, we're not sneaky, we're not crafty, we're just preaching the gospel in its simplicity.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **May God help us in our presentation, in our living, to do just that.**

MY NOTES