

"The ideal preacher preaches exactly 10 minutes. He condemns sin, but never hurts anyone's feelings. He works from 8AM to midnight, and also serves as the church janitor. He makes \$40 a week, wears good clothes, and donates \$30 a week to the church. He is 29 years old and has 40 years of experience. He makes 15 house calls a day and is always in his office.

"If your preacher does not measure up to these criteria, send this list to six other churches that are also dissatisfied with their preacher. Then, bundle up your preacher and send him to the church at the top of the list. In one week you will receive 1,643 preachers. Surely one of them will be perfect. Have faith in this letter. One church broke the chain and got its old preacher back in three months."

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There are many preachers out there who are having to work under conditions similar to those stated in the humorous story above. One of the best things that a congregation can do is to realize that their preacher is a human being--he is not perfect. He needs support, understanding, and encouragement like everyone else. If you have never been a preacher I doubt that you can fully appreciate the struggles that they go through. My heart goes out to those who are working under difficult congregational circumstances, and then receive very little encouragement.

In a world that seems to less and less receptive to the gospel, preachers find themselves with an "insurmountable task" of motivating people to do what is right. Please, keep them in your prayers.

See you Sunday!

-gls