

The formal charge addressed to Robert Bennett at the occasion of his ordination,
Bridgetown Church of Christ, April 24, 1977

Charge to a Young Preacher

By Roger Chambers

Bob, I charge you to fill your mind with the Word of God, so that you will have something to say worth saying.

I charge you to keep your heart pure, so that you will have the courage to say it.

I charge you to read books, so that you can say it skillfully.

I charge you to know the people to whom you are preaching, so that you can say it clearly.

I charge you to make your *first* ministry the one to your family, so that people will believe you when you say it.

Bob, I charge you to preach “the faith once delivered,” so that God will be pleased with what you say.

I charge you to preach the cross. Men and women and boys and girls do not need to be impressed, they need to be saved.

I charge you to work from the spirit of quality; second best is never good enough for Jesus.

I charge you to work from a spirit of humility, Bob, for you and I will never be as much as people think we are.

I charge you to know and to remember that the highest kind of nobility is found in the pew at least as often as it is found in the pulpit.

I charge you to know and to remember that the people to whom you preach have as much to teach you about the Christian life as you have to teach them.

I charge you to know, Bob, that this ordination service does not canonize your opinions. Your only justification for entering the pulpit on any day to preach any message is your readiness to preach the Word of God.

Kathy, I charge you to know and remember that you hold Bob’s ministry in your hand just as you hold his heart. The wisdom, patience, and dedication that Bob must have to fulfill his ministry is not even close to that which you must have if he is to do so.

And finally, Bob, I charge you to pray. The difference between praying and not praying in this thing is the difference between life and death.