



## — “The Ministry” —

“Preaching” is not about speaking forcefully from behind pulpits or growling things into microphones that cause people to shout “Amen!” or “Hallelujah!” Scriptural preaching is all about sharing portions of the Gospel in response to those who **ASK**:

> “[...] [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that **ASKETH** you a reason of the hope that is in you...” —1 Peter 3:15

We’re **ALL** supposed to do that. It’s not a professional career path. Paul was clearly fearful that Christian “ministry” would become corrupt if it were ever to become a paid professional career choice. Has it? At the very least, believing “the ministry” to be a career choice has driven most Believers into the bleachers...“We pay our preachers to do all that, don't we?”

Many students of traditional teaching will also be surprised to learn that our Great Commission assignment is not about “getting people ‘saved’.” Instead, it’s about making Disciples of those who’ve heard and believed the Gospel message. Read what Jesus said about that in several Bible versions for confirmation—Matthew 28:19,20.

The making of Disciples is a coaching assignment. It can’t be done from behind a pulpit or even in a classroom. That’d be like trying to “teach” groups of young children how to ride their brand new bikes!

What are the differences between *preaching* and *theater*? Which characterized the preaching of Jesus and his 1st-Century apostles?

The visible church has done a pretty good job of making Believers. But of what possible value are beautiful buildings full of Believers but very few Disciples? In what ways does the visible church differ from a manufacturer of lubricants that uses all or most of its output to lubricate the machinery with which it manufactures lubricants?



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