

## Thirty-Five Years Of Preaching

Every five years I write about my preaching experiences. I decided to read the articles I wrote at the thirty-year mark. It was actually four articles and went back over my early preaching experiences, meeting Regena and our experiences together, and doctrinal issues faced during those years. I don't want to rehash those articles but I do want to deal with changes we have experienced over the last five years.

I will admit the above title is kind of scary. To think I have been preaching that long means a lot of things. It means I am getting older and I think more about those who are no longer with us. In last five years have seen Regena's mom and my mom pass away. I think of Hebrews 11 where it speaks of the faith of Abel and his sacrifice to God. "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks." (Hebrews 11:4) The example of our moms still speaks to us today. We remember their love, dedication to their families and God.

Over the past five years our children have continued to amaze me. Noah and Hope graduated from college. Eli worked at American Air Filters in Louisville and then changed jobs. One of my favorite memories during this time was one Sunday in Elizabethtown. Noah, Hope, and Eli met Regena and myself for lunch. Afterward we started talking about Marriage/Divorce/Remarriage. I know this might seem strange but it was affecting our family. We went to my truck and had a good discussion about what the Bible teaches on this subject. I was amazed to hear them talk about the Bible and make the application.

We have had some additions to our family over the last five years. Noah started dating this Christian she met in Bowling Green. His name was Jon Lindsey and he was having some "Bible Studies" with a group of people. I think this was a pretext to getting to know Noah better, and it worked. Regena told me one day that Jon was "the one" and she was right. Jon one day came to the farm and said he wanted to talk to me. We sat down and said he wanted to

propose to Noah. Looking back on it, I should have given him a harder time as he wanted to marry our baby girl. He and Noah got married on June 13, 2015. Noah wanted to get married on the farm. A few months before this wedding I had back surgery and was restricted from doing physical labor. During this time many people helped with the preparations. They worked on the yard, decorated the barn, and did whatever needed to be done. Good friends and family did much to make this a beautiful wedding.

Another addition was Thomas Alexander. One day Noah and Jon informed Regena and I that they were going to have a baby. I don't know if we were stunned or worn out from a trip we had been on or just in shock but Regena and I were pretty laid back about this. Of course, we were excited and couldn't wait to see the little one. I agree with the person who said they recommended grandchildren to anyone.

Then we had another addition as Eli married Laura. Their meeting was not by accident as their friends helped it to happen. However, we could tell that Laura was "the one" for Eli. We are happy to have Laura as our daughter.

Our Hope has been a blessing to us in a different way. She moved to the farm and has helped keeping Regena and I on our toes. I am not sure how I would have handled mom's passing away without Hope being around. It does this Dad good to have her here.

The past five years brought about some health issues. My desire is to preach as long as my health allows me to. In 2015 I had back surgery. That turned out well as I am pain free and can do just about what I want as long as I am reasonable. Carpel tunnel surgery came around in 2016. Now I have Focal Dystonia in my left hand. It has limited my ability to type and is problematic to any chore. One never knows when a health problem will come up but right now I can still preach.

I have been and continue to be thankful for the brethren at Lilac Road. They allowed Regena and I to live with my mom and help take care of her. They are

a constant source of encouragement to me. I hope they have benefited from my being here as I have been blessed by them.

Various issues have arisen over the last five-years. In looking back at my "thirty-year" writing I mentioned homosexuality and the changes we were about to see concerning that issue. I was right as the Supreme Court redefined marriage to include homosexual couples which brought about other issues such as who can use male/female bathrooms in public buildings. Marriage/Divorce/Remarriage still plagues brethren as various views are held on that issue. Charismatic worship seems to be making a comeback as I hear of emotionalism is stressed in various congregations. Doctrine is secondary to feeling good.

I have been blessed with a good family and good brethren (along with a few sore heads). I hope Regena can still put up with me and we get to see our family continue to serve God. –Dennis Tucker