

recommended, the study of doctrines and procedures is important, as well as practical lessons in how these things are applied. One cannot do this all at once...but if there is a persistent effort to do it bit by bit, it will work well.

3. Cultural:

Try to stay abreast of the society about you...its needs, excesses, opportunities, etc. This might not seem important but if you do not do it when driving a car you will soon be in considerable distress. One does not have to be involved in everything that is done, thankfully, but one needs to know what the societal challenges and opportunities are and when an opportunity comes to work in these areas this knowledge greatly increases the success possibility.

4. Sociological

Think of the needs of the people about us and remember how the Lord has blessed us by His grace. Never forget that we have both opportunity and obligation to help those about us by the Word of God. The way in which this will be expressed will vary from occasion to occasion but somehow the believer must think of the position held in our world as a light and a nourisher of truth.

5. Prayerful

Not much need be said here....prayer is our great privilege in talking with the Creator and in seeing how God works. No endeavor for God should be undertaken without prayer....we cannot stipulate quantities, etc, but it is an indispensable part of our preparation.

B. Get the Mechanics in Order

Whereas preparation is a lifelong continuum, the mechanics are highly individual and immediate in time. They should not be ignored and the most important, in my judgment, are these:

1. Place, Date, and Time for your opportunity

2. The nature of the occasion and what you are expected to do...in a very specific way. Be sure to know what amount of time is allotted to you and keep in mind that is always approximate in the mind of others but should be firm with you.

3. The Purpose

4. The anticipated audience....not so much the size but the composition.