

You are talking at us, instead of to us. Well, he said, I am giving God's Word. Don't you criticize the way I have given it. And he went on preaching, and people drifted away. And more drifted away, and more drifted away, and more drifted away, and the time came when the church got down to 200,,150, 100, 75, 50. And someone said, Why don't you leave and go to some other church, why don't you resign, and let somebody come in here who can draw these people back. He said, I am to preach the Word in this church, and I will stay here as long as there are six people to hear me preach. And the time came a year later when there were only three.... $3\frac{1}{2}$, and you can imagine what was left for anybody to pick up to try to take on, afterwards and carry on. ~~xx~~

God has not called us to speak praise of God out into the empty air. He has not called us to raise a witness that people don't know about, and are not expecting4... He didnot say to Peter, Peter, you love me, well go become a pastor of a nice church somewhere. Peter, you love/ me? Go and teach somewhere, and you might enjoy teaching, that's a good thing for you to do, go and teach. He didn't say, Peter, you love me, well wait for a call, for somebody to appoint you to some position, and get a good living in that position, and show.... $4\frac{1}{2}$ Jesus said to Peter, when Peter said "You know that I love you," Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." And Jesus asked him again, to impress it in upon his ~~mm~~ mind, and Jesus said, to him, "Feed my sheep." And he asked him the third time, and again he said, "Feed my sheep." Take care of my sheep. Do the work of a shepherd. Why does God not take us to heaven immediately when we are converted? Well, one reason certainly is that though we are instantaneously justified, and we are righteous before him the minute we are ~~justified~~ saved, He desires us to have certain experiences in this life which will be a means of our sanctification, and He desires to develop our character in line with His purpose, and that is a very real reason why He leaves us on this earth instead of the minute we are saved taking us immediately to heaven with Him. But that is