

ROY J. HEARN, FAITHFUL AND ABLE GOSPEL PREACHER

Garland Elkins

As compared to the average person, brother Hearn lived a long life. He lived to the age of eighty-nine. However, longevity was not the most important part of his life, but rather the kind of life that he lived was most important. Methuselah lived nine hundred sixty nine years, and his father lived only three hundred sixty five years, and yet there is little comparison in the lives of Enoch and Methuselah. It is written about Enoch, "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him" (Gen. 5:24). The Hebrews writer makes this remarkable statement regarding Enoch, that he was "translated," carried out of this life into another "that he should not see death" (Heb. 11:5). We are left to wonder about the life of Methuselah because the only thing that is revealed about it is its longevity (Gen. 5:27).

Having obeyed the gospel at a relatively young age, brother Hearn then served the Lord with distinction the rest of his life. Brother Hearn distinguished himself in the field of preaching:

1. It can be said of brother Hearn as it was said of Ezra, "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments" (Ezra 7:10).

2. Brother Hearn believed and practiced what Paul wrote to Timothy, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Tim.2:2).

3. Brother Hearn could have said with Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7).

4. Through his work for Christ and as a special part of that, what he contributed in his work and influence through the Memphis School of Preaching, it can be said of him as the Hebrews writer stated regarding Abel, "by it he being dead yet speaketh" (Heb. 11:4).

Brother Hearn was blessed with an unusual Christian wife, sister Sadie Hearn. In a remarkable way sister Hearn discharged her responsibilities and performed duties. She is truly an outstanding Christian lady. To sister Hearn and to her entire family, we extend our sincere sympathy [Taken from the Yokefellow, Vol. 27, No. 12, December 14, 2000].