

BROTHER HEARN, AS A TEACHER

Bobby Liddell

Brother Roy J. Hearn was an outstanding teacher in the Memphis School of Preaching. All who had the opportunity to sit at his feet have been blessed by his powerful and stimulating instruction. His understanding of the Scriptures and his broad knowledge in many areas of learning made his classes not only helpful, but also memorable and inspiring. His ability to approach difficult subjects with ease and to present solutions to problems, which seemed to us to be almost insurmountable, was the result of his years of study and preparation coupled with his keen mind and natural analytical ability.

Though known for his "sternness," brother Hearn was always fair, and, more often than he or we would admit, merciful. He demanded much of his students because he demanded far more of himself. Always willing to expend himself for the benefit of others, he taught us great lessons by his worthy example. We treasure the instruction we received in his classes and the notes we have as a result, but we benefited just as much or more from observing his Christian life. Beneath the tough exterior of "Stern Hearn" was a very tender heart and a loving, giving disposition. We can only wonder where we would be today if he had not so given of himself.

Above all, brother Hearn was thorough in his approach to preparation for teaching. This admirable thoroughness was manifested in every subject he taught. He left no stone unturned in his proclamation of Truth. Likewise, no particle of error was left undisturbed when his powerful exposure was completed. His instruction was always scholarly and the result of intense investigation into every facet of the subject addressed. He was "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed" (2 Tim. 2:15). His presentation was dignified, showing deep reverence for the Word of God and appreciation for the occasion afforded him to teach it. In every place, and on every occasion, he conducted himself as a true Christian gentleman. Thus, by his dress, bearing, speech, and attitude toward his work, he impressed us and inspired us to want to be like him.

Brother Hearn was always well prepared, even though his schedule was so demanding upon him and his health was not always good. Though he had given himself far too much work to do in the other aspects of the School, he did not allow that to hinder his teaching. I am happy I had the opportunity to learn from him, and I speak on behalf of all his students when I say, "It was a blessing to have brother Roy J. Hearn as a teacher." He lives on through those whom he taught. I thanked him while he lived, though not enough, and I look forward to expressing my gratitude to him again, in that land beyond this [Taken from the Yokefellow, Vol. 27, No. 12, December 14, 2000].