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PREFACE

Of the many responsibilities of the average pastor, none is greater than that of preaching the Word of God every Sunday and, in many cases, every Wednesday. Each pastor should preach from his own experience with the Father God. Since we all need assistance in fulfilling our preaching ministry, however, this volume will be pleasing to God and beneficial to those who look to us for guidance, comfort, and help.

Letters from around the world encourage my heart that this volume is a valuable aid to some who are seeking to better preach the whole counsel of God to their congregations. I am grateful to the good people of Zondervan for their desire to provide assistance to pastors as they seek to be godly ministers of Jesus Christ.

Esteemed professors of preaching have been insisting over the years that pastors should seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit to plan a preaching program. Andrew Blackwood and Winston Pearce have published books with this emphasis. Vernon L. Stanfield has stated, “Planning will give purpose and direction to preaching.... Planning also helps the preacher with sermon preparation.... Planning removes much of the stress and strain of lack of preparation. For the pastor to plan his preaching will also help him to plan worship” ([On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons], ed. John A. Broadus [New York: Harper & Row, 1979], 257-60).

The production of a volume like this would be impossible without the valuable assistance of the contributors. On these pages you will find material from seventeen servants of our Lord who are ministering effectively in different places. Those who use the material are encouraged to amplify the principles for the specific needs of their congregations. Each sermon a pastor preaches should be borne out of a personal experience with God in seeking to meet those needs. If the manuscripts in this volume prove helpful, we will thank the Father and rejoice in each pastor's being a better undershepherd of the Great Shepherd who, in speaking to Peter, encouraged us to “feed my sheep.”

Without reservation I dedicate this book to my beloved wife, Bennie Elizabeth, who is the helpmate God has provided for me.

—T. T. Crabtree
Countless preachers have turned to the *Zondervan Pastor's Annual* to save them time in sermon and service preparation. This tried-and-true resource makes your demanding job as a pastor a lot easier. Use its content as is, or tailor it to fit your unique approach.

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