

WE NEED GOSPEL PREACHERS Part 1

TEXT: 2 Timothy 3:14 – 17

INTRODUCTION:

1. We need gospel preachers because the gospel must be preached.
2. The gospel is the only access any person has to salvation (Romans 1:16).
For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
3. Preaching is the means by which God chose to deliver the gospel (1 Cor. 1:18, 21).
 - a. 1 Corinthians 1:18.
For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 1:21.
For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.
4. The gospel message can be found only in the Word of God.

DISCUSSION

I. The Word of God is PERMEATING.

- A. *From a child thou hast known* (3:15).
- B. Literally, from infancy.
- C. *When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also* (2 Timothy 1:5).
- D. The word of God is not a respecter of persons: it is for male and female, young and old.
- E. At what age should we begin teaching our children God's Word?

II. The Word of God is PURE.

- A. *The holy scriptures* (3:15)
- B. They truly are holy, set apart, pure.
- C. There is no other book like it.
- D. Some *wrest ... the ... scriptures ... unto their own destruction* (2 Pet 3:16).
- E. But the Scriptures themselves are PURE, and that is what needs to be PREACHED!
- F. *How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!* (Psalm 119:103).
- G. Illustration: www.benefits-of-honey.com
 1. "...a 'pure honey' label doesn't guarantee at all that it is not diluted with water and further sweetened with corn syrup; it just promises that there is

- real pure honey inside, with no suggestion of its amount. The law does not require a 'pure honey' label to say how much pure honey is in the bottle."
2. Unfortunately, many are preaching an impure word:
 - a. Scriptures which they have *wrested*.
 - b. Scriptures which they have added to or taken away from.
 - c. Scriptures which they have misinterpreted/misapplied.
- H. *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.*
The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.
The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb (Psalm 19:7–10).

III. The Word of God is **POWERFUL**.

- A. *able to make (3:15).*
- B. Hebrews 4:12.
For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- C. Romans 1:16.
For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God...

IV. The Word of God is **PRESERVING**.

- A. *thee wise unto **salvation** which is in Christ Jesus (3:15).*
- B. Romans 1:16
*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto **salvation**.*
- C. *Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted **word**, which is able to **save** your souls (James 1:21).*
- D. Is this not one of the, if not THE, most important reason to preach the Word?
 1. How can anyone be saved if we do not preach the Word?
For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? (Romans 10:13–14).
 2. Furthermore, the question is begged: How can I be saved if I do not preach the Word?
Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:16).

V. The Word of God is INSPIRED.

- A. *All scripture is given by inspiration of God (3:16)*
- B. Greek: *theopneustos* -- God-breathed
- C. Some assert and contend that Bible writers were inspired the same way William Shakespeare was inspired.
- D. Such is one of the greatest lies ever told by the devil.
- E. Shakespeare could not even begin to dream up content near that of the Scriptures.
- F. 2 Samuel 23:2.

The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.

VI. The Word of God is PROFITABLE.

- A. *and is profitable: (3:16).*
- B. *for doctrine* (teaching).
- C. *for reproof*, (rebuke/reprimand).
- D. *for correction*:
 - 1. Sometimes, correction is forgotten following rebuke/reproof.
 - 2. Reproof can merely be pointing out/stating that something is not acceptable.
 - 3. However, instructing such a one as to how to do be restored to acceptability is of utmost necessity.
- E. *for instruction in righteousness* (application).
 - 1. Men can be hard-headed & stubborn, and refuse to look at the instructions when we are assembling a new product.
 - a. In all honesty, that is prideful.
 - b. And it is the height of pride when we refuse to look to God's instructions of how to do that which is right.
 - 2. Ladies don't have as much of a problem looking to the instructions for a product, but for some reason they don't always like the instructions of their husbands.
- F. Jeremiah 10:23

O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

VII. The Word of God is PERFECTING.

- A. *That the man of God may be perfect* (complete) (3:17).
- B. When you study the Ecclesiastes, it is plain to see that Solomon looked to all the ways of the world to try to complete him, satisfy him, make him happy.
- C. *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the **whole** (duty) of man* (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

D. Without God's commandments, we cannot be complete; without God's Word, we cannot know God's commandments.

VIII. The Word of God is PREPARING.

A. *thoroughly furnished unto all good works* (3:17).

B. I believe this world has a number of people with tender, compassionate, sincere hearts, who want to do good works, yet they do not know/believe the true definition of "good."

C. How do we know if a work is good or bad, unless we look to the Originator and Definer of that which is GOOD.

D. Complete preparation for good works is found in the Word!

E. Ephesians 2:10.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

CONCLUSION:

1. We need gospel preachers because the gospel must be preached.
2. The gospel is the only access any person has to salvation (Romans 1:16).

WE NEED GOSPEL PREACHERS Part 2

TEXT: 2 Timothy 4:1 – 8

INTRODUCTION:

1. We need gospel preachers because the gospel must be preached.
2. The gospel message can be found only in the Word of God.

DISCUSSION:

I. The Preaching of the Word is IMPERATIVE.

- A. *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom (4:1)*
- B. This charge is made in the presence of:
 1. God the Father.
 2. The Lord Jesus Christ (Our Master. Our Savior. Our King.)
 3. And the Church (His kingdom).

II. The Preaching of the Word is PERPETUAL.

- A. *be instant in season, out of season (4:2).*
 1. The time may be convenient for some.
 2. The time may be inconvenient for some.
 3. Paul says, still Preach the Word!
- B. Because the Word of God is permanent:
 1. *The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you (1 Pet 1:24–25).*
 2. *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away (Matt 24:35).*

III. The Preaching of the Word is PERSONAL.

- A. *reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine (4:2).*
- B. Reproval, rebuke, & exhortation can be VERY personal; therefore:
 1. It is pertinent that it be done with **long-suffering**.
 - a. When we plant seeds in the ground, generally, they don't sprout up out of the ground overnight, and they certainly don't begin producing fruit for some time.
 - b. And so it is, when we preach the Word of God in keeping with Paul's command to *reprove, rebuke, and exhort*, do not expect people to change immediately.
 2. Furthermore, it is utmost importance it be done with **doctrine**.
 - a. That is, true teachings from God's Word.
 - b. NOT, our opinions!

- c. NOT, our scruples!
 - d. Oh, but how often have you heard of strife and division because someone was reproving and rebuking others because of their own scruples and opinions; not because of some matter of THE FAITH.
- C. Hebrews 4:12.
- For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

CONCLUSION:

1. People Depart (2 Tim 4:3–5).

- a. Far too often, when people depart, elderships, preachers, and congregations, start looking for other ways to bring them in, instead of God's Word.
- b. Illustration: I recently met an elder with a welding business.
 - i. One of his suppliers is a member at a large congregation in the Nashville area that recently added a contemporary service using mechanical instruments of music in worship.
 - ii. When this elder asked his supplier about such, the response was: "We want to get the people in, and then teach them the truth."

2. Paradise Awaits (2 Tim 4:6–8).