

Bible Preaching

Jesus told the apostles to "*go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation*" (Mk 16:15). The early Christians "*went everywhere preaching the word*" (Acts 8:4).

What does Bible preaching involve?

- Bible Preaching Involves Declaring Exactly What the New Testament Teaches. Paul said, "*For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread*" (1 Cor. 11:23). Preachers do not have the right or the authority to change God's message. Preaching is not authoring the message, it is delivering the message. God is the author. Preachers are to declare what God said. Bible preaching is declaring exactly what God said. To the Galatians Paul warned, "*if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed*" (Gal. 1:9). The Philippians were told, "*The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.*" (Phil. 4:9).
- Bible Preaching Is Telling The Complete Message. Paul stated, "*For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God*" (Acts 20:27). Many men are good public speakers. Many can preach good sermons on some subjects. But Paul did not shy away from preaching the complete story. When Philip preached Christ to the Samaritans, his sermon involved telling them about the "kingdom" and "baptism" (Acts 8:5, 12). Preaching the Complete Message involves "reproving, rebuking and exhorting" (2 Tim. 4:2). It means teaching what God says about sensitive subjects like water baptism, divorce, discipline, and modesty. Failing to tell the complete message does not help people. Failing to tell the complete message is misleading and a sign of cowardice. One who does not tell the complete message fears man more than God. Bible preaching is telling the complete message of the New Testament.

- Bible Preaching Is Persuading People. The apostle Paul claimed, "Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men" (2 Cor. 5:11). *Persuading* means *convincing*. Preaching is about convincing people that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Preaching is about convincing people to deny themselves and follow Christ. Preaching is about persuading people to change their attitudes and their behavior. Preaching is convincing people to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins. Preaching is teaching, warning, and convincing.

As a person studies preaching in the N.T. there are some things we note:

- The apostle never used food, games or social activities to draw a crowd so they could preach to them.
- Although schools existed in the first century, and the apostle Paul even taught in one for 2 years (Acts 19:9-10), no Bible examples can be found of any churches supporting schools financially.
- The apostle Paul illustrated many of his lessons with analogies from sporting events (1 Cor 9:24-25). No Bible examples can be found of any churches sponsoring or holding sporting events.

If social events, food, games and schools were not a part of the early church, and we do not find any examples in the Bible of churches being involved with these things, then why are some churches doing them today? And, who gave them the right to do it? Bible Preaching is persuading people using the Gospel of Christ and not food and social activities.

- Bible Preaching Is Reminding. Peter understood the importance of reminding. He wrote, "Therefore, I shall always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you" (2 Pet. 1:12). Bible preaching is not telling something new, it is telling the "old, old story" of Christ and His message. God's message needs to be told over and over again.

- Bible Preaching Involves Being A Living Example. Timothy was told to be an example, "*Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe*" (1 Tim 4:12). The message one preaches is weakened if the messenger does not live it himself.

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