

**\*\*READ THE TEXT\*\***

**INTRO-**

*Introductory Illustration*

- **Why are we SO committed to biblical preaching?** Why do we preach & teach the Bible so much around here?
- The most urgent need of the church today (as in any season) is the *Faithful, Fearless, Powerful & Expository Preaching of the Word of God!*
  - It’s the MILK that grows a newborn believer. It’s the MEAT that matures growing saints. But nevertheless, we GROW in harmony with the Word (*It’s impossible to grow spiritually if you DON’T place yourself weekly & regularly under the Word!*)
- **WHY** do we preach the Word?
  1. to obey the biblical mandate
  2. to save the unregenerate souls
  3. to feed the hungry saints
  4. to model the accurate hermeneutic
  5. to hear from Almighty God
  6. to glorify the Living God
- We read the Word. We explain the Word. We apply the Word.
- Consider the following examples of **preaching/speaking God’s Truth**.
  - Jer 23:28 - whoever has My Word, let him **SPEAK MY WORD IN TRUTH**.
  - 1 Kings 22.14 — Micaiah said: “As the Lord lives, what the LORD says to me, THAT I shall **speak**.”
  - Jer 2.2; 3:12; 4.5; 4.16; 5.20; 7.2 - **GO AND PROCLAIM** >>> this is what God says.
  - Luke 4.18 - the Spirit of God is upon him to **PROCLAIM** release to the captives.
  - Acts 9.20 - he began to **proclaim** in the synagogues: He is the Son of God
  - Col 1.28 - we **proclaim** CHRIST, admonishing every man...
  - Col 1.25 - Paul wanted to fully carry out the **preaching** of the Word of God.
- And why we do what we do >> Rom 16.25 - Now to him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ...

*Background to Titus 2*

- With so much error, false teaching & false teachers all around us, we must **“prescribe & teach biblical Truth”** (1 Tim 4.11). We must preach Christ and Him crucified (1 Cor 1.23)

**THESIS — In Titus 2.1, Paul gives a serious charge to Titus regarding the importance of speaking the Truth. And for us, As I preach it, I want to give us 3 reasons WHY we’re so committed to biblical preaching.**

(1) the URGENCY of it; (2) the UNDERSTANDING of it; (3) the USEFULNESS of it

## I. BECAUSE OF THE URGENCY OF BIBLICAL PREACHING (2:1a)

A. This is the *passion/prescription*.

B. We live in a historical moment where the faithful proclamation of God's Truth is urgently needed.

✓Many turn to entertainments; but we cling to the Revelation of God.

✓Many teach errors; but we hold to the Truth.

✓Many tickle the ears; but we teach the Word.

✓Many focus on men; but we must focus on God.

1. But whatever else another may have or not have; whatever other teachers may be around you in the area, *as for YOU* - hear this! Speak God's Word.

C. **But as for you...**

1. LET NOT THE PRESENCE of false teachers cause you to give up or give away your post of being a spokesman for the Truth. ... If there is ONE Micaiah, or ONE Titus, or ONE Elijah — we must give ourselves to sound doctrine, even if there are 400 false prophets of Baal all around us.

2. The urgent call of preaching is specific, timeless, individualistic, clear, repeated & needful.

3. Paul's Words are true; I am under compulsion: for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel (1 Cor 9.16). **It's urgent because of the message: eternity!**

**Heaven/hell! Savior for sinners! The brevity of life! Doing good to men's souls!**

D. Nothing is more urgent than a Word from God faithfully preached from His spoken Word. It's urgent; It's dire; It's needed; It's profound; It's relevant. It divides the faithful from the faithless. It divides the sheep from the goats. It divides the worshipers from the entertainers. With our own hearts, our own temptations & the world around us, we must *preach* the truth constantly!

1. G Campbell Morgan wrote: "The supreme work of the Christian minister is the work of preaching. This is the day in which one of our great perils is that of doing a thousand little things to the neglect of the ONE THING, which is preaching!"

## II. BECAUSE OF THE UNDERSTANDING OF BIBLICAL PREACHING (2:1b)

A. This is the *precision*. Hard workers understand what it is to be precise. You want scientists to be precise. You want architects & builders to be precise. You want accountants to be precise. *So it is with Preachers: we must be precise in Heralding God's Truth.*

1. Expository preaching is a very **exacting discipline**. One author put it: We must preach *expositionally*. By *expositionally*, I mean preaching in such a way that the meaning of the Bible passage is presented *entirely* and *exactly* as it was intended by God. Expository preaching is the proclamation of the truth of God as mediated through the preacher.

2. The duty of every faithful pastor/minister is to understand what preaching is and carry out his duty faithfully till the work is finished. Preach! Proclaim! Tell! Speak!

a) Give attention to the public reading, to exhortation/teaching (1 Tim 4.13).

❖ A faithful local church that glorifies Christ is NOT one that just has a bit of preaching (or, once had preaching); but one that is grounded upon the centrality of the expository preaching of the Bible. We must have preaching or we are nothing.

**B.** Paul says to “**speak**” -- to Speak is certainly referring to conversation, communication, relationships, discipleship. **BUT here** it has special reference to “Preaching” (b/c of 1:9 and 2.15 context). Cf. 1 Tim 6.2.

1. Titus 2.15 - speak forth -- exhort and reprove with ALL authority
2. Acts 4.17 - the Jews told us to SPEAK no longer in his name
3. Acts 4.29 - grant that we may speak your word with ALL confidence
4. Acts 5.20 - Go stand in the temple and speak to the people ALL the words of this message of life
5. Acts 18.26 - he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue
6. 1 Cor 2.6 - we do speak wisdom among those who are mature.
7. 1 Thess 2.2 - we had the boldness to speak to you the gospel amidst much affliction

a) Here in Titus 2.1: “SPEAK” is meant formally of Christian proclamation (=preaching), instruction and teaching.

❖ **Preaching and speaking divine truth** is not only *explicating the meaning* of a text but the *application of the meaning* to the life of the hearer. The goal is to inform, persuade and call for an appropriate response to the Word! It calls for a **verdict!**

**C.** To speak the Truth (2.1; 2.15) is paramount because we must *speak forth* the oracles of God (1 Pet 4.10), and preach the Word (2 Tim 4.2), sowing the seed and trusting the Lord (Mark 4), and trusting God to give new birth by the Word of Truth (James 1.18).

1. We understand the worth of a soul. The danger of heresy; so we *Speak Truth!*

### **III. BECAUSE OF THE USEFULNESS OF BIBLICAL PREACHING (2:1c)**

**A.** This is the *protection*.

1. It is most advantageous; and needful; Nothing is more worthwhile and more profitable than to ***be under the sound teaching of the Word.***

2. In Bobby Jamieson’s book on *Sound Doctrine* he notes that sound doctrine is so crucial for LIFE (the life of the church), for reading & teaching the Bible, for holiness, for love, for unity, for worship, for witness. He writes: “**LIKE a good map, sound doctrine is eminently useful, so churches SHOULD use it well**” >> *It guards, guides & leads us!*

3. Doctrine **DOES** matter. Paul said: We preached and so you believed (1 Cor 15.11).

This grace of preaching is given to declare the unfathomable riches of Christ (Eph 3.8)

❖ We must preach what will be of *eternal USEFULNESS to men’s souls* -- the Gospel of Christ. **God’s work in sending His Son to die for us.** Christ’s work in coming, dying, being buried, rising up and interceding in glory! The work of Christ!

**B. Sound Doctrine**

1. Doctrine is important! What does Sound doctrine do??

a) It confronts sin! It unveils false doctrine. It sanctifies in holiness. It provides examples to follow. It qualifies church leaders. It equips pastors. It glorifies God!

2. Doctrine must be TRUE

3. Doctrine must be BIBLICAL

4. Doctrine must be BELIEVED

5. Doctrine must be PROTECTED

6. Doctrine must be DISSEMINATED - ***it’s essential!***

**C.** This biblical preaching expounds on the Word. This biblical preaching magnifies Jesus Christ; This biblical preaching edifies Spirit-indwelt souls. This biblical preaching saves wayward sinners. This biblical preaching allows Christ to speak to His church. This biblical preaching guards from false teachings within. This biblical preaching protects from false teachers without. This biblical preaching instills zeal and courage in our hearts.

1. We must FEED the flock of God (John 21) & preach the Word IN season and OUT of season.
2. May we long for the food of the Word & may it nourish our souls (1 Pet 2.1-2).

## CONCL-

### *Concluding Illustration*

- Mark Steege provided, years ago, a clarion call to Expository Preaching when he wrote:
  - Through our preaching the Lord seeks to change men's lives. We are to be evangelists, to awaken men to their high calling in Christ. We are to be heralds, proclaiming the messages of God to men. We are to be ambassadors, calling men to be reconciled to God. We are to be shepherds, nourishing and caring for men day by day. We are to be stewards of the mysteries of God, giving men the proper Word for their every need. We are to be witnesses, telling men of all that God has done for them. We are to be overseers, urging men to live their lives to God. We are to be ministers, preparing men to minister with us to others. AS we reflect on all these phases of our work, what emphasis each gives to the importance of preaching! What a task the LORD has given to us!
  - Together, let us be committed to ***Sound Doctrine*** for the good of our souls, for the health of SLCCC, and for the glory of Jesus Christ!