

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

**INTRO-**

*Introductory Illustration*

- The preaching of the Bible is of ultimate importance for the **lost** person.
- The preaching of the Bible is of ultimate importance for the **saved** person.
- I firmly believe the greatest thing that could happen in our world is the elevation, the prioritization & frequency & preaching of God's Word. We don't need *less* preaching; we need *more* preaching -- the right \*kind\* of preaching -- *biblical, Christ-extolling, Spirit-empowered, prayer driven, passionate, theological & faithful preaching*.
  - it's easier & more popular to SHARE than to DECLARE.
  - it's easier & more popular to ENTERTAIN with a pep talk than to EXHORT with divine Truth.
  - it's easier & more popular to feel good message for the crowds than a fervent message from heaven's King.
  - It's more popular to itch ears than it is to preach the Word.
- But we take our marching orders from GOD, from HIS WORD, from Christ's example & from the timeless Truth revealed in Scripture.
- 'PREACH THE WORD'
- Anthony Burgess stressed that ministers **MUST** preach the Word of God only ... for 3 main reasons:
  - 1. for GOD's sake** — because it is HIS word that we are preaching and his honor is at stake.
  - 2. for MAN's sake** — because if the Word is not preached, it loses all its power and nourishment for men; the lost will be damned & the saved will not grow/malnourished.
  - 3. for the MINISTER'S sake** — because the preacher is given a ministry; not an option; he is a servant and herald and messenger of the King. He must preach!
- v.8 is a treasure chest of truth on preaching:

*Background to Titus 3.8*

- Titus 3.1-8
  - (1)The mandate (v.1-2)
  - (2)The motivation (v.3-7)
  - (3)The minister (v.8)
- **v.8** -- This is almost like a "key" verse in the letter. Why does Paul write what he writes & command what he commands? What's the goal, purpose, intention, end, desire? >> what does Paul want Titus to do in the CHURCH?

**THESIS — From this very important verse, we'll understand the CENTRALITY & AUTHORITY of this gospel message. There are 3 specific applications for ME and, by application, for all of us.**

1. The *Faithful* **REVELATION** of the Word
2. The *Fearless* **PROCLAMATION** of the Word
3. The *Fervent* **APPLICATION** of the Word

## **I. THE FAITHFUL REVELATION OF THE WORD**

- A. One of the greatest statements of scripture's self-authentication -- it is faithful & reliable.
- B. All your commandments are faithful (Ps 119.86); the judgments of the Lord are true (Ps 19.9). Rev 22.6 - these words are faithful & true.
- C. the faithful saying [πιστὸς ὁ λόγος] amazingly: this was a sort of "formula" that Paul employed that brings heightened emphasis. It's a neon sign that points to something great! It occurs 5x - *all in gospel-laden* portions. **1 Tim 1.15; 1 Tim 4.9; 2 Tim 2.11; Titus 3.8 & 1 Tim 3.1!!**
- D. Let us know God's Word is the faithful revelation of God...
  1. **it is comprehensively true**
  2. **it is divinely authoritative**
  3. **it is internally transformative**
  4. **it is fully sufficient**
  5. **it is delightfully satisfying**
- E. JB Phillips translates it: "This is solid truth!" All ministers must teach the Word & be tethered to the Word & trust wholly in the Word. When people do not preach weekly, thru God's Word - they show they distrust the Word & stand in judgment over it & think their word is better than God's. Why we open the Bible - why you need to bring your Bible to church, open it, read it, examine it, test what you hear me say with God's Word.
- F. If God's Word & God's Gospel is Faithful, THEN>>>
  1. Know it
  2. Trust it
  3. Proclaim it
  4. Stand on it

## **II. THE FEARLESS PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

- A. Lots of people get in front of big crowds and talk. But what Does Paul charge? Lots of voices swirl around us -- ads, teachers, authors, social media -- but the **primary purpose** of the pastor is to proclaim the Word & gospel truth clearly & emphatically & fearlessly.
  1. The language is of a royal edict - an official order by a person in authority. When a ruler issued an edict, all the subjects had to listen, take action & fulfill the duty.
- B. The **content** of preaching (these things, Scripture)
  1. Concerning these things (v.4-7- gospel truth; the faithful word). 2 Tim 4.2 - preach the Word. We must proclaim the gospel (1 Cor 9.14). We proclaim the Word of the cross (1 Cor 1.18); Jesus Christ & him crucified (1 Cor 1-2).
  2. **To proclaim God's grace, His mercy, His regeneration, His justification, His adoption, His assurance & life! This is our message, our hope, our plea! Have you believed yet??**

- C. the **charge** of preaching (want you...) — βούλομαι  
 1. I want you... = to prescribe, to determine, to deliberate, to strongly desire. Preaching is not optional or debatable or cultural or bound by time or culture. Whether people want it or not, or like it or not, or receive it or not, or listen or not, or mock it or not - **preach! 2 Tim 4.1 - I solemnly charge you...** can't be timid, or a coward, or a man-pleaser, or greedy for popularity - **this is the Charge.**
- D. the **centrality** of preaching (to speak confidently) — διαβεβαιωθῆναι (to affirm strongly)  
 - Speak confidently (NASB): "Stress these things" (NIV) "Insist on these teachings" (NLT) "Insist strenuously" (Darby)  
 1. What do you do? Preach the Word confidently - confirm thoroughly, affirm constantly and confidently or to assert strongly and firmly. "to speak confidently, to insist. to confirm something surely"
- E. **This is EXPOSITORY PREACHING ... fearless proclamation must be..**  
 1. Tethered to Scripture; 2. Precise in theology; 3. empowered by the Spirit; 4. extolling the gospel; 5. passionate in delivery; 6. permeated with prayer; 7. faithful to God
- F. So you pray for us -- pray Saturday night; Pray Sunday morning. Pray during the service. Pray as we prepare thru the week; pray for the lost, for the families, for our hearts. **Expect this faithful preaching; pray for it; love it; thank God for it.**

### III. THE FERVENT APPLICATION OF THE WORD

- A. All preaching is to inform the mind but also it must influence the will. **So what?**
- B. the purpose (preaching ALWAYS has a purpose) — ἵνα —> so that!
- C. the people (the believers/the saved, those who hear) - οἱ πεπιστευκότες θεῶν.
- D. the practice (careful to engage in good works) — φροντίζωσιν - to be thoughtful, careful, deliberate, conscientious. **The idea: to be very careful; to give sustained thought to...** Interesting: it's like a soldier who sets himself at the front of battle and manfully marches before the rest & encourages the others to valiantly & courageously follow & take action. **This is what we do! Theology > doxology // preach > practice // Declare > duty! Must hear the word AND \*do\* the Word (James 1); I "run" the way of your commandments (Ps 119.32).**  
 1. καλῶν ἔργων- good deeds - Titus 1.16; Titus 2:7; 2:14; 3:1; 8; 14.  
 2. **In Titus, It's the frame that holds the house together; the gospel produces good deeds!**  
 3. But no one should suggest they can do good works unless they have the fruits of saving faith. If one has no saving faith, then he cannot live good deeds. **Salvation is the root; sanctification is the fruit.** All a nonbeliever's good deeds are like jewels on a corpse (worthless/no profit). **You come to Christ; be saved by grace & then God's transformation will \*RESULT\* in your vigilant passion to live in good deeds! Do you?**
- E. If a believer: then you're in good soil, you cannot but bear good fruit; you are to be diligent over your life, your time, your actions.; you must watch opportunities to do good; you should
- F. WHY? SO THAT we may present every man complete in Christ (Col 1.28)
- G. WHY? Proclaim the gospel so that you may have fellowship with God & with one another ( 1 John 1.3)

**H. WHY?** Bear much fruit & prove to be his disciples (John 15.8); we are to “bear fruit for God” (Rom 7.4). Bear fruit to maturity, busily, deliberately, daily & thoughtfully engage in good deeds! **The preaching is to change you! Every sermon is to change you! You don’t meet w/ the living God & leave unchanged? So how can you apply this?**

1. The context is to busy yourself with good deeds. Listen & live! Hear & heed. Come & hear and then Conduct in holiness!

**So then, Christian:**

- ✓Pray for your preacher to accurately interpret the meaning of the text.
- ✓Pray for your preacher to speak confidently, boldly & biblically.
- ✓Understand your responsibility to prepare, hear & respond RIGHTLY to God’s proclaimed Word.
- ✓Understand your duty to HEAR with a purpose: to carefully engage in good deeds.
- ✓As you hear the Word, you should ask how can I apply this?

Questions to Ask Yourself:

1. What am I learning about God?
2. How does this text show me my great sin & God’s great solution?
3. How does this text point me to Christ?
4. How should my attitudes change in light of this sermon?
5. How should my conduct/actions change in light of this sermon?
6. What sins are exposed that I need to confess in light of this sermon?
7. What is ONE specific way I can \*implement\* this sermon starting TODAY?

- A great problem among Christians is they come to church, they plan to hear from God but don’t expect to really change.
- Another great problem is when Christians sit under the Bible read and expounded & preached & tolerate low thoughts of God, sit in judgment over God, don’t take God’s Word and apply it; don’t repent of sin when it’s preached & sin is exposed & don’t discuss it afterward with God’s people.

**CONCL-**

*Concluding Illustration*

- Church family: this is your pastor’s charge. Pray for him. Help him. Support him. encourage him. and may you be diligent to HEAR the Word & careful to ENGAGE IN GOOD DEEDS. — To God be the glory!