

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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October 13, 2019

### **“The Kind Of Preaching God Wants” #1**

By Brian Meade

*“I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:1-5)*



Just like what the apostle Paul said to young Timothy— it is up to men of today to take the God-given charge to “preach the word.” It is of paramount importance that we preach the kind of preaching that God wants and expects to be faithful to this charge (verse 1).

He tells Timothy to “be ready in and out of season” (verse 2). This gives us notice to how it must be done—the same word no matter how well received or how poorly received must always be preached!

Also in verse 2, he gives us the characteristics of “sound doctrine.” Preaching that will “reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction” is needed at all times. Sinful ways must be shown as false and rebuked in the pulpit, as well as exhortations and encouragement to do the right!

Paul even gives prophecy for the future “time will come” when men will change the message to suit “their own desires” and “tickle ears” (verse 3).

Having laid the groundwork that there is a right and wrong way to preach the gospel, let us look at the kind of preaching that God wants:

#### **I. God Wants Bible-Based Preaching.**

What is that kind of preaching? It is kind that is taken from the very text of the Bible and teaches what God says to us! It is often what we call “Book, chapter, & verse” preaching. It is kind that is based on God’s word as its source and is solely rooted in Scripture with a “Thus saith the Lord” to back up what is preached.

Peter put it this way, “Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God.” (1 Peter 4:11) When someone stands before others to preach, he is simply not allowed to use *Reader’s Digest* or *Popular Mechanics Magazine* as the text of his sermon. We would know that it would not be Bible-based to do so.

Paul told Timothy to “Preach the word....” not opinions, not *just* how we feel about a Bible topic, not what the creed books of men say, not just being dogmatic and state something to be true without proof from God’s word, and not just preaching entertaining stories and cute anecdotes that replace Scripture!

Let me qualify that by saying there is a place for stories, humor, and quotes to add to the lesson— but it is the overuse and total reliance on such that can really leave Bible-based preaching behind. I have a few lessons in my sermon library

where there's a joke said by the preacher just every few minutes to keep the listeners laughing. One such joke starts out with, "How many elders does it take to screw in a light bulb?" I kid you not!

Preachers need to focus on "what does the word say?" Let the word of God dominate our preaching and teaching! To do otherwise is to preach to please the people, and Not God (Galatians 1:10); and in doing that, we leave sound doctrine behind to become the very ones Paul warns Timothy about in verses three and four. May we be what God wants in our preaching and "Preach the word..."

## II. God Wants Preaching That Is Clear & To The Point..

The Old Testament story of Jonah illustrates this very well. After Jonah tries to flee from his mission of preaching to the Ninevites (Jonah 1:3), he repents and goes back— "*Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you."*" (Jonah 3:1-2)

Jonah's message was very clear and easily understood, "*Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.*" (Jonah 3:4) The Ninevites had no problem wondering what Jonah was trying to say to them. No one had to sit and only wonder what the message might mean to them— they repented! (Jonah 3:5-9) If that was the way preaching was done then, why not now?

In Matthew 3:1-10, John the baptizer came preaching as, "*The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!'*" (Matthew 3:3) John's message was a clear and to the point message as well, "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*" (vs. 2)

He made it even plainer as the text tells us, "*But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? "Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;"*" (vs. 7-8)

Many today are not so plain spoken in the preaching of God's word. There is a lot of preaching that is so ambiguous, that you really can't tell if the preaching is for or against the subject at hand. There are lot of preaching that "beats around the bush" on a subject— when a simple & clear answer is needed.

When preaching is done on crucial subjects such as the purpose of baptism, the New Testament church, what sin is and how to avoid it— such preaching needs to be so plain that we cannot be misunderstood! Salvation is just too important for us to give people mixed signals about what we believe and where we stand.

## III. God Wants Bold & Courageous Preaching.

Paul told the Ephesians, "*and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*" (Ephesians 6:19-20)

According to the inspired writer, the apostle Paul, preaching needs to be bold as it ought to be. In other words, preaching that is bold is just as it should be done to convict and convert the lost to Jesus.

Paul told Timothy, "*For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.*" (2 Timothy 1:7) Timidity is defined in the Greek as: "*deilia*" "fearfulness" (from *deos*, "fright"), is rightly rendered "fearfulness" in 2 Tim. 1:7, rv (for kjv, "fear"). That spirit is not given us of God. The word denotes "cowardice and timidity" and is never used in a good sense." (Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words Vol. 2, p. 230)

However, boldness should not be mistaken for rudeness, as it sometimes is perceived by the enemies of truth. It is simply saying what needs to be said to help others see the truth clearly. Boldness is also not arrogance or unloving.

Paul is saying in Ephesians 6:19-20, as well as in 2 Timothy 4:1-5, that the gospel must be preached when men want it and when they don't. It takes real courage to preach boldly when there are disagreements and adversaries to gospel truth.

The early disciples and apostles had to deal with the Sadducees persecution, all because they were "*being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.*" (Acts 4:2) The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection from the dead (Mark 12:18) and did not want anyone preaching the resurrection of Jesus!

But the disciples were the very witnesses of the resurrection and could not stop preaching— even though they were arrested (Acts 4:3), commanded "*not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus*" (Acts 4:18), and even threatened (Acts 4:21) for doing so! They even prayed for boldness to keep preaching in such opposition to the message of Christ (Acts 4:23-30). God answered their prayer in verse 31, "*And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.*"

Even today, it is this same kind of fear of persecution and what men may do as they reject truth (Matthew 10:28) that brings about the need to be bold and courageous in standing for truth and right.

As we have many adversaries of truth today, let us be bold to speak the truth!

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Harris, Hazel Corner, Clay Ford, Clois Wright, and Dan & Linda Hunt. Martha Cottrell (Dan's Mom)

North Jackson Street Church of Christ is having a Gospel Meeting beginning October 21 thru the 25th with John Isaac Edwards. Monday-Friday 7:00 PM Nightly.

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Sam Johnson  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** "Noah's Salvation & Our's"

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:** Fred Johnson  
The Book of Romans (Kyle Pope)  
*Page 7 Question #1*

**Announcements:** Paul Busby  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Nathan Meade  
*James 4:7-8*  
**Song Leader:** Lee Busby  
**Lord's Supper:** Paul Johnson  
**Assisting:** Adam Harris & Dan Cottrell  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** "Drawing Near To God"  
**Closing Prayer:** Jerry Kennemur

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**October 16th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Busby  
The Book of Job (Mike Willis)  
*Page 56, Question #7*  
**Invitation:** Paul Johnson  
**Song Leader:** Adam Harris  
**Closing Prayer:** Tim Harris Jr.