

“Preaching-the Way It Used to Be”

2 Tim. 4:1-4

Introduction

- I. We live in a time when Gospel preaching is no longer appreciated or encouraged by many.
- II. Due to the efforts of some, “preaching” has under gone a dramatic change from what it used to be.
- III. Let us examine the first Gospel sermon preached after Jesus' ascension, and let it show us what real preaching should be (Acts 2:14-47).

Discussion

- I. Gospel preaching will discuss and explain Scriptures.
 - A. Peter used and applied Old Testament Scriptures accurately (Acts 2:16-21, 25-36).
 - B. Nehemiah explained how Scriptures should be used in sermons (Neh. 8:8).
 - C. There are other examples of preachers using Scriptures (Stephen/Acts 7; Philip/Acts 8).
 - D. Gospel preaching is to be Scripture filled (1 Pet 4:11).
- II. Gospel preaching will exalt Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.
 - A. Peter effectively preached in a way to verify who Jesus is (Acts 2:22-36).
 - B. We must not be swayed into believing that there are many ways to God (John 14:6).
 - C. Gospel preaching is to be centered on Jesus and His Word (Acts 4:12; 1 Cor. 2:1-2).
- III. Gospel preaching will prick the hearts of sinners.
 - A. Peter did not preach in such a way as to entertain or pacify (Acts 2:37).
 - B. The response to Peter's preaching was heart felt, but not based solely on emotion (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:1; John 20:30-31).
 - C. Each person is responsible for his own actions (Acts 2:40-41; Phil. 2:12; Gal. 6:4, 15).
 - D. Gospel preaching is to produce godly sorrow that produces repentance (2 Cor. 7:10; Acts 2:38).
- IV. Gospel preaching will instruct in pardon and forgiveness.
 - A. Christ has sent us to instruct in the way of righteousness (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-49).
 - B. Gospel preaching will show teach sinners how to go from lost in the world to saved in the church (Acts 2:38, 40-41, 47).
- V. Gospel preaching will encourage unity.
 - A. Peter did not preach different Gospels for different men (Acts 2:42; cf. Paul 1 Cor. 4:17).
 - B. Gospel preaching will show God's disdain for division (1 Cor. 1:10-12; Psm. 133:1; Prov. 6:19).
- VI. Gospel preaching will lead to true joy.
 - A. Early Christians were joyful and glad (Acts 2:46-47).
 - B. Gospel preaching will instruct in how to how unspeakable joy (1 Pet. 1:8).

Conclusion: We need more Gospel preaching the way it used to be, and less of so-called “preaching” that is popular today.