

# FAITH CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

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Vol. 27 No 8

“From the Pastor’s Desk”

August 2019

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## WHY THE GOSPEL MUST BE PREACHED TO THIS GENERATION

***“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” 2 Tim. 4:2***

*For the past few weeks I have been speaking in our Sunday Morning Service on “Why the Word of God must be preached.” Because of what I feel has been one of the most important messages that I have ever given I feel I must use this newsletter to deal with this most important theme this month. It is not for lack of sermon material that I write this, but rather due to my concern of the present hour and the urgency to which I feel this must be re-emphasized as to why this subject is being addressed in this month’s newsletter. (Editor’s Note)*

***“Preach the Word,”*** the Apostle Paul writes, (Why?) The reason: *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;”* In other words Paul foretold by prophecy of a time when people both in the church and out of the church will not ***“endure”*** (note the word endure) sound doctrine. But rather they will want something more exciting, exhilarating, and entertaining to hear each Lord’s Day.

**For the Apostle Paul the preaching of the Word of God was the biggest priority of his and Timothy’s ministry.** Therefore Paul solemnly charges Timothy with his preaching to keep in view of the certainty of the coming of the Redeemer, and God’s judgment on mankind; therefore he was commissioned to be faithful to his calling to preach the Word.

***Timothy was to do it willingly, even if it wasn’t the popular thing to do.*** He was to correct people who were guilty of error in doctrine as well as to point out their sins. But he was also to use the Word to provide the people with exhortation and encouragement in order that they may be lifted up in the faith. And Timothy was also charged in his instruction of the Word to always be patient with the people in their development stage of the Christian life.

There are several admonitions in God’s Holy Word to “preach” God’s Word....I know of at least 38 passages. Please note the word ***“preach”*** in each of these passages; here are some: Psalm 40:9; Isaiah 61:1-3, Jonah 3:2, Acts 13:5, Acts 20:7,18-21, Colossians 1:28,29.

We have been giving a warning in the Gospel of Luke by Christ Himself in regards to the Word of God. *“Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.”* (Luke 8:18) Apparently it had become evident that these persons had something which could be taken away from them. The reason for such a statement was because: The Word had been planted in their hearts. It had already produced some good effects in them. But if they are not careful, could allow the devil to steal which had been planted in their hearts and thus would produce some “evil effects” thus permitting the devil to use the cares of the world, the desire of riches, and the love of pleasure, to destroy what the Word of God had produced in them.

When we hear the Word being preached – there is always that constant temptation to allow other things to take its place. For example: Some people prefer religious music over the preaching of the Word. Some people prefer scientific talk to preaching the Word. Some people prefer hearing people’s life story to preaching of the Word. Some people prefer lectures, essays, speeches, with little or no emphasis on the Word....more for entertainment or less exhortation and warnings.

This is the reason for Paul’s simple exhortation to Timothy in regards for the necessity that he ***“preaches the Word.”*** If there is one reality about the preaching of the Word it is this reality; that there is nothing, and I emphasize, the word ***“nothing,”*** which can take the place of the preaching of God’s Word. Note how Paul urged Timothy about preaching: ***“I solemnly charge you”*** and then he added: ***“In the (very) presence of God”*** ***“and of Christ Jesus”*** (both the Father and His Son have a great concern in this).

**The stakes are high!** "...who is to judge the living and the dead." Because it is not just about what happens to this congregation in their earthly state, but much more in regards to their eternal heavenly state; **"by His appearing and His Kingdom."** Preaching has much to do with what happens at the appearance of Christ in glory. Some people would prefer to hear about global warming/evolution/world peace than to hear preaching.

## **WHY IS PREACHING THE WORD SO IMPORTANT**

**Preaching the Word is a matter is vital and important to life itself.** Man's eternal destiny is at stake as to how he responds to the message. **Secondly, because the hearts of men and women yearn for the truth which comes only through the preaching of God's Word.** Our hearts are calling for the Word....but some people don't even know what their hearts are yearning for. **Thirdly, because the church begins to die without true preaching.** Preaching is the only thing that gives "life" to the "word" which is being planted. Think how many times your heart has been warmed to the word when you heard true preaching. **Fourthly, because true Bible preaching exposes the heresies and false doctrines.**

Martin Luther explained it this way: *"Because heresies threatened the living apostolic message, it had to be recorded in a book to protect it from falsification. Preaching reverses this process of conservation again, allowing the Scriptures of the past to become tidings of the present....The Gospel has been committed to lifeless paper; fresh words can transform it into glad tidings again."*

**What is happening in the modern day pulpit these days is this drive to make people "happy" not necessarily "holy."** If we make happiness our goal in place of holiness I am afraid we are going to end up on the trash heap of which other nations, and past generations have found themselves. There is a reason God has called for us to be holy. The reason is because a person is never going to be completely happy until he is holy. That is why the chief reason for preaching should be to make men and women "holy." For it is not *"without happiness"* that man shall not see God....but rather it is without *"holiness"* no man shall see the Lord. (Heb. 12:14)

## **TRUE PREACHING**

**True Preaching most often threatens the comfort zone in our lives.** It has a way of awakening the soul being disturbed over what we have allowed or tolerated those things which are offensive to God. **True Preaching challenges us to change and to do things differently.** While in previous times we felt we couldn't because it seemed too difficult. **True Preaching spells out for us a better understanding of true discipleship** and leaves up to us the decision to decide which course we will follow. **True Preaching will make you confront your relationship with God as to whether it is genuine or not.**

**Therefore this leaves us with some questions which we need to ask ourselves:** First, do we believe the message we are hearing has been sent from God? Do we believe the message is sent to us (personally) from God? Do we believe the message is one in which we will be held accountable? Do we accept the message to the point that we will act upon it, since we are convinced it is sent from God?

In 2 Chron. 25:1-28 we see a common trait that I feel is found among many which is described in this one chapter alone in which we are able to capture a man's entire attitude, in how one can and often times does respond to a message from the Lord. The King's name is Amaziah. We do not know the name of his pastor, but we know something about him in this...The Scripture called him **"a man of God."** (2 Chron. 25:7). Now Amaziah was not necessarily an evil man, because the Word said, **"He did right in the sight of the Lord,"** but then there is added an additional comment **"yet not with a whole heart."**

I hope my readers will read this short chapter. *Because after hearing the man of God in one instance the king complied, but later when it was most essential for him to hear from God there was a complete rejection.* Please note how the king responded to the man of God in the second instance and how his "pastor responded back to him (vs 7): **"And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the king's counsel?"** In other words: **"Did I ask your opinion? Shut up or get thrown out."** I am afraid this is what is happening in many church circles today....people consider what the preacher is saying is *"his opinion....not God's."* May this never be said by any of my readers I plead with you....for we will answer to God for our response to true biblical preaching. Amen