

# Reminders of Our Purpose

## Pt. 2

### Selected Scriptures

We would like to take a moment to tell you what Covenant Baptist considers to be priorities for this ministry. It really can be summed by three commitments.

First, *we are committed to the Exaltation of God*. We desire that the people at Covenant truly understand who God is and His rightful place in their lives. He is our Lord and our Sovereign God to whom we owe worship and obedience. We proclaim God as Sovereign and Savior. He rules and reigns in the affairs of men and He alone is able to save us from our sinful condition.

Second, *we are committed to the Edification of the Saints*. We consider it extremely important to correctly teach the Bible. This is why we are considered expository in our preaching and teaching. We want to teach verse by verse and explain what the Bible means so we can properly have the Holy Spirit apply it to our lives. The Pulpit ministry is a priority in this ministry. We are not concerned with programs or entertainment, but all our ministries are focused on Edification through Biblical Teaching. We believe and accept “The 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith” as our basis for all teaching and ministry.

Third, *we are committed to Evangelization of the Sinner*. We understand that God has given us the responsibility to be stewards of the Gospel and that means sharing it exactly like God gave it to us with those who need Jesus. We desire thru local ministry and missions that the Gospel be proclaimed so many will come to know Him as Savior and Lord.

# Introduction

It was early in the morning of July 4th, 1952, with fog hanging thick in the air, when a young woman named Florence Chadwick, waded into the cold water off Catalina Island. She intended to become the first woman to swim those waters between the island and the California coast. Long distance swimming was not new to Florence. She had already become the first woman to swim the English channel – in both directions.

The water that morning was numbing cold. She would swim for some fifteen hours. Her coach was alongside in one of the team boats, constantly encouraging and directing her. The problem was, due to the thick fog, she could see only one or two feet ahead. Several times he had to be re-directed because she was swimming in the wrong direction. On several occasions as well, the sharks had to be kept away by rifle fire. After swimming for fifteen

hours, Florence asked to be taken out of the water. She had given up.

Later, Florence was interviewed. She said, “It wasn’t the fact that I was cold, or that I was afraid of the sharks, or that I was exhausted, the problem was that I couldn’t see my goal. It was clouded by the fog.”

Would you believe that she had quit just thirty minutes from reaching the California coast?

I am convinced that the reason more and more Christians are asking to be taken out of the waters of spiritual discipline and service; that one of the primary reasons at least one church closes its doors every day is not because of exhaustion, not because of fear of the enemy, but because a fog has crept in that deprives them of spiritual sight and vision. It is a fog that hides from their perspective, the goal of ministry.

So, on this historic day, I want to look together into the clear sunlight of the word, so that we might, with 20/20 vision, penetrate through the fog and see the goal in front of us

This manuscript is from a sermon preached on 11/10/1996 by Stephen Davey.

Review

## **1 *We are committed to the Exaltation of God.***

First, *we are committed to the Exaltation of God.* We desire that the people at Covenant truly understand who God is and His rightful place in their lives. He is our Lord and our Sovereign God to whom we owe worship and obedience. We proclaim God as Sovereign and Savior. He rules and reigns in the affairs of men and He alone is able to save us from our sinful condition.

## **LESSON**

## **2. *We are committed to the Edification of the Saints***

Second, *we are committed to the Edification of the Saints*. We consider it extremely important to correctly teach the Bible. This is why we are considered expository in our preaching and teaching. We want to teach verse by verse and explain what the Bible means so we can properly have the Holy Spirit apply it to our lives. The Pulpit ministry is a priority in this ministry. We are not concerned with programs or entertainment, but all our ministries are focused on Edification through Biblical Teaching. We believe and accept “The 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith” as our basis for all teaching and ministry.

Commenting on the uniqueness of America in contemporary culture, Os Guinness noted with concern that “. . . in all my studies I have yet to see a Western society where the church pews are so full and the sermons so empty.”

**Effective ministry consists not of fads or gimmicks, but of faithfully preaching the truth.**

**Charles Spurgeon:** Ah, my dear friends, we want nothing in these times for revival in the world but the simple preaching of the gospel. This is the great battering ram that shall dash down the bulwarks of iniquity. This is the great light that shall scatter the darkness. We need not that men should be adopting new schemes and new plans. We are glad of the agencies and assistances which are continually arising; but after all, the true Jerusalem blade, the sword that can cut to the piercing asunder of the joints and marrow, is preaching the Word of God. We must never neglect it, never despise it. The age in which the pulpit it

despised, will be an age in which gospel truth will cease to be honored. . . . God forbid that we should begin to depreciate preaching. Let us still honor it; let us look to it as God's ordained instrumentality, and we shall yet see in the world a repetition of great wonders wrought by the preaching in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Preaching is a far more serious task than most preachers realize.**

**Richard Baxter:** And for myself, as I am ashamed of my dull and careless heart, and of my slow and unprofitable course of life, so, the Lord knows, I am ashamed of every sermon I preach; when I think what I have been speaking of, and who sent me, and that men's salvation or damnation is so much concerned in it, I am ready to tremble lest God should judge me as a slighter of His truths and the souls of men, and lest in the best sermon I should be guilty of their blood. We think we should not speak a word to men in matters of such consequence without tears, or the greatest earnestness that possibly we can; were not we too much guilty of the sin which we reprove, it would be so.

*Acts 2:42*

*Acts 20:28*

*Expository Preaching*

*Biblical preaching's authenticity is significantly tarnished by contemporary communicators' being more concerned with personal relevance than God's revelation. Scripture unmistakably requires a proclamation focused on God's will and mankind's obligation to obey. With men wholly committed to God's Word, the expository method commends itself as preaching that is true to the Bible. The method presupposes an exegetical process to extract the God-intended meaning of Scripture and an explanation of that meaning in a contemporary understandable way. The biblical essence and apostolic spirit of expository preaching needs to be recaptured in the training of men newly committed to "preaching the Word."*

*John MacArthur*

*G. Campbell Morgan (1863-1945) noted, The supreme work of the Christian minister is the work of preaching. This is a 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.*

*1 Tim 4:13 ` "Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching."*

*2 Tim 2:2 ` "And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."*

*2 Tim 4:2 ` "Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."*

*Tit 2:1 ` "But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine."*

*In summary, the following minimal elements identify expository preaching:*

*1. The message finds its sole source in Scripture.28*

2. *The message is extracted from Scripture through careful exegesis.*
3. *The message preparation correctly interprets Scripture in its normal sense and its context.*
4. *The message clearly explains the original God-intended meaning of Scripture.*
5. *The message applies the Scriptural meaning for today.*

*The spirit of expository preaching is exemplified in two biblical texts:*

*And they read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading (Neh 8:8).*

*Therefore I testify to you this day, that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God (Acts 20:26-27).*

*Ephesians 4:11*

*II Tim 4*

**Arthur W. Pink:** The great work of the pulpit is to press the authoritative claims of the Creator and Judge of all the earth—to show how short we have come of meeting God’s just requirements, to announce His imperative demand of repentance. . . . It requires a “workman” and not a lazy man—a student and not a slothful one—who studies to “show himself approved unto God” (2 Tim. 9:15) and not one who seeks the applause and the shekels of men.

### 3. *We are committed to Evangelization of the Sinner.*

Third, *we are committed to Evangelization of the Sinner*. We understand that God has given us the responsibility to be stewards of the Gospel and that means sharing it exactly like God gave it to us with those who need Jesus. We desire thru local ministry and missions that the Gospel be proclaimed so many will come to know Him as Savior and Lord.

“Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you're not saved yourself, be sure of that!”

— **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

I believe that entertainment and amusements are the work of the Enemy to keep dying men from knowing they're dying; and to keep enemies of God from remembering that they're enemies.” A W Tozer

Matthew 28

Romans 10

Acts 2



“In an era of mass media, it is easy to believe that the more eyeballs, the more impact. But radio, television, and tracts accounted for a combined total of less than one-half of 1% of .....(those) who are born again.”

— **David Kinnaman, Unchristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity...and Why It Matters**