
Preaching the Gospel

Biblical Evangelism

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

I hope I can be an instrument of blessing in God's hands for such a fine church as this. I pray that at the end of this message you won't say how much you enjoyed this message the way one man said he enjoyed a message: A man said, "Preacher, I really enjoyed your sermon today. It was like water to a drowning man."

As most of us know, Baptists have been given exclusive authority to carry out the Great Commission, to sound forth the gospel of Christ. And as the Apostle Paul said, ***1 Corinthians 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!***

What a great privilege has been bestowed upon us! Yet, we are so involved in divisive issues that we neglect our obligation to preach the gospel. I am not saying we should not preach the whole counsel of God, but we should not neglect one vitally important doctrine to give overly abundant attention and energy to another doctrine. May the Lord keep us from such evil, and that we may redeem the time for the days are evil.

The word gospel is from the Greek word, *ευαγγελιον*, *euaggelion*, *yoo-ang-ghel'-ee-on*, which means, *good news*; moreover it is further defined for us in ***1 Corinthians 15:1-4, ¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ² By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. ³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to***

the scriptures: It is good news also, because, though we are dead in trespasses and sins, God's grace is sufficient to save us from our sins, deliver us from sure condemnation in hell, and give us eternal life in eternal Paradise with Him.

Our nation is in rapid decline and the citizens of this land have sought many solutions, but as long as Christ is excluded from the equation, as long as Christ is not exclusively lifted up as our only hope, there will be no hope for the citizens of this land.

You see, our problems stem from sin and only God can remedy sin. This offensive attack of iniquity is only successfully overcome by the counter offensive power and instrumentality of the gospel, the good news that Christ came into the world to save sinners. Having such good news may we proclaim it with boldness, we proclaim it with compassion. To preach is not a passive event, but it is an active event, a public proclamation, as the word is indicative of.

As we deal with the subject of *Preaching the Gospel*, the first point will be *Why I am Set for the Defence of the Gospel*; secondly, *Why Some are Ashamed of the Gospel*; and thirdly, *Why We Should Preach the Gospel*.

I. Why I am Set for the Defence of the Gospel

A ***Philippians 1:15-17, ¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: ¹⁶ The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: ¹⁷ But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. ¹⁸ What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence (wrong motives), or in truth (right motives), Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.*** Paul could not rejoice in heresy, for to do that would be to rejoice in iniquity, and Biblical love does not rejoice in iniquity.

B One would think that such an elemental truth would practically be so self-evident that it virtually spoke for itself and hardly needed defending per se; yet, the stratagems of Satan are to strike the very foundations are what are being attacked that the rest of the structure comes to ruin.

C The consequences of any perversions of the gospel are:

- 1** The false security of unsaved souls
- 2** Churches filled with wolves in sheep's clothing,
- 3** And thus, heresies abounding to the removal of candlesticks, and the subsequent, ceasing of churches to be truly the Lord's churches.

D Jesus said in **Matthew 28:18-20**, ¹⁸ ***And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*** If the Great Commission is not carried out properly, the church is in danger of Christ not being with them, and therefore, cease to exist.

E Hence, this is no light matter and why I am set for the defence of the gospel.

II. Why Some are Ashamed of the Gospel

A **Romans 1:16**, ¹⁶ ***For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.***

B One would think that considering the good news of the gospel that one would never be ashamed of that gospel...however, as we commonly know, our flesh is weak, but our spirit is willing.

C The word **ashamed** is the word, *επαισχυνομαι* epaischunomai ep-ahee-skhoo'-nom-ahee, v, AV-be ashamed 11; 11, 1) to be ashamed. It comes from the word, *αισχυνω* aischuno ahee-skhoo'-no, from *αισχησος* (disfigurement, i.e. disgrace); TDNT-1:189,29; v, AV-be ashamed 5; 5, 1) to disfigure, 2) to dishonour, 3) to suffuse with shame, make ashamed, be ashamed

D Unbelievers are obviously and categorically ashamed of the gospel, and likewise hate the gospel:

1 Those who are infidels, who have no outward interest in their Creator, are obviously ashamed of the gospel, for they have no heart for it.

2 Those who merely have a head knowledge, but have no heart knowledge of the gospel.

3 Some, it is evident, are ashamed of the gospel because they seek to replace the true gospel with a false gospel: ***Galatians 1:6-9 6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said***

before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

4 All who preach salvation by the works of man; rank Arminians and Semi-Pelagians.

5 To please men and please themselves with false comfort: ***Galatians 6:12 As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.***

6 To escape persecution from the world and thus to neglect, minimize the value of the blessed gospel, is to be ashamed of the gospel.

7 God's people can be ashamed of the gospel:

1 when we are moved to witness to someone and we don't.

2 When we are weary in well-doing

3 When we fear man:

a) ***Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.***

b) ***2 Timothy 1:8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God.***

c) ***Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course***

***with joy, and the ministry,
which I have received of the
Lord Jesus, to testify the
gospel of the grace of God.***

- 4 Some may be ashamed to spread the gospel because they have sin in their lives of which they are ashamed and it ruins their testimony. In some sense, they are ashamed of themselves and their sin, that is where we begin as sinners. So, like the initial experience of salvation, by God's grace, we repent of our sins and believe the Word and live holy. (For example: John Mark, Peter)
- 5 Some are like unto Jonah and are prejudiced against certain people groups, so won't preach the gospel to anyone, so they won't be saved, or rather God won't use them to plant the seed or water the seed or see God give the increase.
- 6 Some want the church that they are a member of to stay small so they can control it. We are to depend on God, not the imagined ability we may have, to preserve a church's integrity.
- 7 Some misunderstand the purpose of the gospel as to who is to proclaim it (preachers only) or deacons, super-Christians, etc...
- 8 Some misunderstand the purpose of the gospel, that it is necessary for the regeneration and thus, salvation of sinners, because there is no salvation without regeneration, and there is no regeneration without salvation (Jesus said that you cannot enter into the

kingdom of God unless you are born again).

- 2 It may be that some believers would not preach the gospel to every creature because they fear persecution and go in the path of least resistance. May we implore our God to search our hearts if that wicked way be in us!

III. Why We Should Preach the Gospel

- A. **1 Corinthians 1:21** *For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*
- B. God uses means to beget, to regenerate, to born someone again. It is the sovereign, predestinated means by which God has of His own will, chosen to use.
1. **1 Corinthians 4:15** *For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.*
2. **Philemon 1:10** *I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:*
3. **James 1:18** ¹⁸ *Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*
4. **2 Thessalonians 2:13** *But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*

- 5 God uses means to save sinners. This is not surprising for God uses the means of a flood to judge the world in Noah's day, He could have asphyxiated them without the means of water to judge them. God used the means of wicked hands to crucify Christ. God used the means of the man lame on his feet to be brought to Christ by his friends through the rooftop due to the crowd, God uses the means of the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe. It is should be no problem that God would ordain the means of the gospel to bring salvation to His predestinated people.
- 6 God used the means of another person to answer the prayer of George Muller on numerous occasions when the orphanage needed food. God's sovereignty would have been magnified in His provision if He dropped manna from heaven literally or if He used the George Muller's prayer and the man who brought the food; as a matter of fact it is being magnified in two people instead of just one. Last time I checked one plus one equals two.
- 7 God could have said, "Let there be man" instead of using the means of the earth to form and create man. It doesn't mar or diminish God's sovereignty; rather, God has sovereignly ordained means according to His predeterminate counsel.
- 8 Are there admonitions from the Holy Scriptures to show we must wait until we see trembling, crying or any other indications that they are sorrowful for

sin, or to lift up the back of their shirt, as Spurgeon said, to see if there is an 'E' on their back to show they are of the elect. Naturally, we should tell them through the preaching of the Law that they are sinners without any hope of salvation aside from Christ Who died, was buried, and rose again according to the Scriptures so that whosoever would repent of their sins and believe on Him shall be saved.

C ...for it is the power of God unto salvation unto everyone that believeth—*Romans 1:16*

1 The words of the gospel save no one, but it is God's instrument to bring about the salvation of sinners.

2 It is the effectual means to bring people to salvation.

3 We know God is sovereign and that only the elect will be saved, so obviously no one will be saved who is not ordained to be saved.

D It is the Scriptural and Historic position that all true Baptists have taken before (1644, 1646, London Baptist Confessions, 1743? Philadelphia Baptist Confession) long before Daniel Parks, Gilbert Beebe (1832 supposed official date of Hardshells breaking from the true Scriptural position), and others came on the scene. Before them there was no such heresy.

E This is obvious in Ezekiel's preaching (*Ezekiel 37:1-14*) to the dry bones. The Spirit and the preached Word brought regeneration, and it wasn't Jesus Himself Who preached here.

F The parable of the sower is a striking illustration of these different classes. We are taught in this parable that the seed is the word of God.

G

The idea of someone born again, but not believing on the gospel of Christ, of being half saved and the other half not, half dead, and half alive, of a purgatorial or transitorial state of any such, is so utterly foreign to sound Biblical doctrine.

H

Are there any recorded in Scripture who went to heaven, were regenerated by the Spirit, but had no knowledge of Christ until they got to heaven? That is a Christless gospel which is another gospel. If that be the case we cannot categorically say that if you do not repent and believe then you will without a doubt go to hell. The person who espouses and teaches that kind of teaching will put him in better favor with the liberals, and keep him out of hot water, but not out of a hot hell.

I strongly encourage you to hear what Jesus said in **Matthew 4:19, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.** If you aren't fishing, you aren't following.

Paul said, **Woe unto to me if I preach not the gospel,** on the flip side, you could say, *Joy unto me if I preach the gospel,* and more importantly, *Glory to God if I preach the gospel,* as all true obedience produces, and disobedience in this vital commandment brings reproach upon our God. I can say truthfully to you that all the times that I have preached the gospel on the streets, in parks, whether openly persecuted, threatened, or not, thank God, it has been a joy, for I rejoice every time the gospel is preached.

Therefore, I would be remiss in my duties as a preacher of the gospel, if I did not express what Paul said in **2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.** Also, in following in the footsteps of my Saviour I beseech you to **repent and believe the gospel—Mark 1:15.** That Jesus came into the world to save sinners by His vicarious death, burial, and resurrection.

And remember that solemn warning that God graciously gives in **2 Thessalonians 1:8** *In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*