

THE PRIORITY OF PREACHING IN THE LOCAL CHURCH
1 CORINTHIANS 1:17-25

INTRO: The study of the New Testament Epistles will give clear insight on every principle that is to be practiced in and through the Local Church. It is in the New Testament Epistles that Church Truth is taught and thus all that is accomplished or attempted to accomplish in the Local Church should be derived from the pages of those Epistles. Now understand that this concept DOES NOT IN ANY WAY DEVALUE OR OFFSET THE OLD TESTAMENT, THE GOSPELS OR THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION! **ALL SCRIPTURE IS FOR US AND IS RELEVANT FOR US TODAY!** But when it comes down to understanding how the Local Church is to function, the New Testament Epistles is the place to turn. With that understood, we come to 1 Corinthians chapter one, where the Apostle Paul is telling the Corinthian believers that they must not have divisions among them or be focused solely on baptism, but rather should put a VERY HIGH PRIORITY ON PREACHING! This is a message that must be considered these days because general observation will show that many churches in America are going away from preaching toward other methods of worship in ministry. In the passage of scripture before us, The Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was saying that PREACHING WAS HIS PRIORITY and the application of the text is that PREACHING IS TO BE THE PRIORITY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH TODAY. Let's observe how that thought is developed in 1 Corinthians 1:17-25

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I. THE FOUNDATION OF PREACHING

A. In the text before us the word "PREACH" is mentioned four times which should cause us to pay attention to what is being taught.

B. The word "PREACH" in the New Testament means to "PROCLAIM, DECLARE, PUBLISH OR HERALD GOOD NEWS OR GLAD TIDINGS."

C. When applied to PULPIT MINISTRY preaching may come in a number of forms among which the following are included:

1. Running Commentary – A monologue on a biblical text or subject.
2. Exposition – A word for word teaching of a passage of scripture.
3. Topical – A biblical explanation of a subject or issue.
4. Evangelistic – A message to the lost to trust Christ as their Savior.
5. Doctrinal – A sermon to increase the believer's understanding of Who God is, What God expects and how God operates.

D. In our text the emphasis is not so much on the manner of preaching, but rather the CONTENT OF THE MESSAGE! From God's perspective **THE CONTENT OF PREACHING IS ALWAYS EXCLUSIVELY THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD...NOT OPINIONS, NOT SECULAR TOPICS, NOT WORLDLY PHILOSOPHIES, NOT BOOK REPORTS.**

ILLUSTRATION: **NEHEMIAH 8:4-8**

II. THE FADING OF PREACHING

A. Too often these days we see that many churches, pastors and teachers have faded away from the **EXCLUSIVE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD IN THEIR PULPIT MINISTRY!**

B. Careful observation will reveal that too often Sunday morning sermons are laying aside the Word of God and substituting it with flowery homilies, nice stories and topics of personal interest. In fact it has been said that over recent years the pulpits of many churches have become nothing more than **GLORIFIED PSYCHOLOGIC PLATFORMS THAT ATTEMPT TO SIMPLY APPEASE THE LISTENERS RATHER THAN IMPART BIBLICAL TRUTH.**

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE FACTORS OF PREACHING

A. Preaching is to be the Message of the Local Church

THE LOCAL CHURCH HAS A MANDATE FROM GOD TO PREACH THE TRUTH OF GOD BECAUSE OF ITS VERY NATURE AS THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH – 1 TIMOTHY 3:15

1. The Truth of Evangelism
2. The Truth of Edification
3. The Truth of Doctrine
4. The Truth of Missions
5. The Truth of Issues

B. Preaching is to be the Message of the Called Preacher

THE PASTOR, THE PREACHER, THE EVANGELIST, THE MISSIONARY THE BIBLE TEACHER

1. The Exhortation of the Apostle Paul – 2 Timothy 4:2
2. The Example of the Apostle Paul – Acts 20:27

C. Preaching is to be the Message of the Individual Christian

EVERY CHRISTIAN IS AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-20

1. The Ambassador of Christ has the Ministry of Reconciliation – Vs. 18
2. The Ambassador of Christ has the Word of Reconciliation – Vs. 19

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. THE FEATURE OF PREACHING

TO COUNTERACT THE WISDOM OF THE WORLD AND REVEAL THE WISDOM OF GOD.

A. The World's Wisdom is foolishness to God – It knows not God – Vs. 21

B. The Wisdom of God PREACHED brings the Wisdom of the World to naught – Vss. 19,20

ILLUSTRATION:

V. THE FOCUS OF PREACHING

A. Preach the Gospel – Vs. 17

1. The Good News of the Work of Christ on our behalf.
2. The Death, burial and resurrection of Christ – 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
 - a. Christ died – He Paid the wage for our sins.
 - b. Christ was buried – To Prove his death.
 - c. Christ rose again – To give us Eternal Life

B. Preach the Cross of Christ – Vs. 18

1. The Cross of Christ is the Central Theme of Christianity.
2. The Cross of Christ is the Power of God to provide Salvation – **THE TOTAL SIN DEBT WAS PAID BY CHRIST ON THE CROSS! Romans 1:16**
3. The Cross of Christ Judged Satan – John 12:31-33; 16:11
4. The Cross of Christ Judged the Sins of Believers – Colossians 2:12-15
5. The Cross of Christ Separates Believers from the World
-Galatians 6:14

C. Preach to Save the Lost – Vs. 21

1. Preaching the Gospel and the Cross will bring people to Christ.
2. Preaching the Gospel and the Cross allows the Holy Spirit to convict of sin.

E. Preach Christ Crucified – Vs. 23

1. Only Christ died for our sins – 1 Corinthians 15:3
2. Only Christ bore our sins in His body – 1 Peter 2:24
3. Only Christ provided redemption for those who believe
-Ephesians 1:7

ILLUSTRATION:

VI. THE FUTURE OF PREACHING

- A. It must become More Biblically Based
- B. It must become More Holy Spirit Intensified
- C. It must become More Culturally Relevant

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSONS TO LEARN:

- 1) Every believer must participate in PREACHING the truth of God as His ambassadors on the earth.
- 2) Every believer must pray that PREACHING in the pulpit strengthens according to biblical truth.
- 3) Every PREACHER must commit TO PREACHING THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD WITHOUT COMPROMISE TO EVERY ONE WITHOUT RESPECT OF PERSONS.