

**THE PURPOSE OF THE PULPIT**  
**NEHEMIAH 8:1-8**

**INTRO:** What is the purpose of the PULPIT in the Church? Is it a place for lecture? Is it a place for philosophical presentations? Is it a place for the exposition of personal opinion? Is it a place for religious monologue? I suppose the answer to those questions would depend upon who you would ask. **BUT WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PULPIT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE WORD OF GOD?** The answer to that question is clearly seen in Nehemiah 8:8 which is the text that will lay the foundation of the message today.

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**SOME OBSERVATIONS:** (Of the physical furniture of the pulpit)

- 1) In some churches, the pulpit is considered the MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF FURNITURE IN THE SANCTUARY. It is located centrally in relation to the congregation and elevated to show its importance.
- 2) In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, triple-decker pulpits were often used. The bottom level was for the announcements. The middle level was for the reading of the Gospel. The top level was for the preaching of the sermon.
- 3) In Baptist Churches, the pulpit stands squarely in the center of the platform to symbolize the PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD and the CENTRAL FOCUS OF WORSHIP.
- 4) In many contemporary churches the pulpit is often much smaller, if used at all and is carried out to the platform after the praise and worship service.

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**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PULPIT FROM THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE?**

**NEHEMIAH 8:8 GIVES THE CLEAR ANSWER!**

- 1) It is to be used to “Read the Law of God”  
**“THEY READ IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW DISTINCTLY”**  
**“DISTINCTLY” – “To read separately and with authority”**
- 2) It is to be used to “Give the Sense of the Law”  
**“GAVE THE SENSE”**  
**“SENSE” – To break down the text into its parts so people could understand it.**
- 3) It is to be used to “Causes Understanding”  
**“CAUSED THEM TO UNDERSTAND THE READING”**  
**“UNDERSTAND” – To instruct on personal application.**

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**I. THE PURPOSE OF THE PULPIT IN THE CHURCH**

- A. To Promote the Centrality and Authority of the Word of God.
- B. To Preach the Precepts of the Word of God.

1. The pulpit is NOT the place for opinion, philosophy, secular thought, debate, business or any non-biblical event.
2. The Pulpit is to be dedicated to the Presentation of the Word of God.
  - a. The Preaching of the Whole Counsel of God – Acts 20:21
  - b. The Preaching of the Gospel – 1 Corinthians 1:17
  - c. The Preaching of the Truth – 2 Timothy 4:2
3. The Pulpit must be empowered by the Holy Spirit – 1 Thess. 1:5
  - a. The Power of God without which the message is just a speech.
  - b. The Purpose of God without which the message is just opinion

**THE PULPIT THAT IS EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- Will Evangelize the Lost
- Will Edify the Believers
- Will Exalt God

4. The Pulpit must preach into every aspect of life to equip the church.

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**II. THE PURPOSE OF THE PULPIT IN THE CULTURE**

- A. To Make an Impact for Christ
- B. To Reveal the Truth of God
- C. To Identify the Sin and Errors of the World

- D. To Rebuke the Wickedness of Sin in the World
- E. To Correct the Faults of the World
- F. To Address the Issues of the Culture
- G. To Preach to the Significant Institutions of Society

**FOUR TARKETED INSTITUTIONS**

- 1. The Church
- 2. The Family
- 3. The Education
- 4. The Government

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**APPLICATION:**

- 1) Every Christian must pray for pastors in the pulpit that they will preach all of the Word of God without any compromise.
- 2) Every Christian must seek out pastors who recognize and respect the biblical purpose of the pulpit.
- 3) Every Christian must support and defend the biblical purpose of the pulpit for their own lives, the lives of their children and grandchildren.
- 4) Every Pastor must recognize and respect God's desire for the Pulpit.
- 5) Every Pastor or Church that does not recognize and respect the pulpit from God's perspective is not a true church in the eyes of God Himself. In fact, such a pastor and such a church are deceivers and lead many people away from the truth