

Turning the World Upside Down

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6 – 9 - 2024

Introduction

- A. Background of Acts 17:1 – 6
- B. Preaching and Good Works

I. Powerful Preaching

- A. God used prophets and preachers to turn the hearts of His people back to Him.
 - 1. 2 Chron. 36:15 – 16
 - 2. Nehemiah 8 – Ezra 7:10; Ezra 9:4
- B. The difference between preaching and teaching.
 - 1. Preaching has three components: Reprove, Rebuke and Exhort. (2 Tim.4:2)
 - 2. 2 Cor. 5:10 -11a
- C. The Holy Spirit through Paul begins the letter of Good works by instructing Titus how and what to Preach. (Titus 1:1 – 4)
- D. Preaching is a primary way God creates a people zealous for good works.
 - 1. Preaching is unique in three ways:
 - a. Its origin is the revealed message and commands from God.
 - b. Content of preaching centers on the person and work of Christ.
 - c. Its purpose is to produce knowledge leading to faith that leads to “godliness.”

II. The Origin of Preaching: God’s Revelation and Commands (1:1-3)

- A. Preaching is rooted in God’s revelation.
- B. Titus 1:1 – 3; 1 Thess 2:13
- C. Paul preached because:
 - 1. He was commanded to do so (1:3) uniquely qualified as a servant of God.
 - 2. He was obligated, indebted and not ashamed (Rom. 1:14- 16) “under obligation”, I am eager. I am not ashamed
 - 3. He was a steward of the mysteries of God (Eph. 3:3 – 5)
 - 4. He was appointed a preacher and an apostle
 - a. 1 Tim. 2:7 “For this I was appointed a **preacher** and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a **teacher** of the Gentiles in faith and truth.”

- D. Preaching finds its source not in ourselves but in our great God and Savior.
 - 1. Paul said, “I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me.” (Ph’p.4)
 - 2. It is foolish indeed for a church not to insist on hearing the revelation and reproofs of God in a public forum.
 - 3. The strength of a church is derived from the strength of the teaching received.

III. Content of Preaching is God’s Message and God’s Messiah (1:3)

- A. Content must be biblical and expository.
- B. In preaching the message of God we teach what Christ taught His apostles to teach.
 - 1. Our Hope of Glory is “**Christ in you.**” (Col. 1:26- 28)
 - 2. Christ is the epicenter of Gospel doctrines (2 Cor. 4:6-7)

IV. Purpose of Preaching: Lead to Salvation in Christ (1:1)

- A. Titus 1:1 “knowledge of the truth”
 - 1. Preaching is designed to produce faith based upon knowledge of the will of Christ.
 - 2. It requires a knowledge of the truth.
- B. Faith comes by hearing the words of Christ (Rom. 10:17)
 - 1. Preaching Jesus, as did Philip and Peter, includes truth learned in Christ (2 Peter 1:3 and Eph. 4:17 – 24)
 - 2. We are not free to disregard any of his commands or examples.
 - a. (1 Cor.4:17) “That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.” (7:17)
 - b. (1 Cor. 14:37) “the things that I write are the Lord’s commandment.)
- C. Fatal disease – ignorance. (Titus 1:1)
- D. When faith comes to life through the truth a transformed life results.
 - 1. He is the one who calls us to a reformed life. (Rom. 12:1 – 2) living sacrifice
 - 2. The result is a life that is increasingly zealous for good works by God’s definition.

V. Conclusion: Preaching truth revealed by Christ is an absolute priority among churches that are committed to Him.

- A. Those churches will protect the preacher and insist that he spend the necessary time exposing the text for the good of all the sheep.
- B. Churches grow when good food is delivered consistently in an appetizing way.