

BIBLE PREACHING AND THE MODERN TRENDS

Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. I believe the subject we are dealing with is a vital subject and needs our attention now!
2. As we have stated the old saying that is true: "As the pulpit goes so goes the church".

I. WHY MODERN PULPITS HAVE LOST THEIR POWER

- a. They have lost their power because many men in them have LOST their faith.
 - i. The pulpit of power is the one of strong faith – Heb. 11:6; Rom. 4: 20 – 21.
 - ii. The preacher should have great faith, great hope, and a high vision of the work of God's people.
 - iii. Saving faith is confidence in, acceptance of, and obedience to Jesus Christ.
 - iv. The preacher must have faith in the Word of God – I Thess. 2:13; Rom. 1: 16.
 - v. The pulpit is no place for DOUBT – Acts 2:36.
 - vi. The lack of Faith has ever been disastrous:
 1. It caused Peter to SINK into the water – Matt. 14: 30 – 31.
 2. It caused the church at Laodicea to wax indifferent and become lukewarm – Rev. 3: 14 – 19.
 3. It caused Demas to forsake Paul and the Lord – 2 Tim. 4:10.
 4. It caused Ananias and Sapphira to lie – Acts 5: 1 – ff
 5. It caused Corinth to be torn with party strife – I Cor. 1: 10 – 13.
 6. It is the "*sin which doth so easily beset us*" – Heb. 12:1.
 7. Men began to DOUBT what the necessity of doing what the Bible teaches about many things.
 - vii. Pulpits have lost their power because they LACK LOVE AND ZEAL.
 1. Many have lost their love for a sin-sick and ruined world, and zeal for winning souls.
 2. Rom. 10: 1
 - viii. Many pulpits have lost their power because they have soft-pedaled Hell and the Judgment:
 1. Hell is not preached much from the pulpit anymore – 2 Thess. 1: 8 – 9; Matt. 25:41.
 2. There is a Judgment Day – Heb. 9:27; Acts 17: 31.

II. HOW MUST THE EVANGELIST SPEAK?

- a. Paul wanted the Ephesians to pray for him that he might "*SPEAK BOLDLY AS I OUGHT TO SPEAK*" – Eph. 6:19 - 20.
 - i. To preach with BOLDNESS is to preach with unreservedness of utterance – 2 Cor. 3:12.
 - ii. The Apostles prayed for BOLDNESS – Acts 4: 29, 31.
 - iii. Paul preached with BOLDNESS – I Thess. 2:2.
- b. The Evangelist is to speak with "*All Authority*" – Tit. 2:15.
- c. He is to preach the Word FAITHFULLY.

- i. Faithful men – 2 Tim. 2:2.
- ii. Not pleasing men but God – I Thess. 2:4.
- iii. Paul always sought to please God – Gal. 1: 10; 2 Tim. 2:4.
- iv. The Evangelist must speak the Word “*in season, out of season*” – 2 Tim. 4:2.
- v. The Evangelist must not seek man’s reward – Matt. 6:1.
- vi. He must faithfully deal with the needs of the people.
- d. He must preach the Word fully – Acts 20:20; 20: 26 – 27.
 - i. This is a frightening thought when one considers the many subjects in the Bible.
 - ii. One must be careful lest he inadvertently fail to speak on some Bible subject – 2 Tim. 3:16 – 17.
 - iii. One must preach about God, Christ, Holy Spirit, the gospel, sin, discipline, heaven, hell, Satan, Baptism, work, worldliness, the home, marriage, etc.
 - iv. Meat and milk must be provided – Heb. 5: 12 – 14; I Pet. 2:2.
- e. The Evangelist is to preach FORCEFULLY.
 - i. Peter raised his voice on Pentecost – Acts 2: 14.
 - ii. He preached the gospel with force and cut the people to the heart – Acts 2:37.
 - iii. Stephen’s preaching cut to the heart – Acts 7: 54.
 - iv. Preaching should seek to affect a change in belief and life.
 - v. Preaching must become personal, since sin and damnation are personal – Acts 2:22 – 23.
 - vi. Preaching must move people out of their deadly complacency.
- f. The preacher must preach FERVENTLY – Col. 3: 23.
 - i. Rom. 12:11
 - ii. FERVENT means: To be hot, to boil – *Vine*
- g. One must preach FEARLESSLY – Rev. 21: 8.
 - i. King Saul sinned because, “*He heard the people and obeyed their voice*” -- I Sam. 15:24.
- h. One must preach in FEAR OF THE LORD – I Cor. 2: 1 – 5.
 - i. I Pet. 3:15.

III. CONCLUSION

- a. We must encourage more faithful men to become faithful evangelists.
- b. Men who love the truth and will preach it without fear of man.

Preached at Hebron Lane 1984