

First Century Preaching Needed Today

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LESSON ONE

INTRODUCTION

1. It pleased God to save the human family by preaching the Gospel – 1 Cor. 1:21; Mk. 16:15 – 16.
2. Jesus sent the Apostles into ALL the WORLD to preach the gospel – Mk. 16:15 – 16; Matt. 28:19 – 20.
3. Paul charged Timothy to preach the Word -- 2 Tim. 4:2; I Pet. 4:11; Isa. 8:20.
4. God had but one Son and He was a preacher – Matt. 4:17.
5. If we accomplish today what God wants accomplished by preaching we will have to preach as first century preachers preached.
6. Let us look at First Century Preaching:
 - I. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING WAS WORLD-TURNING PREACHING
 - a. The presence of Paul and his companions was felt as they would enter a city to preach – Acts 16:20.
 - b. The Jews in Thessalonica said, *“These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also”* – Acts 17:6.
 - c. Preaching that *“turns the world upside down”* is Bible centered preaching.
 - i. Peter on Pentecost – Acts 2: 14 – 40.
 - ii. Stephen – Acts 7.
 - iii. Philip – Acts 8:12; Acts 8:35.
 - d. Many Preachers do not give the plan of Salvation today – Luke 24: 47; Acts 2:38.
 - II. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING WAS *“CUT TO THE HEART”* PREACHING.
 - a. Stephen’s preaching *“cut to the heart”* – Acts 7: 54.
 - b. Peter’s preaching pricked in their heart – Acts 2:37.
 - c. The Word of God is *“sharper than any two-edged sword”* – Heb. 4:12.
 - d. First century preaching convicted men of sin – John 16:8.
 - e. Preaching that does not cause men’s conscience to hurt is NOT first century preaching.
 - III. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING WAS BOLD PREACHING.
 - a. Paul was a bold preacher – Eph. 6: 18 – 20.
 - b. I Thess. 2:2; Acts 9: 27.
 - c. A preacher needs to open his mouth and speak out boldly so that those who hear will not misunderstand what has been said.
 - IV. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING CAUSED MEN TO TREMBLE
 - a. Paul’s preaching caused Felix to tremble – Acts 24: 24 – 25.
 - b. If we will preach like Paul, it will cause men to tremble today.
 - V. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING HAD SOME LIFE IN IT.
 - a. Peter *“lifted up his voice”* – Acts 2:14.
 - b. God said to Ezekiel, *“Smite with thine hand, and stamp with thy foot, and say . . . ”* – Ezek. 6:11.
 - c. Too much preaching today is lifeless.

- VI. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING WAS UNCOMPROMISING.
 - a. Paul did not compromise with error – Gal. 2:5.
 - b. Paul taught Titus NOT to put in compromising elders – Tit. 1: 9 – 14.
 - c. John was uncompromising – 2 John 9 – 11.
 - d. Paul was uncompromising on morals – I Cor. 5: 1- 5; 5:11.
 - e. Too much compromising is found in preaching today.
- VII. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING DEMANDED SOME SOUL SEARCHING
 - a. Paul said, *“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith”* –2 Cor. 13:5.
 - b. Preaching that does not cause us to examine ourselves will not do us any good.
- VIII. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING WAS *“IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON”* PREACHING.
 - a. Paul told Timothy, *“Preach the word; be instant in season and out of season”* . . .—2 Tim. 4:2.
 - b. There is NEVER A TIME when a preacher can let up in his preaching – 2 Tim. 4:5.
 - c. We must preach it when people like it and when they don’t like it.
- IX. CONCLUSION

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LESSON TWO

- I. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING LEADS SINNERS TO SEE THAT THERE IS A GOD TO GLORIFY.
 - a. Paul said God is to be glorified in the church – Eph. 3:21.
 - b. Paul said *“Whatsoever ye do, do all in the glory of God”* – I Cor. 10: 31.
 - c. Peter said we are to glorify God in the name *“Christian”* – I Pet. 4:16.
 - d. Paul said we are to glorify God in our body and spirit – I Cor. 6:20.
- II. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING LED MEN TO SEE THERE IS A SAVIOR TO IMITATE.
 - a. Paul said, *“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ”* – I Cor. 11:1.
 - b. Peter said, *“Ye should follow His steps”*—I Pet. 2:21.
 - c. Jesus said we are to follow Him – Matt. 16:24; Luke 9:23
 - d. John said we are to walk as He WALKED – I John 2:6; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17.
- III. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING CAUSED SINNERS TO SEE THEY HAD A SOUL TO SAVE
 - a. Peter said, *“Save yourselves from this untoward generation”* – Acts 2:40.
 - b. Paul – I Tim. 2:4
 - c. 2 Pet. 3:9
 - d. 2 Cor. 6:2
 - e. Acts 2: 37 – 38
 - f. Acts 8: 35 – 39
 - g. Matt. 16:26
 - h. Luke 19:10
 - i. Rom. 3:23
- IV. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING IMPRESSED UPON PEOPLE’S MINDS THAT THERE IS EVIL TO BE SHUNNED.
 - a. Paul said, *“Abstain from all appearance of evil”* – I Thess. 5:22.
 - b. John said, *“Love not the world”*—I John 2: 15 – 17.
 - c. Paul listed the works of the flesh – Gal. 5: 19 – 21;
 - d. Peter – I Pet. 2:11.
- V. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING TAUGHT CHRISTIANS TO DEFEND THE TRUTH
 - a. Jude 3
 - b. Phil. 1:17
 - c. Eph. 6: 10 -17
 - d. I Tim. 1:18; I Tim. 6:20.
- VI. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING TAUGHT CHRISTIANS:
 - a. That the work of the church was to be supported with their money – I Cor. 16; 1 – 2; 2 Cor. 9: 6 – 7.
 - b. That they were to work to the full capacity of their talents – I Cor. 15:58; Heb. 6:10.
 - c. They were to attend the assemblies of worship – Heb. 10:25.
- VII. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING BROUGHT MEN TO FACE THE FACT THEY MUST DIE.
 - a. Heb. 9:27
 - b. 2 Tim. 4: 6 – 8
 - c. James 4: 13 – 16

- VIII. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING IMPRESSED UPON MEN THEY WOULD STAND IN THE JUDGMENT OF GOD.
 - a. Acts 17:21
 - b. 2 Cor. 5:10
 - c. Heb. 9: 27
 - d. Rev. 20: 12 – 15
- IX. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING CAUSED MEN TO REALIZE THEY MUST SPEND ETERNITY IN HEAVEN OR HELL.
 - a. The saved will go to heaven:
 - i. I Thess. 4: 15 – 18
 - ii. I Cor. 15: 50 – 58
 - iii. John 14: 1 – 3
 - b. The lost will go to hell:
 - i. 2 Thess. 1: 7 – 9
 - ii. Matt. 25: 46, 41
- X. CONCLUSION
 - a. Preaching that does not have these marks is NOT First Century Preaching.
 - b. Are you here and have never obeyed the gospel?

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LESSON THREE

PREACHING THAT WILL CONVICT THE WORLD OF SIN

- I. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING EMPHASIZED THE MESSAGE AND NOT THE MESSENGER
 - a. Gospel preaching was NOT committed to angels, but to MEN.
 - i. The gospel was first preached by and in inspired men – 2 Cor. 4:7; Rom. 10:13 – 17.
 - ii. The apostles were to carry the gospel into all the world – Matt. 28: 19 – 20; Mk. 16:15 – 16.
 - iii. The gospel is to be continually committed to men who are to preach it – 2 Tim. 2:2.
 - b. God wants NOTHING TO HINDER the message.
 - i. Paul said, *“For we preach not ourselves; but Christ Jesus the Lord”* – 2 Cor. 4:5.
 - ii. Paul said, *“for I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified”* – I Cor. 2:2.
 - iii. Paul said, *“But we preach Christ crucified”* – I Cor. 1: 23.
 - iv. He said he preached the gospel – I Cor. 15:1 – 4.
 - v. Philip preached Christ to the people of Samaria – Acts 8:5, 12.
 - vi. He preached Jesus to the Eunuch – Acts 8: 35.
 - c. Paul tells who the MESSENGERS are:
 - i. They are MINISTERS – I Cor. 3:5.
 - ii. They are SERVANTS – 2 Cor. 4:5; Gal. 1:10.
 - iii. They do the work of an EVANGELIST; He is to proclaim glad tidings; the gospel – 2 Tim. 4:5.
 - d. Paul PREACHED because he HAD to – I Cor. 9:16.
 - i. Men need to do the same today.
- II. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING DEALT WITH SIN AS A REALITY
 - a. Paul dealt with sin as an AWFUL REALITY.
 - i. He said by one man sin entered into the world – Rom. 5:12.
 - ii. He said both Jews and Gentiles are all under sin – Rom. 3: 9 – 10.
 - iii. He said all have sinned – Rom. 3:23.
 - iv. He said the wages of sin is death – Rom. 6:23.
 - b. John dealt with sin as a REALITY:
 - i. I John 1: 8 – 10
 - ii. I John 3:4
 - iii. Rev. 1:5
 - c. Peter dealt with sin as a REALITY:
 - i. 2 Pet. 2: 1- 9
 - ii. I Pet. 3:18
 - iii. I Pet. 3:21
- III. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING DEALT WITH SIN IN PARTICULAR – IT WAS SPECIFIC.
 - a. Peter on Pentecost – Acts 2: 22 -23
 - b. Stephen before the Council – Acts 7: 51 – 54

- c. Paul before Felix – Acts 24: 24 – 25.
- d. Paul to the Ephesian Elders – Acts 20: 28 – 30.
- IV. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING SET FORTH THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN
 - a. Paul to the Romans – Rom. 1:32
 - b. Paul to the Corinthians – I Cor. 6: 9 – 10
 - c. Paul to the Galatians – Gal. 5: 19 – 21
- V. FIRST CENTURY PREACHING WAS “FIGHTING” PREACHING
 - a. Paul charged Timothy:
 - i. *“Fight the good fight of faith”* – I Tim. 6:12
 - ii. *“War a good warfare”* – I Tim. 1: 18
 - iii. He told him to be a *“good soldier”* – I Tim. 2:3
 - b. Paul said *“I fought a good fight”* – 2 Tim. 4:7
 - c. We are to put on the *“whole armor of God”* – Eph. 6: 11 -17.
 - d. 2 Cor. 10: 3 – 8
 - e. Gospel Preachers are to reprove and rebuke sin – 2 Tim. 4: 2 – 5.
 - f. First Century Preachers fought sins in the lives of men and women.

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