PREACHING THAT WILL CONVICT THE WORLD OF SIN
Donald Townsley

John 16:8 "And he, when he is come, will convict the world in respect of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:" (ASV)

INTRODUCTION
1. I feel that some preaching needs to be done along this line because many have no idea of the kind of preaching that pleases God.
2. Only preaching that pleases God will convict the world of sin -- I Cor. 1:21; Gal. 1:10.
3. There is too much of the wrong kind of preaching being done in the world.
4. Too many members of the church want the wrong kind of preaching.
5. One of the things that has contributed to the doctrinal weakness and worldliness in the church today is "commercial preaching".
6. When a preacher begins to preach for wealth, praise, and power, he will preach what the people want to hear.

I. PREACHING HAS HAD AN IMPORTANT PLACE IN GOD'S PLAN IN ALL AGES OF TIME.
1. NOAH was a preacher of righteousness -- 2 Pet. 2:5; I Pet. 3:19 - 20.
   (1) Noah faced a wicked and unconcerned people for the ways of God -- Gen. 6:5 - 7.
   (2) It was through the preaching of Noah that God's Spirit strove with man -- Gen. 6:3; I Pet. 3:18 - 19.
2. JONAH was a great preacher.
   (1) Jonah preached to the people of Nineveh -- Jonah 3:1 - 2.
   (2) Nineveh was the capitol of the Assyrians.
   (3) Through the preaching of Jonah, God brought these people to repentance -- Jonah 3:5 - 10.
3. EZRA the priest was a preacher.
   (1) He stood on a pulpit of wood and preached to the assembly of Israel -- Neh. 8:4, 2 - 3.
   (2) Preaching is well defined in Nehemiah 8:8 -- "And they read in the book, in the law of God, distinctly; and they gave the sense, so that they understood the readings"
4. In JEREMIAH is seen what God intended preaching to be -- Jeremiah 1:9 - 10.
   (1) Root out
   (2) Pull down
   (3) Destroy
   (4) Throw down
   (5) Then BUILD AND PLANT.
5. PAUL told Timothy what kind of preaching was to be done -- 2 Tim. 4:1 - 5:
   (1) Reprove
   (2) Rebuke
   (3) Then Exhort.
6. EZEKIEL compares the work of a preacher to that of a watchman on a wall -- Ezekiel 33:1 - 9.
   (1) The fearful responsibility of the preacher -- Ezek. 33:6, 8.
7. JOHN THE BAPTIST was a great preacher -- Matt. 3:1 - 12; Matt. 14:1 - 12.
8. God had but one SON, and He was a preacher -- Matt. 4:17.
9. From these examples I think you can see that God intended preaching to bring people face to face with their sins.
10. Preaching today that does not do this is not pleasing to God.

II. PREACHING THAT BRINGS PEOPLE FACE TO FACE WITH THEIR SINS IS PREACHING BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.
1. Two ideas in the world about preaching by the Holy Spirit today:
   (1) Direct operation of the Holy Spirit
   (2) Indirect operation through the Word.
2. Some preachers today claim to receive their message directly from the Holy Spirit.
3. The Holy Spirit stopped giving men God’s message directly when His message was completed -- I Cor. 13: 8 - 12.
4. The apostles and inspired men received their message directly -- Matt. 10:19; Mark 13:11; Acts 2:4; Gal. 1: 12.
5. We today receive INDIRECTLY -- 2 Tim. 2:15; 2:2; I John 5:13; Eph. 3: 3-4; John 20: 30 - 31; Jude 3; 2 Tim. 3: 16 - 17.

III. PREACHING THAT BRINGS PEOPLE FACE TO FACE WITH THEIR SINS IS PREACHING THAT EMPHASIZES THE MESSAGE AND NOT THE MESSENGER.
1. Gospel preaching was not committed to angels, but to man -- Matt. 28: 19 -20; 2 Cor. 4:7.
   (1) Angels would have hindered the message.
2. God wants the message emphasized, not the messenger.
3. This is a lesson preachers need to learn -- I Cor. 3:7; 2:5; 4:6.
   (1) Preachers, many times, convert the church to themselves, and not to Christ.
   (2) This is done when the preacher preaches himself.
4. Great men of the past emphasized the message:
   (2) Paul -- I Cor. 2: 1- 5; 1:23, 24; 9:16.

IV. OUR PREACHING MUST DEAL WITH SIN AS A REALITY
3. Some deny the existence of sin and death -- I John 1:8 - 10; Heb. 9: 27.
4. Sin is an awful reality and the Bible deals with it as such -- Matt. 1:21; 26:28; Rev. 1:5.

V. WE MUST DEAL WITH SIN IN PARTICULAR -- BE SPECIFIC
5. Illustration: If I call a doctor and he says I have pneumonia --I don't want medicine for Malaria.
VI. PREACHING THAT SETS FORTH THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN


2. Sin deceives people in if a thing is popular that it loses some of its evil tendencies:
   (1) Divorce -- Matt. 19: 9
   (2) Short wearing -- Matt. 5:28; I Tim. 2:9.
   (3) Dram drinking -- Gal. 5: 19 - 21.
   (4) Card playing and pool shooting -- I Thess. 5:22
   (5) Dancing -- Gal. 5:19

3. The wages of sin is death -- Rom. 6:23.
   (1) The man that does the sinning does the paying.
   (2) Works for the devil and then pays his own wages.

LET US NOW LOOK AT JESUS AS A PREACHER -- Matt. 4:17:

I. JESUS, IN HIS PREACHING, REBUKED PEOPLE FOR OBEYING THE DOCTRINES AND COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.

1. The Scribes wanted Jesus and His disciples to wash their hands as a religious act -- Matt. 15: 1 - 9.

2. Jesus accused them and named their practice "CORBAN"-- Mark 7: 11 - 13; Ex. 20:12.

3. We must not fail to speak firmly as He spoke against these things; there are many man-made doctrines today:
   (1) Instrumental music -- Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16
   (2) "Saved before Baptism" -- Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Matt. 26:28
   (3) Purgatory -- Luke 16: 24 - 26
   (4) "Can't fall from grace" -- I Cor. 10:8; Gal. 5: 4, 5
   (5) Mourner's bench/prayer -- John 9:31; Matt. 7:21
   (6) "Man does not have a soul" -- Matt. 10:28; 2 Cor. 4:16
   (7) Human organizations set up to do the work of the church -- Acts 14:23; Phil. 1:1

II. HE REBUKED PEOPLE FOR RELIGIOUS INincerity -- Matt. 15:8

1. Examples: Matt. 6:2,5,16 -- their hearts were not in it.

2. Some at Corinth were insincere in partaking of the Lord's Supper -- I Cor. 11: 26 - 29.

3. We must have our hearts in what we do -- John 4:24; I Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19.

4. Many don't sing, their mind wanders during the sermon, and they don't discern the Lord's body in the Lord's Supper.


1. Timothy was to be an example -- I Tim. 4:12.

2. Elders are to be an example -- I Pet. 5:3.

3. All Christians are to be an example -- Phil. 1:27.

4. Inconsistency will make void our teaching.

IV. JESUS REBUKED SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS -- Luke 18: 10 - 13

1. He had a good eye on himself; a bad eye on man; no eye on God.
2. The Publican took a good look at himself.

V. JESUS REBUKED THE SINS THAT MEN WINK AT AND PASS BY
1. Evil speaking -- Matt. 5:22.
2. Evil thinking -- Matt. 5: 27 - 28; Prov. 23: 7; Matt. 12:34.
3. Hatred -- Matt. 5: 43 - 44.