INTRODUCTION
1. These passages clearly show what is to be preached by the gospel preacher.
2. When a preacher does this kind of preaching, much good is done.
3. Paul also points out in our text some UNPROFITABLE preaching.
4. Let us study some PROFITABLE and UNPROFITABLE preaching -- First let us look at some UNPROFITABLE preaching.

I. UNPROFITABLE PREACHING
1. Preaching that "scratches the itching ears" is unprofitable -- 2 Tim. 4: 3 - 4.
   (1) Many people don't want the preacher to preach it "like it is" -- Jer. 5: 31; 6:10.
   (2) Many people don't see themselves as they really are -- Rev. 3:17.
   (3) Many want the preacher to preach to please them, NOT GOD -- Gal. 1:10.
   (4) Many people become the enemy of the preacher when he tells them the truth -- Gal. 4:16.
2. Preaching that makes the hearer think there is nothing for one TO DO is unprofitable.
   (1) There is much of this kind of preaching done.
   (2) Obedience is necessary to in order to receive God's grace and blessings -- Acts 2:40; Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:9; 2 Thess. 1: 8 - 9; Phil. 2:12.
3. Preaching that only excites the hearer is unprofitable preaching.
   (1) The hearer must be excited, but not in the way many people think.
   (2) The truth must be preached in a reasonable way to men and women -- Acts 17:2; Acts 8:12; Matt. 13:15.
   (3) When they understand the truth and obey it they will be excited and rejoice -- Acts 8:39.
   (4) Much preaching today simply stirs the emotions.
   (5) Preachers tell emotional tales and stir people to a high pitch emotionally, and they leave the people unsaved.
   (6) People need to know that the gospel is to be learned and obeyed -- Mk. 16:15 - 16; Matt. 28:19 - 20.
4. Preaching in generalities is unprofitable preaching.
   (1) Some will make proper application.
   (2) But, most of the time the ones who need the lesson will not make application.
   (3) Sin must be labeled for most people to "get the lesson".
5. Truth presented with an apology is unprofitable preaching.
   (1) Such action amounts to compromise -- Gal. 2:5.
   (2) If I preach the truth of God it is not mine for which to apologize -- it is the Lord's.
   (3) The Lord did not apologize for it, and neither can I without losing my soul.
6. Speculative preaching is unprofitable preaching:
   (1) Paul on this subject to Timothy -- 2 Tim. 2: 14 - 18.
   (2) Much preaching today is speculative:
   1. The Utopian Millennial age...
   2. Institutionalism
3. Continual cleansing from sins; marriage and divorce; etc.

7. Preaching human wisdom is unprofitable preaching.
   (1) Many sermons that are preached today have very little scripture.
   (2) These sermons are witty, entertaining, uplifting at the moment, but are without Bible teaching.
   (3) 1 Cor. 2:1 - 4; 2 Cor. 4:5
   (4) Some say "Preach the man, not the plan" -- "Preach Christ, not the church".

8. Preaching that does not declare the whole counsel of God is not profitable preaching -- Acts 20:27.
   (1) Sin must be dealt with.
   (2) Hope and encouragement must be given.

II. PROFITABLE PREACHING

1. Profitable preaching is when the word is FAITHFULLY PREACHED -- 1 Cor. 4: 2
   (1) The evangelist must preach the Word "in season", "out of season" -- 2 Tim. 4:2.
   (2) The Word when faithfully preached:
      1. Produces faith -- Rom. 10:17
      2. Gives understanding -- Psa. 119: 104 "Through thy precepts I get understanding".
      3. Saves -- James 1:21
      4. Cleanses -- John 15:3; Psa. 119: 9
      5. Profitable -- 2 Tim. 3: 16 - 17.

2. Profitable preaching is when nothing is kept back and the Word is fully preached -- Acts 20: 20 , 27.
   (1) One must preach about God, Christ, Holy Spirit, Heaven, Hell, marriage and divorce, modesty, purity, worship, "meat and milk" -- Heb. 5:12 - 14.

3. Profitable preaching is Forceful preaching:
   (1) Paul’s preaching was forceful -- Acts 18:4; 2 Cor. 5:11.
   (2) Preaching in Apostolic days "cut to the heart" -- Acts 2:37; 5:33; 7:54.
   (3) Preaching must move people out of their deadly complacency -- Rev. 3: 19.

4. Profitable preaching is URGENT preaching -- 2 Tim. 4:2.
   (1) There must be urgency in our preaching.

5. Profitable preaching is fearless preaching -- Rev. 21:8; Matt .10:28; 2 Tim. 1:7.
   (1) The preacher must not fear man -- Gal.1: 10.

CONCLUSION

1. We must encourage men to become faithful evangelists.
2. There is something awesome in Paul’s statement: 'Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel" -- 1 Cor. 9:16.
3. Are you here and out of Christ?

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