

PROFITABLE AND UNPROFITABLE PREACHING

2 Tim. 4: 1- 5; 3: 16 - 17; Col. 1:27; Tit. 2: 11 - 12
Donald Townsley

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) I 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 -- I 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.
 6. Builds up -- Acts 20: 32
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*' -- I Cor. 9:16.
3. Are you here and out of Christ?