

# THE CRISIS IN PREACHING

## Introduction:

1. It is unquestionably true that today there is a CRISIS in preaching:
  - (1) Fewer men are preparing to preach
  - (2) Many preachers have stopped preaching sermons on first principles.
  - (3) Many have stopped putting passages of SCRIPTURE in their sermons to prove their points -- they use tales and illustrations.
  - (4) Many have stopped IDENTIFYING THE CHURCH in their preaching.
    - a. A failure to show that the church is distinct from man-made churches will mean that those who are baptized will be weak members with no convictions.
  - (5) Some preachers do not take a definite stand against specific sins -- Heb. 1:9; Psa. 119: 104; Rom. 12:9; Eph. 5:11
  - (6) False concepts of presenting the truth:
    - a. Some contend for "no negative preaching" -- Col. 1:28; II Tim. 4:2
    - b. This is not what Paul told Timothy -- I Tim. 1: 3; II Tim. 4: 1 - 5
    - c. The gospel must be applied to the sinners whether it be sins of immorality or sins of a religious nature.
    - d. Some would argue that we should not preach against any issues.
      1. Institutionalism
      2. Pre-millennialism
      3. Instrumental music
      4. If we fail to preach on controversial subjects the church will be filled with weak , ungrounded and unsound members.
  - (7) Far too many today are looking for something to motivate them other than the Word of God.
  - (8) There is a different perception of the role of the preacher -- He is viewed not so much as a proclaimer of the Word, but as a manager, counselor, and entertainer.
  - (9) Preaching is to be molded by the expectations of society, instead of preaching molding society -- Rom. 12: 1 -2; Hosea 4:9
  - (10) There is a famine in the church in many places for the Word of God -- Amos 8:11 "*I will send a famine in the land ....of hearing the words of the Lord...*"
2. Why have changes occurred?
  - (1) Society has changed -- we are living in the "ME" generation.

- a. The primary concern of many is, "What makes me happy?"
  - b. An enormous emphasis on MATERIALISM -- the society is money-driven.
  - c. As people have become more self-centered, preaching has also become more related to the interest in self; thus the subject-matter of preaching often has come to reflect man's interest in himself, his needs, and his wants -- "The felt-need gospel".
- (2) Preaching has come to be regarded as a PROFESSION.
- a. Some are more interested in where the preacher went to school and his education, and how he dresses, than they are in his faithfulness, earnestness, soundness, and knowledge of the Word.
  - b. Changes have also occurred in preaching because we have not looked to Jesus, Paul and Peter for examples of preaching -- I Cor. 11:1; I Pet. 2: 21
3. We all need to understand what God's purpose is in preaching; let us look at some verses that will help us: I Cor. 1: 21; I Tim. 4:16
- (1) Preaching is connected with SALVATION -- Mark 16: 15 - 16
  - (2) The Salvation of the PREACHER and the HEARER is related to preaching -- I Tim. 4:11
  - (3) That which saves is the gospel that is preached -- Rom . 1:16; I Cor. 1:21

## I. WHAT KIND OF PREACHING IS NEEDED?

### 1. We need BIBLE-CENTERED preaching

- (1) God instructed Jonah to preach "*The preaching that I bid thee*"...Jonah 3:2
  - 1. Not a message of his own imagination -- Jer. 23: 31 - 32
  - 2. Not what men desire to hear -- II Tim. 4: 2 - 4
  - 3. It must be God's message not altered in any way -- Rev. 22: 18 - 19
    - a. Not added to
    - b. Not diminished from
- (2) Jesus sent forth His apostles to preach the gospel to the world -- Mk. 16:15 - 16
- (3) Paul urged Timothy to "*preach the Word*"...II Tim. 4:2
- (4) Much preaching today:
  - 1. It is pleasant to hear, but lacking in edification -- Acts 20:32
  - 2. It is entertaining, but not instructive -- II Tim. 3:16
- (5) Preaching should be centered in the Scriptures.

2. We need DOCTRINAL PREACHING

- (1) I Tim. 4:16; Tit. 2:1; I Tim. 1:2
- (2) Doctrine has fallen in disrepute among some preachers.
- (3) When we fail to preach doctrine the church drifts into error.

3. We need PREACHING THAT DEALS WITH THE PRESSING PROBLEMS which confront us.

- (1) John the Baptist dealt with Herod's sin problem -- "*It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife*"...Mark 6:18
- (2) Jesus told the MERCHANTISERS in the temple -- "*Make not my Father's house an house of merchandise*"...John 2:16
- (3) I Tim. 1:3, "*That thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine*"...Don't leave people in their ignorance, sin and error.

4. We need COURAGEOUS PREACHING

- (1) Paul requested the prayers of brethren that he might "*Speak boldly, as I ought to speak*"...Eph. 6: 20; II Cor. 7:4; Acts 9: 27; 13:46; Acts 27:9; I Thess. 2:2
- (2) We need men with MORAL COURAGE -- II Pet. 1:5
  1. To STAND against THE CROWD
  2. To STAND ALONE-- II Tim. 4:16 - 17
  3. To STAND for the TRUTH -- Eph. 6:11
  4. To STAND against APOSTASY -- I Tim. 4: 1 - 6
  5. To STAND against WORLDLINESS -- I John 2: 15 - 17
  6. To STAND against COMPROMISE -- Gal. 2:5
  7. To STAND against FRIENDS when they are WRONG -- Gal. 2: 11- 15

5. We need preaching with CONVICTION -- Heb. 11:1

- (1) We must preach the message because we believe it is true -- II Cor. 4: 12
- (2) We must "*Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*"...Jude 3
- (3) Men of conviction can move the hearts of men and women.

6. We need POWERFUL PREACHING

- (1) Paul and his companions were accused of "turning the world upside down" by their preaching -- Acts 17:6
- (2) Too many times today we co-exist with sin.

## 7. We need BALANCED PREACHING

- (1) We need men who can preach purity in life, spiritual growth, and overcoming the world, without at the same time neglecting --soundness in doctrine, contending for the faith and opposing every false way...Tit. 2:1; Jude 3; Psa. 119: 104

## 8. We need preaching in LOVE -- Rev. 3:19; Heb. 12:6

- (1) Eph. 4:15
- (2) We need men who LOVE THE TRUTH AND THE SOULS OF MEN.
- (3) It is amazing how forthright we can be with people when they know that plain words come from a heart of love and concern.

## 9. We need EFFECTIVE PREACHING

- (1) Effective preaching will bring about CHANGE in the LIVES of people.
- (2) Peter's preaching on Pentecost -- Acts 2: 37 - 38
- (3) It will bring growth in the lives of Christians -- I Pet. 2:2
- (4) It will turn men from error -- II Tim. 2: 24 - 26

## CONCLUSION

1. To preach effectively and powerfully one must first saturate himself with the knowledge of God's Word.
2. There is no substitute for STUDY -- II Tim. 2:15
3. The hunger of the world for the unadulterated gospel has not diminished -- when we preach it in its fullness we will still reach those hungry souls.
4. The gospel is not being preached today from many pulpits with the same VITALITY, CLARITY and POWER that it once was...

~Donald Townsley  
(Underwood Heights 2007)