

THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING

Lesson Three

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. We are preaching on "The Purpose of Preaching", basing our lessons on Acts chapter two.
2. We are studying these lessons because many don't seem to know the purpose of preaching.
3. Many who preach don't seem to know.

I. THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING IS TO LEAD MEN INTO THE LORD'S CHURCH

1. Acts 2:41; Acts 2:47
2. When men obey the gospel and are saved they are added to the Lord's church -- Acts 2: 37 - 38, 41, 47; I Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27; Acts 5:14
3. Preaching that leaves men out of the body of Christ, the church, and leaves them thinking they are saved is not the kind of preaching God wants -- Eph. 2: 13 - 16
4. Preaching that causes men to think they are saved outside of the church is not the kind of preaching that God wants.
5. It is necessary to show the difference between the gospel and the doctrines of men on this subject.

II. THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING IS TO PRODUCE UNITY

1. "*And all that believed were together, and had all things common*" -- Acts 2:44
2. "*And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and one soul*" -- Acts 4:32
3. THE JERUSALEM CHURCH WAS OF ONE HEART -- Acts 4:32
 - (1) Men think and reason in their hearts, they were united in their thinking and reasoning.
 - (2) Men understand with the heart; they were one or united in understanding.
 - (3) Men believe with the heart, they were united in faith.
 - (4) Men purpose with the heart; they were united in purpose.
 - (5) Men love with the heart; they were united in love.
4. Unity is the state or condition of being one, oneness, togetherness -- I Cor. 1:10; John 17: 20 - 21
 - (1) Unity is dwelling together without difference -- I Cor. 1:10
 - (2) Unity comes by accepting the Word of God -- John 17: 20 - 21
 - (3) Unity is had by following the plan given by the Holy Spirit -- Eph. 4: 1- 6
 - (4) The Word of God is the foundation of unity -- John 17: 20 - 21; I Cor. 1:10; 2 John 9 - 11
5. Passages that talk about the unity of God's people:
 - (1) We are to be "*knit together in love*" -- Col. 2:2, 19
 - (2) "*joined together*" -- Eph. 4:16
 - (3) "*strive together*" -- Phil. 1:27
 - (4) "*We are laborers together with God*" -- I Cor. 3:9
 - (5) "*fitly framed together*" -- Eph. 2:21
 - (6) "*buildded together*" -- Eph. 2:22
 - (7) "*Be of one mind, live in peace*" -- 2 Cor. 13:11
 - (8) "*Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*" -- Eph. 4:3
6. Disunity among members eats at the body of Christ like a cancer.
7. Bible preaching will produce UNITY.

III. THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING IS TO CALL FOR A CHANGE IN CONDUCT

1. *"And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, save yourselves from this untoward generation"* -- Acts 2:40
2. Peter told them to repent -- Acts 2:38
3. Observe that a call for a change was made even though the people present were religiously devout -- Acts 2:5
 - (1) Peter did not believe that one religion was as good as another.
4. Our preaching today must call for a change in the lives of people.
 - (1) In the lives of alien sinners.
 - (2) In the lives of denominational people; they must see that denominationalism is wrong.
 - (3) In the lives of members of the church.

IV. THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING IS TO HELP CHRISTIANS GROW.

1. *"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers"* -- Acts 2:42
2. Preaching is to cause people to continue steadfast in the worship and service to God -- I Cor. 15:58
3. We need preaching that will bring people to attend regularly on Sunday morning and then bring them back on Sunday night and Wednesday night.
4. Preaching that produces growth keeps back nothing that is profitable to the hearers -- Acts 20:20
5. It is preaching that declares the whole counsel of God -- Acts 20:27
6. It is preaching that deals with worldliness, attendance, worship, the work of the church, error in all forms, and institutionalism.

V. THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING IS TO PRODUCE UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER TO THE LORD

1. The Jerusalem church put His cause first in their lives -- Acts 2:45; 4:32
2. The churches of Macedonia did the same -- 2 Cor. 8: 1 - 5
3. Jesus demands unconditional surrender to Him -- Matt. 6:33; Lk. 9: 23
4. Preaching today must call for unconditional surrender to the Lord; He must be put first in our lives.

CONCLUSION

1. What we all need to learn is that the preaching that was done on Pentecost constitutes a pattern for preaching today.
2. The Holy Spirit directed the preaching that was done on Pentecost.
3. This is the only kind of preaching that will build up and save the church and the world.
4. We must get back to this kind of preaching.