THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING

Lesson Two

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. In these lessons on "The Purpose of Preaching", we are using Acts the second chapter as a basis for them.
2. The Holy Spirit was guiding Peter in how and what he said -- Matt. 10: 19
3. This is the kind of preaching God wants and approves.
4. Let us look at Peter's sermon and discover the purpose of preaching.

I. THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING IS TO CONVICT MEN OF SIN -- John 16:8

1. The preaching that Peter did on Pentecost CONVICTED THEM of their sins.
2. They were "*pricked in their hearts"* -- Acts 2:37
3. Peter did not preach in such a way as to leave them SATISFIED.
4. Preaching that leaves men SATISFIED IN SIN and ERROR has failed in its purpose.
5. There were many subjects that Peter could have discussed on Pentecost and disturbed NO ONE, but the Spirit directed him to preach what was needed to save those Jews from sin.
6. Brethren, we must UNDERSTAND that PAIN works for our good and SALVATION.
7. The gospel is a SWORD -- Heb. 4:12; Eph. 5:17
8. The basic NEEDS of this audience on Pentecost were met by their having been convicted of sin.
9. We need preaching today that will convict us of our sins! -- II Tim. 4:2

II. THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING IS TO PRODUCE CONVICTION

1. CONVICTION is "strong belief".
2. Convictions are produced by hearing the Word of God -- Heb. 11:1; Rom. 10:17
3. When people become Christians by conviction, they will hold out.
4. Peter's sermon produced convictions -- Acts 2: 37 - 42
5. We need preaching today that will produce convictions against:
   (1) Worldliness, immodest dress, mixed swimming, and lascivious behavior such as dancing and petting -- I Tim. 2: 9 - 10; Gal. 5:19
   (2) Denominationalism -- I Cor. 1:10
   (3) Institutionalism -- Acts 14:23
   (4) The church being involved in social activity -- I Cor. 11:22, 34
   (5) Fornication -- I Cor. 6:18
   (6) Adultery -- Gal. 5: 19 - 21
   (7) Divorce for any cause -- Matt. 19:9
   (8) Social drinking -- I Pet. 4:3
   (9) Vile language -- Eph. 4:29
   (10) Gambling
   (11) Indecent movies

III. THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING IS TO GIVE THE PLAN OF SALVATION

1. When asked, "*What shall we do?"* -- Acts 2: 37
2. Peter responded -- Acts 2:38

3. Three thousand souls were baptized -- Acts 2: 41
4. It is the current fashion of many today not to present the gospel plan of salvation.
5. You wonder why many don't give it?
   (1) Are they ashamed of it?
   (2) Do they no longer feel that it is vital?
   (3) Do they think that such is just "traditionalism"?
   (4) Do they feel that someone will become offended?
   (5) Do they think everybody already knows it?
6. Let us never forget that every man has a right to hear the gospel one time.
7. Our children need to hear it.
8. All of us need to have our pure minds stirred up by the way of remembrance -- II Pet. 1: 12 -15

IV. THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING IS TO CAUSE MEN TO THINK AND ASK QUESTIONS
1. Many preachers think it is an insult to be asked a question.
2. Peter's preaching caused people to ask questions -- Acts 2:37
3. When people start asking questions and seeking information, good is being done!

V. THE PUROSE OF PREACHING IS TO CAUSE MEN TO RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD -- Acts 2: 41
1. Those who received the Word on Pentecost when Peter preached the first sermon:
   (1) Believed
   (2) Repented
   (3) Were Baptized
   (4) God added them to the church -- Acts 2: 36 - 47
2. They continued steadfastly -- Acts 2: 42
3. To receive the Word means one receives ALL THE WORD SAYS.
   (1) The Word is Truth -- John 17:17; 8:32; James 2:10
4. Receiving the Word necessitates one giving up all error-- Matt. 15:6
5. When one receives the Word and obeys it he must let the Word abide in his heart -- John 15:7; I Cor. 15:1 - 2
6. He must be steadfast -- I Cor. 15:58
7. Preachers should preach the WORD -- NOT:
   (1) Hobbies
   (2) Theories
   (3) The commandments of men

CONCLUSION

Preached at Hebron Lane 1992; River Bend 1994