

THE INSTRUCTOR



“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

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A VOICE FROM THE PAST –

"PREACH THE WORD"

It seems all too common today to hear **gospel** preachers who have either forgotten the above exhortation go Timothy (2 Tim.4:2), or have given in to those with “itchy” ears (verse 3), and frequently preach fables. Still others preach everything **but** the **gospel**, which is ironic since they are “**gospel**” preachers.

The **gospel** is the **power** of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). Faith comes by hearing the word of God. (Rom. 10:17). We are justified by faith. (Rom. 5:1). We are saved by faith. (Eph. 2:8). Without faith it is impossible to please God. (Heb. 11:6). Therefore, **preaching the word**, the **gospel**, produces faith that pleases God; that justifies; that saves.

Apparently some men today are more interested in preaching personal, humorous, eloquent, spell-binding stories. Even the preaching of the truth without identifying book, chapter and verse may convert people to what the preacher says, but not because it is **the truth of God as revealed in the Bible**.

This type of preaching makes people feel good as they “**heap to themselves preachers after their own lusts**,” (2 Tim. 4:3), but ultimately wins people to the preacher and not to the power that saves, the **gospel!** (Romans 1:16)

Let us as hearers not turn away from the truth as those mentioned in 2 Tim. 4:4, but let us **hunger and thirst after righteousness**, (Matthew 5:6), and heap to ourselves those who will simply “**PREACH THE WORD**.” ---**Tim Beutjer**

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[The above article appeared in THE INSTRUCTOR, November, 1990]

WHAT CHRISTIANS NEED

Christians do not need new schemes and methods, but more faith in God's plan. Christians do not need more money, but more unselfishness. Christians do not need more time, but more wisdom for using time. Christians do not need to think bigger, but to think. Neither do they need glamour of “new frontiers”, but blessings of “ancient landmarks.” NOTE: This article appeared in THE INSTRUCTOR, June, 1972

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Editorial...

REACTIONS TO THE PREACHED WORD (Concluded)

Let us continue a consideration of "reactions to the preached word" in the first century.

PHILIP'S PREACHING TO THE SAMARITANS IN ACTS 8

Read Acts 8:5-25 and see what Philip preached to the Samaritans. We learn from verse 5 that **"he preached Christ unto them"**. Verse 6 tells us that **"the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did"**. We learn from verse 12 that **"when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized both men and women"**.

We learn from verse 13 that Simon [who before had before bewitched them with his sorceries] **"himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he contin-**

ued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done".

OBSERVATION: In preaching "Christ" Philip preached **"the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ"** which included "baptism" because when they believed the preaching **"they were baptized both men and women."**

FURTHER OBSERVATION: It is obvious that the Samaritans [and also Simon the sorcerer] had sincere and honest hearts. Their believing and obeying the teaching of Philip is evidence that they did have such hearts.

THE JAILER (& HIS HOUSE) IN PHILIPPI

Read Acts 16:16-40 for an account of the primary events that occurred at Philippi while Paul and Silas were there. They were beaten and cast into prison. **"And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison on awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? (Acts 16:25-30)**

We learn from Acts 16:31-32 that Paul and Silas (Cont'd on page 3)

said: **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.”** The text does not tell us specifically what was contained in **“the word of the Lord”** that was spoken. It obvious that it contained **“repentance”** and **“baptism”** because we learn that **“he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.”** (See v. 33.) NOTE: The fact that he **“washed their stripes”** suggests that the jailer was a penitent believer and thus as a fit subject for baptism. The jailer saw that baptism was important enough to go the same hour of the night and be baptized! Remember it was after midnight!

PAUL AT CORINTH IN ACTS 18

Please read Acts 18:1-17. The apostle Paul was in Corinth. We read in verse 4 that Paul **“reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.”** From verse 5 we learn that Paul **“testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.”**

How did these hearers at Corinth react to the word of God? There were different reactions by different people to the word of God which was preached. Verse 6 tells us: **“And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go to the Gentiles.”**

We learn from verse 8 that **“Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house, and many of**

the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”

Paul continued at Corinth **“a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.”** (See v. 8)

NOTE: As you can observe, different people at Corinth reacted different ways when they heard the word of God. Some reacted in a good way and some reacted in an evil way.

FELIX, (AN EARTHLY GOVERNOR) IN ACTS 24

Read Acts 24:1-24 to get the context of why Paul was where he was at this time before Felix and his wife Drusilla (who was a Jewess) to hear Paul **“concerning the faith in Christ”** [v. 24].

We learn from verse 25 that Paul **“reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come...”** How did Felix react to the teaching of the word of God? That same verse tells us that **“Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.”** Verse 26 tells us that **“He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him.”**

NOTE: It is obvious that Felix understood the teaching of Paul on this occasion because **“he trembled”**, although there is no evidence in the Scriptures that he ever **“obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ.”**

KING AGRIPPA IN ACTS 26

Read Acts 26:1-32 and then carefully study the verses that show the teaching that Paul was giving of the word of God to King Agrippa and (Cont'd on page 4)

others to whom he was speaking.

In verses 6-7 he speaks of “**the hope of Israel**”, etc. In verse 8 he speaks of God “**raising the dead**.” In verses 9-12 he speaks of his opposition to Jesus and of his persecution of saints. In verses 13-23 he speaks of his conversion to Jesus and of his actions following it.

We learn from verses 27-28 that Paul said: “**King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.**” NOTE: There is no record where Agrippa ever became a Christian! Almost a Christian is altogether lost! Sad indeed!

ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH IN Acts 8

Read Acts 8:26-39 very carefully and observe the following facts. (Continued in right column)

(1) The eunuch was a religious man because he had travelled from Ethiopia to worship and was reading the Scriptures. (2) He desired Philip to join him in his chariot. Philip did. (3) Philip “**preached unto him Jesus.**” (4) When they came to a certain water, the eunuch requested to be baptized, and confessed his faith in Jesus Christ, and was baptized! (Verse 36-38) (5) The eunuch went on his way rejoicing!

NOTE: The truth was taught in each of the examples used in a study of this subject, but the reactions on the part of the hearers were not always the same. Each person is responsible for how he reacts each time he hears the truth. (CRS)

ANNOUNCEMENT: Carrol R. Sutton will be preaching at the Market St. Church of Christ in Athens, AL on November 13, 2011.

SENTENCE SERMONS

The journey between knowing and doing is a tough journey

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Talk is cheap because the supply often exceeds the demand.

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Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

* * * * *

The more rumors and gossip are spread, the thicker they will get.

* * * * *

“Buy the truth, & sell it not; also wisdom, & instruction, & understanding.”

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