

BUILDING UP THE CHURCH THROUGH PREACHING 6

Text: 2 Tim. 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

INTRODUCTION:

A. Someone once said “As the pulpit goes, so goes the church”.

1. Strong preaching-strong church.
2. Weak preaching-weak church.
3. A congregation should be very careful as to whom it acquires as a preacher.

B. The salvation of souls are at stake-1 Tim. 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

C. Today we want to notice this subject through two view points:

1. Preaching that won't build up the church.
2. Preaching that will build up the church.

BODY:

I. PREACHING THAT WON'T BUILD UP THE CHURCH.

A. Preaching to please men. Telling what they want rather than what they need.

1. 1 Thess. 2:4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

2. Gal. 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

3. No place in the pulpit-Jn. 12:42-43 Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

B. Preaching a compromised gospel.

1. Some compromise with the world-1 Jn. 2:15-17. xxx, dress, etc. Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

2. Some compromise with denominationalism-2 Cor. 6:14-18 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty."

C. Preaching human wisdom.

1. Too much preaching is philosophic in nature. Witty, entertaining, morally uplifting and lacking in Bible.

2. Notice:

a. 1 Cor. 2:1-5 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

b. 2 Cor. 4:5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

3. Many people are craving gospel sermons that they used to hear years ago.

D. Preaching either only negative sermons or only positive.

1. Church can not grow on a diet of all negative sermons.

2. Error and sin will thrive on exclusive positive preaching.

3. Can not preach the gospel and leave everyone else alone.

- a. Stephen.
- b. John Baptist.
- c. Paul.

E. Preaching hobbies.

1. Some things need more time than other subjects.

2. Pharisees included some thing to the exclusion of others. Mt. 23:23
Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

F. Preaching extreme or radical views.

- 1. No Bible classes.
- 2. One cup.
- 3. No eating in building.
- 4. No overhead projectors.
- 5. No literature.

II. PREACHING THAT WILL BUILDING UP THE CHURCH.

A. The Message....2 Tim. 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

1. Preaching Christ-the gospel-the faith-the truth and sound doctrine are all the same as -- "Preaching the word".

2. Only the word preached can make us what God wants us to be.

a. The word produces faith-Rom. 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

b. Gives understanding Psa. 119:105,130. **Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.**

c. Saves-Jas. 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

d. Cleanses-Jn. 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

e. Profitable-2 Tim. 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

f. Builds up-Acts 20:32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

B. The manner of preaching-2 Tim. 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

1. Be "ready" "instant" - Welcome or unwelcome.

2. Adapt to the needs of the hearers.

a. Reprove (convince) or convict.

(1). Translated convict Jn. 8:46. and Titus 1:9.

(2). Tell or show in Matt. 18:15.

b. Rebuke-Sharpness and severity is in this word. It means to censure or reprimand.

c. Exhort-admonish. persuade, invite, beseech, implore..

(1). Acts 2:40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."

(2). Heb. 3:13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

B. The manner of preaching. 2 Tim. 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

3. Be patient and long suffering.

a. Don't become weary or angry at another's rebellion.

b. 2 Tim. 2:24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

C. The reasons for preaching the word-2 Tim. 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

1. Some will hear now that will not later- V.3.

2. Others will not endure sound doctrine but will have itching ears and return to fables. Isa. 30:10. **Who say to the seers, "Do not see," And to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.**

c. Not everyone wants the truth-2 Thess. 2:10-12 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

3. But those who listen and love Christ's appearing, will receive the crown of righteousness-2 Tim.4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

CONCLUSION:

A. To take sound gospel preaching out of the pulpit is to take the backbone out of the church.

B. The end result will be worldliness, spiritual weakness and digression.

C. Preachers are stewards of the gospel-1 Cor. 4:1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

D. They need to be faithful-1 Tim. 6:20-21 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge-- by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.

E. Should you be any less??