

WORD WORSHIP IN PREACHING

The early church of Christ “*continued steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine*” [teaching] (Acts 2:42). This was a part of the first worship service of the church that took place on the Sunday during the Pentecost feast in Jerusalem (Acts 2). This is indicated in the list of other activities that were taking place along with this teaching [i.e. “fellowship, breaking of bread, prayers”].

Preaching is defined as “publicly proclaiming or teaching; delivering a sermon or religious address to an assembled group of people, typically in church.” Preaching has its place throughout the Bible, but always finds priority among God’s people, especially New Testament Christians, for regular instruction or teaching unto righteousness.

Numerous passages remind us of its purposes:

- To proclaim and teach of Jesus (1 Corinthians 2:2; 2 Cor. 4:5)
- To teach all nations / all the world (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16)
- To hear and believe in the Gospel (Romans 10:13-14)
- To grow in our faith (Romans 10:17)
- To grow unto maturity (2 Peter 1:5ff)
- To grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18)
- To become teachers (Hebrews 5:12-14)
- To be able to defend (1 Peter 3:15)
- To keep our focus on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2)
- To stay focused on the prize of Heaven (Philippians 3:14)

J. Winfred Clark wrote an article years ago and then republished in *EXPOSITIONS OF THE EXPOSITOR* entitled *The Fruit of Sound Teaching* from Titus 2:1 which reads: “*speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.*” This article included below reminds us of the place of Gospel Preaching in our worship services and in our daily lives.

The results of the preaching of the Gospel:

1. **There Would Be a Balanced Life** (v. 2-10)

If you take the time to read through these verses, you will find those things addressed to each group that would help them to live mature and complete lives of godliness. In fact, you will find the phrase, “in all things” in verse 7, 9, 10. That means one’s life is affected in all things, whether in his talk or his walk, whether in public or in private. Sound teaching will govern his life and lip in all that he does or says.

Not only is there balance in each life in each group, but there is also that balance to be maintained between each group. Note the term “likewise.” This means there is no double standard.

2. **There Will Be a Blameless Life** (v. 3-5)

The life that is affected by sound doctrine will be in accord with holiness. Such will mean their speech will be blameless, for they will tell the truth as they are not false accusers. This is in contrast with the reputation of those on the isle of Crete. There will also be temperance as they are able to control themselves.

3. **There Will Be a Beautiful Life** (v. 6-10)

In this section, one is able to show by his manner of life what the gospel will produce. His manner of life will attract people to that which produces such. Such a life is attractive and is made to be so by the teaching of Christ. Such a life will be well ordered and properly arranged by the guidelines set forth by sound teaching.

The preaching of the Gospel of Christ affects change to all those who believe (Romans 1:16). May we never take for granted the part of our worship services characterized by preaching and teaching.

~Wayne Rodgers

Source:

Clark, J. Winfred. *Expositions of the "The Expositor": J. Winfred Clark*. Ed. Michael McDaniel. Vol. 1. Memphis, TN: Memphis School of Preaching, 2001. Print.