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THE BIBLE VIEW

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Who Will Tell Them?

Bill Brinkworth

Philip was given a command by an angel to go south (Acts 8:26). Without receiving any other details, the man of God obediently went. After thirty miles or so, he encountered a lone chariot riding in the desert. As he got closer, he saw it was a man being chauffeured in a chariot.

Running to keep up with the traveler, Philip overheard the man who “just happened” to be reading Isaiah 53:7 at the time. As any alert soul-winner would surmise, Philip knew that the timing was of God, and it was an opportunity to tell the Ethiopian eunuch about the One whom the Scripture prophesied. The preacher then asked the perfect lead-in question considering the soul-winning opening he faced, “... Understandest thou what thou readest?”

The Ethiopian's response was too good for any soul-winner to resist, “... How can I, except some man should guide me? ...” (Acts 8:31). That man's answer should be

the driving force of any Sunday school teacher, preacher, or faithful soul-winner. His response is the reason most church doors should be open and why many bring strangers to the house of God. The eunuch's question shows a Christian's purpose in life: to tell others about Jesus.

Follow the story further and you will find that Philip immediately talked to the man about Jesus, and the eunuch got saved. Our goal in this life as a Christian is to take as many occasions as the Lord allows us to tell someone about Jesus and how He is the only way to Heaven. Did you have an opportunity to talk to a person today and did that occasion result in your telling someone about Jesus?

“Every Christian occupies some kind of pulpit and preaches some kind of sermon every day.”

What Preaching Can Do

Bill Brinkworth

One of the methods for the world to hear God's message is from preaching. It is a means God uses to help the world know His will and way. Here is some of what the Bible says can happen when one is under good, biblical preaching:

- **Preaching can tell listeners about Jesus so they can be saved.**

“Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this

Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.” Acts 17:3
Also: I Cor. 1:23, II Cor. 4:5.

- **Preaching God’s message can change and help lives.**

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;”
Isaiah 61:1

- **Preaching can be a means for a person to learn what the Bible says.**

“... Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? ...” Acts 8:30-31 I have talked with many people about the things of God, and have observed the ones with the most unbiblical ideas of what the Bible does teach are those that are not under sound, biblical preaching!

- **Preaching often directs some to turn from their sins.**

“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Mat. 4:17 God used Jonah to warn the people of Nineveh of their sin and possible judgment (Jonah 3:2).

- **Preaching can show God’s futuristic plans for man.**

“And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Mat. 10:7

- **Preaching can encourage people to turn from the unimportant things of this world and concentrate on what God says is important.**

“... why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God ...”
Acts 14:15

- **Preaching does not make sense to an unsaved person.** However, a child of God relies on sound preaching to feed, encourage, and direct his life.

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” I Cor. 1:18 Also: I Cor. 1:21, 2:14

Many go to church for the wrong reasons. Although church is a good place to fellowship with other believers, the main reason for attending church should not be for socializing. God did not send His Son, Jesus, to die for the church so that it could be a place of entertainment.

God’s main purpose for one’s attending church is that it is His means for keeping His people spiritually alive and healthy. It is also a means for the lost to hear about God’s way to Heaven. Faithfully attending church will allow a person to hear what God wants that person to hear. By missing preaching, one is missing God’s message to him!

“An influential Christ-rejecter was genuinely saved in a church service. The pastor’s heart was overjoyed. The edge of his joy, however, was somewhat dulled when he asked the new convert what it was in his sermon that brought him to Christ.

“Ah,” said the convert, “It wasn’t your sermon. It was your text!”

More Ink

Edited from an article by C. H. Spurgeon

Ministers are like old-fashioned pens. Some of them are like goose-quills, writing very heavily. Others require sharpening. Some (those college-educated preachers) like the steel pens which make good fine up-strokes. All those pens, however, could do nothing without ink. What all pastors do require is the ink of the Holy Spirit: “... *written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God ...*” II Corinthians 3:3.

Instead of finding fault with the pastor, it would be better to pray, “Lord, give him more ink!” It is only the ink of the Holy Spirit that will make a mark on any heart.

Kinds of Preaching

Author Unknown

An English merchant, visiting Scotland in 1650, was asked on his return what he had heard in the churches over

there. He answered, “Rare things. I went to St. Andrew’s and heard a majestic-looking man (Pastor Blair), and he showed me the majesty of God. After him, I heard a little, fair man (Pastor Rutherford), and he showed me the loveliness of Christ. I then went to another church, and I heard an old preacher (Pastor Dickson) and that man showed me my own heart.”

“That is not the best sermon which makes the hearers go away talking to one another, and praising the speaker. The better is that which makes them go away thoughtful and serious, and hastening to be alone to think.” — *Burnett*

Getting Ready to Preach

J. G. Wilson

While Thomas Shepherd, a contemporary preacher of Jonathan Edward’s time, was on his death bed, several young ministers came to see him. He looked at them with great interest and solemnity and uttered this weighty advice to them, “Your work is great, and calls for great seriousness. As to myself, I have done three things in my preaching. The study of every sermon cost me tears. Before I preached a sermon, I applied what God had shown me to my own life first. I always went up into the pulpit knowing I would have to give an account to my Master.”

What to Preach

Author Unknown

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon.
“How do you know what to say?” he asked.

“Why, God tells me.”

“Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?”

“The average man's idea of a good sermon is one that goes over his head and hits his neighbor's.” — Barber