

WHAT SHOULD A PREACHER “PREACH?”

By Keith Greer

For every gospel preacher decisions must be made on what subjects he will preach: Does he preach lessons on first principles; Positive or negative; The "meat" of the word; Controversial subjects; Topical or expository; Series lessons? The questions are endless, and the answers will vary from one preacher to another. Still, I believe all preachers need to follow some "basic" rules.

"For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God." {Acts 20:27}

"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." {1 Corinthians 2:4,5}

"For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel." {1 Corinthians 9:16}

"For do I now persuade men or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still please men, I would not be the servant of Christ." {Galatians 1:10}

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 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." {2 Timothy 4:2-4}

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also the Greek." {Romans 1:16}

"For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church." {1 Corinthians 4:17}

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." {1 Corinthians 3:6}

What do all these passages have in common? One simple and vivid statement for preachers everywhere, **PREACH THE GOSPEL!!** Gospel preaching must be “bible centered.” Nothing will be new, but the preaching can only have “power” if it has a “**thus saith the Lord**” behind it. The power to convert the lost sinner, edify the saints, and bring about restoration to the erring has never been in the messenger – but in the message!

Preaching is simply telling people what they need most! We may have different styles, dress differently, come from different parts of the world, and have various shortcomings as God's servants. Yet, we better be sure that all preachers have the same focus. Preaching the **unsearchable riches of Christ!**

One of the things I really believe in is “**preventive preaching.**” Why wait for a problem to come to you – what not prepare and forewarn brethren concerning a particular problem before it arrives? One of the reasons I pay attention to what is being taught, or not being taught, in other places is to be sure I’ve taken the necessary steps for that not to be a problem in Harrodsburg. Believe me, it’s much easier to keep a problem from happening than trying to correct it once it’s already happened.

One must know the area they live in – what are some of the issues in this area? One I was made aware of very quickly was **Premillennialism**. This is why I have discussed this subject on the radio. First two classes here have been on the book of Daniel and now we are discussing the book of Revelation. Why? Two of the major books of those who seek to teach this doctrine. The better we understand the true meaning; enables us to answer the false concepts. Yes, I still must decide from week to week what will be my subject matter. One thing you can expect from me, **BOOK, CHAPTER, & VERSE** text!***