

What Should I Preach?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. 2Tim. 4:1-2 - How do preachers choose lessons?
 - 1. Some buy outline books or copy from sermons on websites
 - 2. Some are fixated on current issues or personal hobbies
 - 3. Some limit their preaching to first principles
 - 4. Some develop lessons that mirror their personal studies
 - 5. I could preach a sermon about how to choose topics for sermons
- B. Acts 10:19-48 - Peter brought the word of God and considered his audience
 - 1. Peter first resolved to preach the word of God
 - 2. He then examined his audience and considered their condition and drew conclusions about their needs
 - 3. The lesson he then preached was from the word of God tailored and presented to address the current needs of his audience
- C. While the audience's condition determines what the preacher will teach, the audience does not get to choose what they will hear
 - 1. "A man who first tried to guess 'what the public wants,' and then preached that as Christianity because the public wants it, would be a petty mixture of fool and knave" (C. S. Lewis)
 - 2. "People have an idea that the preacher is an actor on a stage and they are the critics, blaming or praising him. What they don't know is that they are the actors on the stage; the preacher is merely the prompter standing in the wings, reminding them of their lost or forgotten lines."
(Søren Kierkegaard)
- D. What should I preach?

I. "PREACH JESUS CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED"

- A. He is the central figure of our faith - 1Cor. 2:2; John 8:24
- B. He is the primary pattern in our salvation - Rom. 6:3-5
- C. He is the reason we survive our sojourn in this world - Acts 1:11, 5:42
- D. He is the judge of how we passed our sojourn here - Matt. 25:31-46

II. "PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

- A. It is our earthly marker of our home in heaven - Acts 28:30-31; Matt. 16:18-19
- B. It is the place of our citizenship in Christ - Acts 8:12; Col. 1:13
- C. There is nothing in this universe more precious - Acts 20:28; 1Peter 1:18-19
- D. It does something that has not happened since the time before the tower of Babel; it unites all men - Eph. 4:4, 2:14-19

III. "PREACH SALVATION"

- A. It is the implicit purpose of every sermon - Acts 11:1-4, 11-18
- B. It is the explicit purpose of every scriptural response to the gospel
 - 1. Salvation and believing - John 3:16-18
 - 2. Salvation and repentance - Luke 24:46-47

3. Salvation and confession - Rom. 10:9-10
4. Salvation and baptism - Mark. 16:16; Acts 2:38

IV. "PREACH AGAINST USELESS THINGS"

- A. Apostle Paul did it - Acts 14:15; Gal. 1:8-9
- B. Jesus did it - Rev. 2:15-16, 20
- C. Elders must do it - Titus 1:10-14

V. "PREACH THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD"

- A. Preach everything; hold nothing back - Acts 20:20, 27
- B. It is designed to be understood - 1Cor. 1:18-27; Eph. 3:2-4
- C. Preach it as God's mouthpiece, not His editor - 1Peter 4:11; Jer. 23:21-22

Conclusion:

- A. "I preach as if I am never sure to preach again; as a dying man to other dying men." (Richard Baxter)
- B. "Preach and live as if Jesus was crucified yesterday, rose from the dead today, and is returning tomorrow." (Martin Luther)
- C. 2Tim. 4:1-2, 5