

Preaching & Teaching the Word of God

All Scripture is KJV: Hebrews 4:2

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY?

Hebrews 4:2

² For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

³ For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

1. What is the point of preaching?
2. What about teaching. What is the point of teaching?
3. Should not a person just study the bible and read it on his own?
 - ✓ What is the purpose for preaching then if that be the case?
4. These are all reasonable questions to ask. But each one deserves to be answered.
 - But notice first of all from the scripture above of Hebrews 4:2-3 that the gospel preached resulted in that as some “believed” those people were the ones that entered into God’s rest. Meaning that because they heard the “Word of God” preached and believe; which it directly refers to as the gospel message being preached it resulted in the salvation of those that believed. They entered into His rest.
 - It did not say that any of those people that believed had to do anything else to enter into God’s rest which is referring to salvation.

But also note that it was the “preaching” that resulted in salvation.

But let’s continue.....

Well let’s see what the bible has to tell us about these questions?

1. All the way from the O.T right through the N.T; it was God who instructed the people to hear His word, and they were instructed to observe it, and to carry out his commandments.
2. For this purpose God gave special instructions to the prophets, priests, and Apostles. These were the people God held primarily responsible for the dissemination of his word which is called preaching.
3. Through these people God used the power of His spoken word through the preachers to convert the souls of the righteous who believed in Him alone. This is confirmed both in the OT and NT constantly.
4. Through these men’s faithfulness, God then wanted and still wants people to share the Word of God with others. (Matt 28:19-20).

✚ **But what is preaching? And what is teaching? Was the questions asked earlier.**

Well best explained Preaching is **the delivering of God's Word** with power to convict men's hearts who hear it, using the word of God at the same time to teach them these principles.

Whilst **Teaching is simply explaining what God's Word says**, and educating those that hear the Word to help them understand what the Word of God is saying.

- A. So preaching involves both aspects of teaching and preaching (proclaiming). Also preaching expects an answer or reaction from the persons hearing the Word of God delivered to them, so that they can come to a decision in their lives as a result of hearing the Word of God being preached to them.
- B. Teaching on the other hand can just be a lesson in God's Word, without demanding a response from the persons hearing it.
- C. That's why a Preacher, needs to be skilled in the Word of God, and needs to remember many aspects of God's word being committed to memory in order that the preaching can flow as God commands the responses as a result of his word being heard.

In the OT, as today, there are many people who don't want to be taught the true word of God, but instead want to heap to themselves "teachers" having itching ears.

These kind of teachers that they allow to be placed in the ministry to teach them, are chosen to make the people feel good about themselves, and take the glory away from God.

But God, told the "preachers to rebuke the people" with all longsuffering to be able to endure sound doctrine. But this kind of preaching today is often refused from the pulpits and the people want their way instead to listen to soft messages that don't rebuke their sin.

- The Apostle Paul tells us that these times would come, and they are with us today.

2 Timothy 4:3

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

1. Hard preaching these days, drives the luke warm people from the hard word preaching churches, and sends them to churches where they feel comfortable in their sin and where they can be entertained.
2. God expects hard sound preaching of His word from his preachers, and his teachers.
3. A lot of people don't like hard preaching because it does not fit in with the world's way of thinking and ideologies.

The Lord told Isaiah to record these same events we see today even in the OT.

Isaiah 30:10 ¹⁰ **Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:**

- ✓ **Also.....look what Jesus did.....about preaching.**
- ✓ Even Jesus, used these same methods of getting through to the people of all religions and those that were still in unbelief.

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be **preached** in all the world **for a witness unto all nations**; and then shall the end come.

1. What about when Jesus addressed the crowds and preached to them in Mark 2. Preaching is to be a witness to the nations.
2. These scribes knew the word of God from the OT, but yet they had no faith. Although they had the “teaching” they did not have the faith.
3. By Jesus preaching to them, he was reminding them of the OT and hoped that they would by faith believe. That’s what preaching the Word of God does or hopes to achieve.

Look what Jesus did.....

Mark 2 King James Version (KJV)

1 And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.

² And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and **he preached the word unto them.**

³ And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.

⁴ And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.

- ✓ There was more than one person who had the palsy, but only one had the faith to come and he was healed.

⁵ **When Jesus saw their faith**, he said unto the sick of the palsy, **Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.**

- ✓ By faith his sins were forgiven there and then by Jesus himself.

⁶ But there was certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,

⁷ Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies **who can forgive sins but God only?**

⁸ And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, **Why reason ye these things in your hearts?**

⁹ Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, **Thy sins be forgiven thee**; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?

¹⁰ **But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins,** (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)

- ✓ This is what Jesus said to the man he had just healed. Jesus gave him personally the reassurance of this man's sins (plural) being forgiven right there and then.

¹¹ I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

¹² And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

1. By Jesus preaching, these men, and the scribes who were present were all amazed.
2. They glorified God.

I. In the New Testament we see the same principles of preaching being applied to many who had been preached to.

1. Just because a person will hear the word of God, does not mean that they will all be saved.
2. Jesus because a person will be taught the word of God also does not mean that they will be saved.
3. Believe it or not, there are unsaved people who read the bible.
4. You have to believe by faith, in the gospel, in Jesus to be saved, to enter into His rest.

Look at the following verses.....

Hebrews 4:2

² **For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.**

³ For **we which have believed do enter into rest**, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, **if they shall enter into my rest:** although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

1. Even though the same gospel message had been preached by the Apostle Paul, that same message that he preached then again, did not profit everyone that he preached it to. Why?
2. **but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.**
3. **Not everyone** has the faith of a child to believe God. That's why not everyone who hears the word of God will be saved.
4. **But those who do**, They are the ones who will from that "moment of faith" enter into God's rest.
5. **If you have believed**, then God says you have entered into my rest.

1 Corinthians 1:21

For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it **pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.**

1. If God, is serious about saving souls from the destruction in Hell, which he is.
2. Then God will surely tell us how to be saved. And that's what he tells us here in 1 Corinthians 1:21.
3. This is a verse in which so many people misquote it. But God saves those who "believe" in Him.

II. So preaching and teaching have a very important role to play in the lives of the saved and the lives of the unsaved.

1. In the lives of the saved, it is to drive us closer to God.
2. In the lives of the unsaved it is to drive them closer to God.

✚ In Romans 10:14-17 it tells us also what the point of preaching is. And what it can accomplish.

¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and **how shall they hear without a preacher?**

¹⁵ And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1. So the important part of having faith, is first to know who you placing your faith in. Only when you know that can you begin to place your faith.
2. Romans 10:17, answers that question of having faith. It explains that faith in God first comes by hearing Gods Word.
3. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Which means to have faith you had to have known those things which were promised to you by God.

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners **spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,** ² Hath in these last days **spoken unto us by his Son,** whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Hebrews 11:1-2 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² **For by it the elders obtained a good report.**

So.....

III. What is the point of Teaching, and what is the point of Studying on your own?

1. This was one of our opening questions if you can remember.
2. What is the point of teaching, and what is the point of studying on your own.
 - a. Well first of all, God calls us to study His word.
 - b. **2 Timothy 2:15** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
 - c. By studying Gods word, we are not only obeying God, we are also learning to obey his word through our studies.
 - d. In other words we are learning to say yes to the things we are learning about God. Instead of reading Gods word, and then coming to our own conclusion of what we want his word to say.
 - e. Also there are many people who read God's Word, but deny what they are reading, because it may go against what they have previously been taught.

✚ **So why do we study?** Well we need to study to show ourselves approved unto God. Because we want God to approve of us also.

✚ **The bible also says here:** That we must not be ashamed when we learn the truth about God. Some people get ashamed of what they want to believe, because if they believe the truth it may go against what "main stream" Christianity believes.

✚ **We are called to:** rightly divide the Word of God. Are you doing that in all honesty? Be honest with yourself?

❖ With the help of the Holy Spirit, the bible says he will lead us into all truths. Therefore when we have studied, or have been taught by the Holy Spirit, we will be better prepared to receive the Word of God **when it is preached to us.**

➤ **Therefore.....Jesus Preached and Taught the people.....**

Matthew 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, **teaching in their synagogues**, and **preaching the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

Matthew 21:23

And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was **teaching**, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

1. From this verse we can see that even Jesus felt is necessary and important to both **teach and preach** to the people in their synagogues.
2. Jesus did not take it lightly to teach people. He taught them daily about the things of the kingdom of God.

Matthew 26:55

In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? **I sat daily with you teaching in the temple**, and ye laid no hold on me.

1. If teaching was not important from the pulpit, then why did Jesus teach them daily in the temple?
2. If knowing Gods word was not important then why did Jesus use his time on a daily basis to teach them in the temple?

✓ This same method of delivering the word of God to the people was carried out by the Apostle Paul as we read in the Book of Acts.

Acts 15:35

Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, **teaching and preaching the word of the Lord**, with many others also.

1. So why is it today, that when Pastors want to teach it to the people there is so much resistance to the Word of God.

- ✚ **Why is it that people will not endure the sound doctrine?**
- ✚ **Why is it that people get upset when the word of God is presented to them?**
- ✚ **Why is it then that the people got upset with Jesus when he preached and healed the sick?**

2. Well the answer is simply, that they had their own thoughts as to what truth is, instead of listening to the word of God, and asking God to help them be discerners of what he said.
3. In all aspects of life, people are always resistance to the change of new things, and the Word of God is no exception to that.
4. If we always hear the same thing day in and day out, we will never change. **We need to be challenged by the Word of God. That's what preaching is for.**

✚ That's what Paul spoke about in the time that they ought to be teachers of the word; they had to get teachers teaching them again. They had not grown in God's word.

Hebrews 5: ¹¹ Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. ¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

¹³ For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

✚ Because we have come to Jesus, and trusted in him, the bible says he has laid up for us a crown of righteousness in heaven.

2 Timothy 4:8

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

1. Timothy had not died yet. Yet he was sure Jesus was going to give him the crown of righteousness that he had promised him. The crown of salvation.
- 2. If it was not for preaching there would not be any souls saved.**
3. Also....Timothy would not have been that great evangelist, if his mother and grandmother had not taught him the scriptures when he was a child.

As we live through this time of crisis, or tribulation, let us not lose faith in Jesus our Lord. Jesus said he would never leave us, no forsake us.

So remember all brothers and sisters, we need to use our time wisely, and continue to preach and to teach others at every opportunity we might have.

We know that Jesus will come again, and we should not be found wanting if he comes in our life time.

Let us stay faithful to our Lord and Saviour.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....