

The Foolishness of Preaching

All Scripture is KJV: 1 Corinthians 1:21

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY ?

- Today I want to preach about “Preaching The Word of the Lord”

1 Corinthians 1:21

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.

- This verse is a verse about how powerful Gods Word is.

It has been some time now since I have preached from the Book of 1 Corinthians.

- But I felt a need to do so this week, because of what I have seen this week concerning those who are unsaved and have no hope.

These people don't even know what sin really is, but it is these very people who don't have any hope in their lives; unlike the Christian believers who are saved by the Lord Jesus and who can turn to ask Him for help at anytime through prayer.

- ✓ But for the unsaved person it is not so.
- ✓ They do not have any hope, and these people may even turn to their friends to try and turn for hope, but in most instances this just leads to more bad advice and no lasting hope or peace of any kind.

1. But the believers on the other hand who have Jesus Christ as their savior, have the hope of eternal glory; and therefore they have great comfort even in the darkest times of pain and suffering or sorrow.
 2. But for those who are without Christ; they have nothing to consol them, and no hope neither anyone to help them.
 3. Remember Jobs friends, who could not give Job any satisfaction or hope. But it was only when Job turned to the LORD for council did he realize what strength God would give to him. (Job 2:11)
 4. Even Jobs wife could not give him good council. Instead she said “curse God and die”.
- Yet, the bible is very clear on the subject of preaching, and it has a very important place in God's message to the people, to achieve his purpose.....and that purpose is that God is not willing that “any” should perish but that “all” should come to the knowledge of the only Savior Jesus Christ.
 - Remember “Jesus” is the Word. (John 1:1).
- ✓ It is therefore very necessary for God's people to preach his word.

- ✓ The scriptures are full of council to tell the believer to preach. And some of these scriptures I have highlighted for us today.

The whole of 1 Timothy Chapter 4 itself is a sermon about Gods word.

- It speaks in this regard...
- ✓ ...let us hear it as it is.

1 Timothy 4 King James Version (KJV)

4 ¹ Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

- ✓ When the bible says the “Spirit speaketh”, it means that the holy men of God were moved by the Spirit of God to record Gods word.
- ✓ For instance.....**2 Peter 1:21**. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

And so what did the scripture say in this regard. Verse 1.

- ✓ Well it says that in latter times.....which is to say in the far future which is closer to our days now....that certain things will begin to happen.
 1. Some Christians will depart from the faith.
 2. Some Christians as they depart from the real faith will give way to “seducing” false spirits. Which it calls the doctrines of devils.
 3. It then gives us a list of what these things will entail in the next verse 2.

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

1. Speaking lies as if it is the truth?
2. They speak lies, even when they know it's not true. Even their conscience has been seared, which means their scorched conscience is not allowing them to listen to the truth anymore, but instead believing lies.
- **So what are some of these evil doctrines they now preach?**

See verse 3 next...

3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

1. Forbidding to marry. (the Catholic priests are told not to get married).

2. Commanding to abstain from meats. This is what the Seventh Day Adventists teach.
3. Remember. This is the “preaching” that you are going to hear. And hear it we have.

⁴ For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

⁵ For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

1. Yet the Lord says we can eat meat. And we can get married.
2. So what is going on?
3. Well it is the doctrines of devils that we should be aware of that is being preached in these churches.

⁶ If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

1. Yet God says... That when we preach and put people in remembrance of these doctrines of devils, we shall be a good minister of Jesus.
2. In other words when.. we call out the wrong doing of these preachers, and preach the true word of God, then God says we will be a good minister....”a good preacher” of Jesus Christ.

⁷ But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

⁸ For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

⁹ This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

¹⁰ For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

1. This is yet another verse stating that Jesus is God. Because he is the Saviour of all men.
2. He is the saviour of those that believe the bible says.
 - So what is important then ? Well look at verse 11.

¹¹ These things command and teach.

1. I guess if God says it's important we had better preach it.

2. But many are disobedient in preaching the opposite, just like the Catholics or the Seventh Day Adventists (SDA's) teach.

¹² Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

¹³ Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

1. One thing that the Apostle Paul was concerned with, and that concern was about God's Word.
2. What God said was important. Unlike what ministers today would preach.
3. The attendance was to reading, exhorting and caring for the doctrine.

¹⁴ Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

1. You see, Timothy was preached to by the Apostle Paul.
2. The Apostle Paul called the Word of God "a gift".
3. It's a gift because it is the only mechanism whereby we can be saved.
4. Apart from the Word of God, there is "No Salvation".
5. No amount of staring at the stars or looking at nature can save you, apart from reminding you that there is a God.
6. You have to learn of who God is, so that you can call upon His Name.

¹⁵ Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

1. When others receive the Word of God they Profit. Just like this verse 15 says.

¹⁶ Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

1. Those that hear can get saved.
 - ✓ So the preaching of the Word is commanded by God.
 - ✓ It is also commanded by God for salvation.
 - ✓ It is also commanded for doctrine. (truth)
 - ✓ It is also commanded so that "others" can also believe.

2 Timothy 2:2 King James Version (KJV)

² And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

- ✓ Are you faithful?

Hebrews 4:2 King James Version (KJV)

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.

- ✓ We are called to preach the word – not to convert souls. That's the work of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁸ For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

- ✓ Foolishness unto them.....the Jews and the Greeks.

So....in.....

1 Corinthians 1:23 King James Version (KJV)

²³ But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

- ✓ It requires a preacher to preach the Word of God with discernment to explain what the word is saying.
- ✓ If a person is unsaved the discernment of God's Word becomes unknown to them.

1 Corinthians 2:14 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 3:19 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

1. If a person is wanting to know they will always ask someone who is spiritual to explain it to them.
 2. Case in point the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8.
 3. The Ethiopian eunuch needed (Acts 8) to be preached to...and it goes to show that the place he was reading was in Isaiah who preached about the salvation through the Lord who was Jesus in the OT. But he did not know that until Phillip preached to him Jesus out of the OT.
- ✓ Lastly I would like to end with this scripture from Romans. When Paul explains salvation.

Romans 10:4-17

⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

6 **But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise**, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

8 **But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart:**
that is, the word of faith, which we preach:

9 **That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in**
thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 **For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth**
confession is made unto salvation.

11 **For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**

12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich **unto all that call upon him.**

13 **For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

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.**

- ✓ So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- ✓ You can only have faith by hearing the Word of God.
- ✓ Therefore you can only GET SAVED by hearing the Word of God.

PRAYER.....