

PREACH THE WORD

Int.

1. Aim: To show what the real work of preachers is all about.
2. Text - II Tim.4:1-2
 - a. Paul was the finest authority on preaching of the first century excepting Christ
 - (1) Great natural ability
 - (2) Good education - sat at the feet of Gamaliel
 - (3) Experienced
 - (4) Inspired
 - b. Paul spoke about what was most important in his life -- ordinarily when a man comes to the end of his life he speaks of those things that were first in his life
 - (1) Had preached for 30 years all over that part of the world
 - (2) Knew what it meant to preach
 - (3) Knew what was involved in preaching
 - (4) Knew the opportunities, the privileges, the rewards and the sacrifices
3. In writing to the young man Timothy, he gives his final instruction. "I CHARGE THEE THEREFORE..."

Discussion

I. SERIOUS CHARGE

- A. In the sight of God
 1. That adds solemnity to the charge
 2. When we reflect and think that we are in the sight of God that makes a difference.

3. III. Man had a watermelon patch and the neighbors were stealing them and he wanted to stop them. He took a piece of cardboard and put on it these words of scripture... "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." (Pro.15:3) He never missed another melon that he could tell. Men did not have the nerve to steal when they realized God was looking on them.
4. Paul reminds Timothy that he is speaking and being spoken to in the sight of God
 - a. In the sight of him who created us.
 - b. In the sight of him in whom we live and have our being
 - c. In the sight of him from whom we receive every good and every perfect gift
 - d. In the sight of him who so loved us that he gave his only begotten son to die for us
 - e. In the sight of him before whom we all must soon pass.
- B. In The sight of the Lord Jesus Christ
 1. In the sight of him who died for us
 2. In the sight of him who ever maketh intercession for us
 3. In the sight of him before whom we will someday stand in judgment
 4. Paul reminds him of the judgment.
- C. It is a Solemn charge to preach the gospel. And it is also a....

II. IT IS ALSO A SAD CHARGE

- A. Sad from Paul's standpoint
 1. Paul was an old man "...Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ."

2. He was old in more senses than one. We all ought to be old in more ways than one.
 - a. III. Not like the boy who was asked how old he was. It depends on where I am.
At school I am 7, on the street car I'm 5, and at home I'm 6.
 - b. Old not only in terms of the calendar but also in spiritual growth and development
 - c. Old in terms of maturity
 - d. Old in terms of labour - Paul was an old man in labour -- "...I laboured more abundantly than they all..." I Cor. 15:10 Written more books than any other writer of N.T.

B. Paul adds sadness to the charge when he recites II Cor. 11:23ff in which we have a long list of sacrifices and sufferings for Jesus sake.

1. Five times he received 40 stripes save one - think about that - 195 stripes laid on the body of Paul
2. Three times beaten with rods - beat your animals today, the Humane society would get after you
3. Once he was stoned and drug outside the city as dead
4. Night and a day I spent in the deep - meant that he was stranded on some rock or adrift in some sea. A night and a day may seem like a life-time.
5. When Paul was writing these letters he was in prison. He was on death row awaiting the day of execution. He had a right to freedom but was under sentence of death -- writing his last message.
6. In light of the circumstances it was a sad charge because sometimes in preaching the word people get angry at the messenger ! But it was also a.....

III. GLORIOUS CHARGE

A. It is glorious in its exclusiveness

1. Angels are not privileged to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ
 - a. I don't know why God did not allow the angels to preach - **2 Cor. 4:7**
 - b. I don't know why he committed the Gospel, his treasure, to earthen vessels. Not earthly vessels, but earthen vessels. Earthen = one made of earth - men.
2. That was done that it might be shown that the exceeding power was of God and not of man.
 - a. If angels had preached the gospel men would have been more inclined to attribute the power to the messenger rather than the message
 - b. He committed the gospel to earthen vessels and then we can see the power resides in the message rather than the messenger.

B. It is glorious in its rewards

1. Try to imagine how Moses must have felt when standing on the wilderness side of the Red Sea when he heard the children of Israel sing their song of deliverance.
 - a. Crowd of about 2 million people
 - b. Many had scars of the taskmasters
 - c. People never dreamed that they would be free in their life time
 - d. Moses knew he played an important part in their deliverance and freedom. He must have enjoyed hearing them sing that song of deliverance.
2. The joy and reward of the soul winner is much the same.
 - a. Paul wrote in 1 Ths. 2:20 "for ye are our glory and joy." The people whom he brought to Christ will add to his joy to his crown on the day of judgment.

b. Daniel 12:3 "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

(1) Church is glorious

(2) Charge to preach the Word is glorious

IV. CHARGE TO PREACH THE WORD

A. Word means

1. To pronounce, herald, to proclaim
2. One is repeating the message of another - he is not the originator of his message
3. He doesn't edit the message. He does not add to it nor subtract from it if he is faithful. He is repeating the message of another.

B. John the Baptist is an illustration of a herald

1. One of the great characters of the N.T.
 - a. People had different reports about him. Delegation came and asked him who he was?
 - b. Are you Elijah? (a great compliment)
 - c. Are you Jeremiah? No
 - d. Are you He that should come? No.
 - e. "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness." Jn. 1:23
2. I'm the author of nothing, I did not originate a message. I'm just the voice of one crying in the wilderness
3. Kings sent out messages by their servants -- they were called voices or messages of the King - John had this in mind when he said "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness."

4. Preach the word -- announce the word
 - a. If Christ had just said "Go preach" then we would have been free to preach anything.
 - b. But he said to preach the Gospel
 - c. Paul here said to preach the word and when he said the word that excludes everything else.
 - d. When a man preaches anything other than the word he is doing what Noah would have been doing if he had used any other kind of wood!!
 - e. This is a serious matter. We are commanded to preach that word.
 - f. Great deal of preaching being done today will not stand the N.T. test on the day of judgment.
 - g. The one thing that this generation needs now is the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's the one and only thing that can change the world.

C. Reprove

1. Rebuke - that's negative preaching - there needs to be some negative preaching
2. Ill. Raccoon John Smith's wife once told him he was doing too much negative preaching. He held a glass up and said before I can fill this glass with milk I must first remove all the water.
3. Christ did negative preaching - he reprovved the Scribes and Pharisees
4. Paul reprovved men who were in error
5. Reprove - rebuke - false teaching - condemning sin
6. Rebuke sin in particular not just generally

7. John the Baptist had the privilege to preach to Herod and Herodias
 - a. John could have spoken on many subjects that would have been interesting and informative
 - b. But he spoke about the thing they most needed to attend to.
 - c. Antipas was living with his brother Phillips wife in an adulterous relationship
 - d. John said "It is not lawful for thee to have her." Mt. 14:4
 - e. We need a lot of preaching like that now.
 - f. It cost John the Baptist his head to make that statement. But it is better to have a head like John had and give it as he gave it than it is to have a head as some people have and keep them.
 - g. John the Baptist can stand up in the day of judgment and meet Herod and Herodias with a clear conscience. Their blood is not on his hands. He told them the truth.
8. Paul reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come. He spoke with such application and direction that Felix trembled. - Acts 24:25

D. Exhort

1. Wonderful to be able to exhort
2. Barnabas was a man who had powerful abilities to exhort - Acts 4:36 "And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,"
3. Name of Barnabas suggested that he had this quality.

Conclusion

1. "I Charge thee therefore...I Tim. 4:1-2
 - a. A serious charge
 - b. Sad Charge
 - c. Glorious charge
2. PREACH THE WORD
 - a. In love - Eph. 4:15
 - b. Whole counsel of God - Acts 20:27 ASV
3. The preacher is to:
 - a. Preach the word - not enforce
 - b. Live by the word - be an example - 1 Tim. 4:12
 - c. Laborer together - 1 Cor. 3:9 - with God
4. I Tim. 4:8 = crown of righteousness

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