

## **Expository Preaching as the First Distinctive of the Church**

### **2 Timothy 3:16-4:5**

At the core of this text, we see the high value placed on the preaching of the Word.

The obvious things that we see are the profitability of the Word, and the effectiveness of it. This type of preaching is Pastoral Preaching. Paul says this type of biblical preaching will expose false teaching (myths), and draw lines between biblical and faithful preaching, and false teaching.

In the Bible, we see preaching sort of thread each age of history together. We know that God in Christ Jesus *spoke* the creation into being (Gen. 1:1, Col. 1:16), and that by that same word he *sustains* all of creation (Hebrews 1:3).

Then as we move through human history we see preaching sort of take on different shapes and purposes. God gives his Word to men, as revelation of himself, and of his plans and purposes.

- Patriarchs- (Abraham, Jacob)
- Moses- Shepherding God's people
- Prophets
- Jesus
- Apostles
- Pastoral Preaching (that is where preaching is today)

The last one, Pastoral Preaching, is preaching based on God's Written Word. This is where the church today is.

“Why Expository Preaching?”

### **Some thoughts on preaching in the local church:**

-Preaching God's Word is THE fundamental task of pastoral ministry. There is NO more valuable way to grow and strengthen the church.

-Biblical preaching is in keeping with the purpose and power of God's Word. It is biblical in it's function, purpose and effect. Not just in it's presentations

-Biblical exposition is that which the intent and the content of the sermon is controlled by the intent and content of the biblical passage of scripture. IN

other words, it is not just coverage of the material, but it is the accomplishment of a biblical intention.

-The job and task of preaching is to determine and then communicate the very reason for a text's existence. What is God's reason for writing this?

-The task of the sermon is to let God's Word speak.

-Why is this approach and understanding so important and needed?

1. Because people's lives are at stake (Hebrews 2:1; 3:7)
2. The health of the church is at stake
3. The integrity of the pastor or preacher is at stake
4. The Glory of God as it is received in men's hearts, is at stake.

-God and his Word are so closely intertwined that to feed on His Word, and how we respond to His Word is exactly how we respond to God. He is present in his Word, he makes himself known in his Word.

-Dt. 8:3-4 Man lives by God's Word, but unregenerate man COMES TO LIFE by the Word of God, so that he might live.

#### **4 Theological Convictions for Preaching:**

1. ***ALL scripture is breathed out by God.*** God REALLY did speak this to us, so there is something specific and objective that God is saying. 2 Timothy 3:16. God speaks. He is a self-revealing God. It is his delight to be known and we see it through creation, and redemption. But God's specific and objective revelation to us is through his spoken and written Word. Preachers MUST understand these three implications of this first point.

- Preaching is to be expository
- Do NOT tamper with the Word of God
- Read the bible publicly

2. ***Scripture is understandable.*** I only need convey what God has already said in his scripture. Paul says it this way to Timothy "*...Rightly divide the Word of truth*"-2 Timothy 2:15  
If God made the Word to be understood, and he did, then the preacher should do the hard work of dividing and explaining it. ***IE: Joe Sturdivant***

3. **Scripture is *useful*.** (Profitable-2 Timothy 3:16)

For *reproof, correction and training in righteousness*

4. **Scripture is *efficacious*.** This means that scripture is POTENT. It accomplishes what it is intended by God to accomplish. In the efficacy of scripture, we see the sovereignty of God reflected.