

Why We Do It - Preaching & Teaching

In life we are constantly being taught things. There are lessons in almost everything we do. With our lives we teach others. Do you realize that you don't have to be smart to teach? Do you realize that you don't always have to be intentional to teach?

People learn things from other people. Most often just by watching them and imitating them. If they are imitating a person they respect (family member, church leader, school teacher, sports coach) they often reproduce those thoughts and behaviors with little thought or consideration.

How many of you have been around others and you find yourself doing or saying something that just isn't "you". Before you know it you are complaining, making fun of someone, cussing, being negative.....

On the flip side, how many of you get around certain people and before you know it your rotten attitude had been flipped upside down. You are full of joy, you are thankful, you encourage people, you can't wait to go tell someone else....

People are constantly being influenced by others and in the process....learning behaviors and methods....some good, some bad.

We also have people who intentionally teach. They spend time putting together lessons....investing much time and thought into each one. School teachers do this, parents sometimes do this, mentors sometimes do this. The goal is to correctly teach methods and principles for life application.

What about in the church? Do you realize how many "teachers" we have here? We have Sunday school teachers for 4 age groups. We have youth teachers for Wednesday nights and Sunday nights. We periodically have small groups and other classes. We teach as we preach from this pulpit.

I know from the standpoint of preaching, and I'm certain this often applies to teaching, there is a considerable amount of time invested in preparing for and writing a sermon. I typically spend anywhere from 8-16 hours in prayer, study, writing, and reading a sermon.

I would say that most of you probably believe that it is the main part of my job as a pastor. So if you previously thought I just downloaded sermons each week from the internet, you are probably relieved that I spend so much time on them! But I don't share this to brag, I really don't think it's worth bragging that I have to spend 8+ hours for God to give me 45 minutes of stuff to say!

What we preach and teach is VERY important. I've told you before, I think praise and worship is the best and most important part of the service. If we don't do anything else, let's worship Jesus!

But preaching is important and I spend lots of time on the sermon because I believe that God has something to say....it starts with His Word, the bible. As I study it, I seek truth. I want to know what the scriptures mean, not just what they say. Everybody desires truth. Many seek it on a daily basis but most do not.

Romans 10:13-14 (NKJV)

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?

See Paul is saying that in order to be saved, you call upon Jesus.....but being presented with the gospel message precedes saving faith. True faith isn't blind, true faith comes by the revealed Word of God. You have got to hear it to believe it!

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

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

We NEED to hear the Word of God, it will increase your faith.....and the Word of God is truth....and the truth sets us free. How many of you have read the bible over and over and then you hear someone else talking about a familiar passage and you are just blown away by their insight or revelation on the scripture....they bring up something you have never considered...How great is God's Word? We need to read it but we also need to hear it!

But as Paul said "how shall they hear without a preacher?" How many of you feel called to be a preacher?

To preach is simply to proclaim openly, to make known to those who need to hear it. I believe we are all called to do this to varying degrees. We, God's people, are responsible for making God's truths known and to stand for them when no one else will!

Today's sermon is Why Do We Do It: Preaching & Teaching. While I am lumping them together, know that they are different.

Preaching is proclaiming, heralding and announcing news to people – the gospel – especially (but not exclusively) to those who haven't heard it before. Teaching is explaining things about the gospel that people don't understand, and instructing them on how to live in light of it.

Preaching and teaching do go hand in hand. Sometimes when I'm preaching it may be more like teaching, explaining and instructing. Sometimes when Bud is teaching he gets all fired up about a point and ends up preaching! It's ok....it's GOOD.

I will be focusing more in preaching today but not at all because it's more important.

Why do we preach and teach?

In the second letter that Paul wrote me (2 Timothy), he was pretty straight forward:

2 Timothy 4:1-4 (NKJV)

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

WOW.....a heavy word! Before God Almighty and the Lord Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, Paul charges or forcefully orders that we PREACH THE WORD! It's not a suggestion....

Not only to preach it but to do so in season and out of season. Do you know that it is always either in season or out of season? So he means all the time. It doesn't matter if it's accepted or rejected by society or the church. Preach the Word! This is why I will preach on hard and unpopular topics, because I preach the Word. I desire to know truth and proclaim truth.

The Word has to be preached. I have people to hold me accountable, I have people to let me know if I'm off base and when I'm not sure I have people that I ask for input. Preaching in the church is important and it's important for you to hear....without it people stray from sound doctrine, they are drawn to people that just tell them what they want to hear!

Here I know we have some who desire righteous living, you may on your own pursue scriptures and teachings that tackle sin that you struggle with.....but most believers do not! Most just want to be told what they are doing is ok. Many in the church are like this and if we are being honest....we all desire that to an extent.

How many of you like being corrected, challenged, called out? I do....sometimes! Sometimes I don't. There are times when my wonderful wife preaches to me.....she will point something out to me and I don't like it, I may not agree with it, I don't think it's wrong.....then I will pray about it, meditate on it, and thank her later when I realize she is right! I don't know where I'd be without her! If she didn't let me know when I might be a little off track, how will I know???

So we need preaching.....how will people hear without a preacher??? But....what do we preach? We must be careful to make sure that what we preach is founded in the Word, not our opinion!

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

All scripture....that's what we should preach. This whole book is God's inspired Word. By the Holy Spirit, God inspired every single writing in the bible. It's is without error. It is complete, lacking nothing. It what we preach. ALL OF IT....

We must preach the things that are not popular to preach. Paul lists the reasons to preach the word, it's profitable , meaning beneficial, good for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.....

The WHOLE gospel is more than just Jesus came, died for your sins, rose again. This whole thing is the good news. It's good news that we have this to teach us, to prove truth, to correct, train and the result of all of that is that the man of God is fit for and prepared for every good work!

Do you know that God has good works for YOU to do?

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

God has already prepared good works for you to do.....IN CHRIST! Raise your hand if you are still waiting on those good works....

We have things God wants us to do RIGHT NOW.....and we have other things that God is waiting on us to get our butt in gear so we can do them.....

Let's look at these 4 things that are we can profit by preaching the Word and hearing the Word preached:

1. DOCTRINE - teaching, instruction

We preach scripture because it provides the complete divine truth necessary for life and godliness.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NKJV)

1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

This verse is not just speaking of the people outside the church! We are told multiple times in scripture that these people will infiltrate the church as wolves in sheeps clothing. They will maintain this outward appearance of a Christian, speaking the right words, gaining influence....

They appear godly, but they deny the power of the gospel. They will gain the following of those with itching ears, those who want their sin to be excused, so they can continue in it. They will be turned away from the truth but instead to fables.....a made up story!

Church we have got to have biblical teaching and instruction. People's lives depend on it....even yours! I can't state enough that the Word of God is our standard....nothing else....if it doesn't line up with God's Word then it's a fable.....a made up story! God's Word is truth!

2. REPROOF - a proof, that by which a thing is proved or tested, convict, refute, expose

We preach scripture because it exposes sin. The Word is what we use to prove truth and it's also what we use to test, refute, and expose lies!

In John 8 we are told that the devil is the father of lies and there is no truth in him. satan our accuser, he is constantly trying to tear us down, beat us up, get us to fail and to stay down. The main tool is lies. How many of you have believed a lie until you saw the truth of God's Word?

You want to know if something is true or false....what does the bible say? This is God's living Word.....TRUTH.....the final authority by which everything is tested and either proved or exposed!

Hebrews 4:12-13 (NKJV)

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

ALL things are naked and open to the Lord. Nothing can be hidden....the Word exposes!

"The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible" - Dwight L. Moody

We must preach the Word to expose lies!

3. CORRECTION - restoration to a right state, improvement of life or character

We preach scripture because it can restore things to their proper condition! This is in the context of a fallen object. When we stumble and fall, THIS is what helps us get back up on our feet!

It certainly rebukes wrong behavior but it also points the way back to godly living!

John 15:1-2 (NKJV)

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

This is what I love about the correction of God. He corrects us so that we can be restored to our proper place on the vine.....connected to Jesus! There is no harm or evil involved in godly correction, it's always for our improvement.

God wants and has great things for you. Life producing fruit.....if you are connected to the vine. Sometimes we just need a little correction to get back up!

4. INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS - training and educating how one ought to live, the condition acceptable to God.

We preach scripture because it trains us to live as Jesus desires us to live! It educates us and trains us to have godly behavior!

1 Peter 2 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

If you want spiritual growth....you need the Word. If you want to be all that God wants you to be, you have got to read the Word.

John 17:17 (NKJV)

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

If you read it, He will teach you!

John 14:26 (NKJV)

26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

We preach scripture because we desire the OUTCOME - that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

This makes us capable of doing everything God calls us to do....

Colossians 2:10 (NKJV)

10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NKJV)

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Preaching and teaching of God's Word equips us.....

People today are starving for God's Word but they don't know it. They're starving, they're hungry, they're reaching out, they're grasping. They realize the vacancies in their life, the hollow places, the shallow places, the lack of insight, the lack of understanding. They cannot solve the problems and dilemmas of life.

They are starving for God's Word and they do not know it and are being offered a lot of substitutes that don't help. God has ordained that His Word be brought to them, that His Word alone can feed them and the delivery method is through preaching.

Martin Luther said, "The highest worship of God is the preaching of the Word." That's true because God is revealed through His Word therefore preaching His Word is preaching His character and His will and that defines Him in true terms and exalts Him as He is to be exalted.

The good news is that Jesus did come and die for your sins, and He did rise from the dead, and He is seated in power and victory over our enemy. Today you can give your life to Him, He has much more for you.....the full life, the abundant life!

1 Peter 1:23

23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,