

#### WHAT IS PREACHING?

- Preaching is the fundamental activity of the church.
  - Of all the activities of the church, preaching is the one that the church cannot do without.
  - Of all the activities of the Pastor, preaching is the priority because it is the fundamental activity.
- The primacy of preaching has often been denied, either directly or indirectly.
  - Directly: Much of Christianity through history has de-emphasized preaching in worship because of the emphasis on the “mass,” with only a short homily.
  - Indirectly:
    - Much of Christianity today places preaching in such a secondary role that it has often become a minor factor in searching for a church.
    - Seminarians get very little of the education to bring him to a point of being “rightly trained.”
      - 21 Hours in “Biblical Studies”
      - 19 Hours in “Theological Studies”
      - 41 Hours in “denominational stuff”
        - 6 Hours in Ethics and Philosophy
        - 6 Hours in Evangelism and Missions
        - 9 Hours in Pastoral Studies
        - 3 Hours in Church and Family Ministries
        - 2 Hours in Spiritual Formations
        - 2 Hours in Applied Ministry
        - 12 Hours in Electives
- Why is preaching so important?
  - Because Christianity is a *knowledge-based* faith.
  - When we say, “Christianity is not a religion, it is a relationship,” we are de-emphasizing the very foundation of that relationship. No relationship lasts without someone saying, “Tell me about yourself!”
  - Because it is one of few things that are emphasized activity in Paul’s writings.
    - 2 Timothy 4:1-4
    - 1 Timothy 5:17
    - 1 Corinthians 1:21

#### HOW TO PREACH | 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-4

- **Preach the word -**
  - The *graphe* is inspired (2 Tim. 3:16), but the *logos* is preached.

- Both are reference to scripture, but *graphe* is the printed text, *logos* is the meaning. The preacher can't just communicate the grammar of the text, but must communicate its meaning.
- However, in doing so, the preacher must always realize that the Scripture cannot mean something that it did not mean for its original audience. It cannot mean one thing to one group and another thing to another group. The words of Scripture have objective meaning.
- Discovery of the objective meaning is primary to preaching the Word.
- Too many preachers want to preach *logos* without *graphe*.

- **Be instant -**

- An imperative verb that means "take a stand."
- Preaching that doesn't "take a stand" is just philosophy.

- **In season and out of season -**

- *eukairos* and *akairos* - literally, "when it is a good time/season and when it isn't time/season."
- Note that "time" in v. 3 is *kairos*, the root of *eukairos* and *akairos*.

- **Reprove, rebuke, exhort -** The *logos* of the Word is used to *convince, convict, and confirm*, based on the need of the moment.

- Paul warns of a day when **sound doctrine** will not be endured, when people will **heap unto themselves teachers** because they have **itching ears** and will thus require one teacher after another to tell them what they want to hear. These teachers will turn to **fables** to keep their audiences growing.

#### HOW NOT TO PREACH

- 1 Corinthians 1:17 – not with **wisdom of words**
  - Literally, *not with word wisdom*, and the emphasis is on fancy speech.
  - Paul’s preaching was plain-spoken, logical, and straightforward.
- 1 Corinthians 2:1-2 – When our **excellency of speech** is what people remember, we have messed up as a preacher.

#### HOW TO LISTEN TO A SERMON

- Listen to a sermon as a Bible information session.
  - Did I learn more of God’s Word today?
- Listen to a sermon as one small portion of an overall preaching ministry.
  - Don’t judge a sermon based on whether it answered all your questions or solved a theological dilemma or gave you wonderful personal application.
  - Consider the sermon as *one small part* of your theological education (just as you would one class of a comprehensive course).