

## Summer Institute of Theology Preaching the Gospel in All the World

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

**Mark 16:15-16**

### Preaching for Missions in Your Congregation

#### Introduction:

1. Question: Writing what is your goal or purpose? What is the goal when it comes to using preaching to benefit missions?  
  
The goal is to preach in such a way that the hearers would be motivated and empowered to reach the world for Christ.
2. Thesis: Sound preaching creates and empowers spiritual life.
3. Proper preaching focuses on the cause of spiritual life and not the evidence.

Proper Preaching:

### I. Proper Preaching Involves Preparation of Your Soul

We've all heard the saying that you can only bring a person to the level you're at spiritually.

False - It doesn't take the depravity of man, the power of God and the promises of Scripture into view.

A. **The Word is powerful and effective apart from the messenger.**

1. Promise of Scripture
  - a. Saves -  
James 1:21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.
- Rom. 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes . . .
- 1 Peter 1:23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

It's saving power is that God uses it to create and sustain faith. Romans 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

b. Sanctifies

John 17:15-17 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

The Word is powerful and effective apart from the messenger.

2. The Example of Jonah

- a. Told to go and preach against Nineveh
- b. Went on a cruise
- c. God got his attention - When he was a whisker from his death, he gave in and said, "What I have vowed I'll do."
- d. The Lord rescued him and recommissioned him.  
Jonah 3:1-2 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."
- e. Jonah changed course  
Jonah 3:3 Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh.
- f. What happened?  
Jonah 3:4-10 On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned." The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh:

"By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God

may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

g. Jonah didn't want to obey God and he only went after he saw the consequences of his disobedience. He obeyed outwardly but his heart wasn't in it.

h. Notice how Jonah acted when he saw their repentance and God's mercy.

Jonah 4:1-3 But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. He prayed to the Lord, "O Lord, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, O Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

i. Where was Jonah's heart? He only went because God made him go. When he preached judgment the people repented and God was merciful. Jonah was angry enough to die, because God didn't wipe them out.

j. Jonah wasn't a perfect messenger, God used His Word through the lips of this imperfect man to bring about changed hearts.

That's good news because God can use us in spite of our imperfections. It's when pride makes us think we're perfect that we become ineffective because we begin to rely on ourselves to accomplish what only God can do.

With all that said,

### B. Proper preaching involves preparing our soul.

How do you prepare your soul?

1. Time in the Word  
Preparation of our soul involves devotionally reading God's Word for your own nourishment.
  - a. Time
  - b. Set time of day
  - c. Provide enough time

d. It's the most important thing in your day

## 2. Honesty

a. Asking questions

(1) What did this mean to them?

2 Kings 24:1-4 During Jehoiakim's reign, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon invaded the land, and Jehoiakim became his vassal for three years. But then he changed his mind and rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar. The Lord sent Babylonian, Aramean, Moabite and Ammonite raiders against him. He sent them to destroy Judah, in accordance with the word of the Lord proclaimed by his servants the prophets. Surely these things happened to Judah according to the Lord's command, in order to remove them from his presence because of the sins of Manasseh and all he had done, including the shedding of innocent blood. For he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the Lord was not willing to forgive.

(2) How are things the same today?

Abortion - War

(3) What can I learn about God, His character and His way of dealing with men?

b. Honesty about my personal condition

We're tempted to hold God at arms length, so we don't have to deal with these very personal matters.

(1) Sin

Anger

Matthew 5:21-22 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell."

(2) Grace

(a) Thief on the cross

"Today you will be with me in paradise."

(b) Romans 4:4-8 Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

"Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."

(c) Titus 3:3-7 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

(d) 2 Cor. 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

c. When we're honest about spiritual matters we prepare our own souls.

The messenger with a prepared soul gains the ear of his audience.

(1) Conviction of sin.

When you relay how God has convicted you, people accept stern preaching of the law. They realize that you are not placing yourself above them. When you are convicted there is humility.

(2) Convinced of mercy

When you have been convicted about your sin, and then have been convinced by the Word that God has been merciful, the gratitude in your heart will be real and

contagious.

3. Trust

When we understand who we are and what God has done for us, Trust God, not self for the outcome of our ministry

a. Preaching is spiritual and not physical

Ephes. 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

b. My own inadequacy in preaching

c. Col. 1:28-29 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

4. Prayer

The person who has prepared their own soul will bring their preaching to God in Prayer.

Paul knew that successful proclamation of the Word relied on the power of God and not only prayed himself, but asked others to pray for him.

Col. 4:2-4 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

When we step into the pulpit without entering out closet, we may talk for an hour while without experiencing God's powers.

## II. Proper Preaching Brings About Spiritual Life

1 Cor. 1:21-24 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous

signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

#### A. Preaching that brings about spiritual life focuses on the heart

Preaching brings about spiritual life, but it must be proper preaching. It must be preaching that is focused on the heart and on the soul. Our preaching must focus on changing the heart and not just outward actions.

1. Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.
2. Matthew 15:18-19 But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

#### B. Preaching that brings about spiritual life focuses on the cause of spiritual life.

When we think about a lack of spiritual life we must deal with the cause of the problem and not just the symptoms.

1. To bring about physical healing you must deal with the cause and not the symptoms.
  - a. Dealing with the symptoms does not work. Medically I dealt with all the symptoms
  - b. Dealing with the source, changes the symptoms  
When the source of my problem was changed the symptoms went away.
    - (1) What happened in surgery
    - (2) Result of dealing with the source.
2. To bring about spiritual life you must deal with the cause and not the symptoms.
  - a. Far too often we have focused our preaching on the way people live trying to change their lives. The problem is their lives don't change. We focus on the symptoms (their outward life) and not on the root problem.
  - b. We must deal with the source and not the symptoms. We must deal with the heart.
    - (1) Just as with my back surgery the solution must be

radical. That old sinful heart can not be cleaned up and made acceptable.

- (2) The only solution is to put the old heart to death, and give them a new heart.  
Ezekiel 36:25-27 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Through the foolishness of preaching and the grace of God we put the heart of flesh to death and God gives them a new heart.

### III. Proper Preaching Correctly Distinguishes Between Law and Gospel

#### A. Difference between Christianity and all other religions.

1. All other religions - Do this and you will gain God's favor.
2. Christianity - You are already to evil to gain God's favor, so Jesus gained it for you, and then took the punishment you deserved so He could give you God's total favor as a gift.

#### B. Two types of preaching

1. Description of the two types  
Law and Gospel:
    - a. Definitions
      - (1) Law
        - (a) What is the Law?  
The Law demands perfect obedience of man in every way and condemns all who are disobedient.
      - (b) Galatians 3:10 All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.
- (2) Gospel
  - (a) What is the Gospel?  
The Gospel demands nothing, but freely offers to all sinners grace, life and salvation for Christ sake.

The same sinners the Law consigns to everlasting damnation the Gospel, for Jesus sake, assigns to everlasting glory.

Romans 5:18-21 Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The two types of preaching:

Matthew 19:16-22 Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

"Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."

"Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

b. Moralizing Preaching

(1) Law

- (a) The man asked what he needed to do to be saved
- (b) Jesus told him - Second table of the Law

- (c) No problem
- (d) Jesus brought the - First table

(2) Gospel

- (a) If you do these things you'll be saved
- (b) Go and live Lord.
- (c) Don't be like this man who saw that the cost was too great and walked away. Give your all for the Lord. Don't be like the rich young ruler who loved his money more than Jesus.

c. Clearly Distinguished

(1) Law

- (a) The man wanted to know what it took to be saved by what he did.
- (b) Jesus gave him the second tablet of the Law.
- (c) It didn't phase him.
- (d) Jesus kept piling the Law on until he saw it was impossible.
- (e) Jesus knew this man must quit asking, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"
- (f) The man didn't abandon his works or his riches, he turned away from Jesus.
- (g) You have been just like this man. You held back part of your life. Think of those times when you chose self over sacrifice? There is no hope for you. You've already ruined your chance to live a perfect life. That's what it takes to get into heaven.

(2) Gospel

- (a) The conversation didn't end there.

Matthew 19:23-24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

- (b) That amazed the disciples - "Who then can be saved?"

- (c) Matthew 19:26 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Romans 5:6-11 You see, at just the right time, when

we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

2. The importance of preaching clearly defined Law and Gospel sermons.

- a. Salvation
- b. New heart
- c. Changed life - A life that is motivated by gratitude and not guilt.

### C. Scriptural truths of Law and Gospel preaching

1. The Law kills - it has no power to bring spiritual life  
2 Cor. 3:6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant-not of the letter but of the Spirit: for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Here we see a contrast between the letter (law) and the gospel (Spirit which comes in salvation).

Those who rely on observing the Law are cursed.

Gal. 3:10 All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law. Clearly no one is justified before God by the law.

2. The Law does not convert the soul or offer forgiveness

- a. Gal. 3:21 If a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.
- b. The law's purpose is to show us our sin and convince us that we must have another answer.

Gal. 3:23 The Law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.

- c. In order for this to happen the Law must not be watered down.

Roy Comfort - The need for a parachute -

James 2:8-10 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

3. The Gospel gives faith, new life and the spirit of God.

- a. Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, and then for the Gentile.

- b. 1 Peter 1:23 You have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

- c. Rom. 10:17 Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

4. The Gospel empowers a person to live for God.

- a. It brings a person to new life, giving them a new nature and a new heart - Romans 1:16 "I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power . . ."  
(Col. 2:6 If needed)

- b. It becomes the motivation to live for God.

Romans 11:32, 35,12:1 God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all...

Who has ever given to God that God should repay him?...

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-which is your spiritual worship.

- c. Christ's love compels us to live for God.

2 Cor. 5:14-15,17-18 Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again...

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors.

This is where missions comes in, we are Christ's ambassadors.

The Law kills. It condemns. It can not motivate the Christian to do God's bidding. It is true that the threats and demands may get results, even outward obedience. But it does not prompt the good works that are pleasing in the sight of God. Only the Gospel of Jesus Christ fills the sinners hear with such gratitude that he desires to obey God's commandments.

5. We can not build on a foundation of good works, only on Christ  
 1 Cor 3:10-14 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.

We must abide in the vine and not in our own good works.

**D. The end outcome of each type**

	Moralistic Preaching	Regenerative Preaching
Affects various aspects of life	Relationship with God based on my own religious actions	Relationship with God based on repentance & Christ's forgiveness

	Moralistic Preaching	Regenerative Preaching
How I look at God's Law	The Law shows what I must do to contribute to my salvation.	The Law shows my sin, and the fact that I have failed. It reminds me that I am destined to hell.
What I trust	I trust in my own righteousness	I trust in Christ's free gift of righteousness to me.
My view of God	I become frustrated, angry and bitter at God because he requires so much from me. I never seem to be able to get it all done.	I rejoice in Jesus. He has done it all for me, therefore I am thankful, I love Him, and praise fills my heart.
How I live for God	I live for God my cruel taskmaster knowing that I must or I'm doomed.	I gratitude and love I serve the one who assures me that He has saved me.
My humility and pride	I become boastful in myself when I see that I've succeeded in living out the Law.	I boast in Jesus reminded that my salvation is only because of His mercy. I relish the power He is working in my life to glorify Him.
How I view others	I look at others in judgment, reminding them that they must live up to God's law in order to make it.	The faults of others remind me of my failings and the forgiveness Jesus has given me.
How God views our sacrifices for Him	All of my righteous deeds are stained with sin and filthy rags in God's sight. Isa. 64:6	My sacrifices are acceptable to God. I Peter 1:4-6
Our outward appearance seems the same	I am living for God.	I am living for God.
End result	I am going to hell.	I am going to heaven.

The real question is this, "Where does a person put their trust?"

Psalm 147:10-11 His (God's) pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear him who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Example of what the Gospel does in a heart.

Peter at Pentecost - Acts 2

1. Vs. 32 God raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses to the fact.
2. Vs.36 God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.
3. Vs. 37 When the people heard this they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"
4. Vs. 37 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far **off-for** all whom the Lord our God will call.
5. Vs. 41 About three thousand were added to their number that day.
6. Vs. 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Good Solid preaching brings about spiritual life which changes a person from the inside and gives them a compassion for the lost, that's what preaching for missions is all about.

Conclusion: Someone recently said, at the end of each sermon you must ask yourself the question, "Was there anything in this sermon for which Jesus would have to die."

If not it was most likely just a good moral talk, with out any spiritual power.

The goal is to preach in such a way that the hearers would be empowered and motivated to reach the world for Christ.

The Word tells us that sound preaching creates and empowers spiritual life. Are we willing to take God up on His Word?