

PREACHING 'GRACE' IN A POST-MODERN CULTURE

- What is 'truth'? Truth is ...
- What is post-modernism? Postmodernism is ...

I. EXAMINING PAUL'S PAST EVANGELISTIC PREACHING IN A PAGAN CULTURE (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

A. His MISSIONARY PERSISTENCE. (2:1a)

1. Paul recalls his past _____ to Corinth.

- What was Corinth like?

2. Paul recalls his past coming to Corinth _____.

- Where had Paul been previously and what were the results?
- What can we learn from this? **That _____ wants to use _____ corporately or alone to _____ and _____ the lost as He leads you personally, and not wait for the unsaved to come to you. But remember, you are never really _____.**
(Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5-6)

B. His METHOD of PREACHING . (2:1b)

1. Negatively – He did not come with _____ or of human _____.

- What was happening in that day to cause Paul to say this?
- What does this phrase mean and not mean? It does not mean that Paul abandoned _____ or wise _____. But he forsook _____ and _____. (2 Cor. 2:17, 4:2)

2. Positively – He did come _____ a needed message as a _____, not a philosopher.

- What can we learn from this? **That God wants to use believers like a _____ in a courtroom, not as a _____ in a classroom, to _____ His message without apology regardless of the _____.**

C. His MESSAGE of PREACHING. (2:1c-2)

1. Paul message is described here as _____.

2. Paul's message is also described as _____ and _____.

- Was this message selected by accident or chance? (1:17- 18)
- How was this message viewed by the world / culture of the day? (1:19- 25)
- What does this message emphasize?

3. Paul's message is further defined as _____. (1 Cor.15:1-11)

- What does the context and content of the Gospel involve?
 - a. **Its context:** THE _____ and the _____ with the _____.
 - b. **Its content:**
 - (1) **A specific person:** _____, who is _____ in _____ flesh.
 - (2) **A specific work:** “that Christ _____ for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He _____ the third day according to the Scriptures, and He was seen ...”
 - (3) **A specific accomplishment:** “that Christ died _____”.
 - (4) **A specific response:** to _____ in Christ alone for eternal salvation or eternal life as He is presented in the Gospel apart from works, law, or ritual. (15:2,11; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 4)
- What are some of the wrong responses to the Gospel today?
- What can we learn from this? **That the preaching of the _____ is always _____, yet it is the message that God uses to _____ those that _____.**

D. His MANNER of PREACHING. (2:3-4)

1. It involved a sense of _____ due to human weakness, a characteristic that has accompanied all faithful preachers of the Word of God over the centuries.
2. It involved a total disavowal of reliance upon _____ and _____.
 - Why is this important to remember? **Because we must do _____ will, _____ way, according to _____ Word, through _____ Spirit, for _____ glory, leaving he results with _____. Remember that Jesus Christ did not ask you to build the church; He said that He will! (Matthew 16:18)**
3. It involved a demonstration of the _____ of the _____ using the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the human heart.
 - Why is this critical to realize? **To show that the _____ power must always supplant the _____ weakness and _____ the lost of the truth of the Gospel.**

E. His MOTIVE in PREACHING. (2:5)

1. Paul's purpose in preaching in this manner and method was "that your _____ should _____ be in the _____ but in the _____."
2. Paul's purpose was consistent with his previous statements "that _____ flesh should _____ in His presence" (1:29), "as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory _____." (1:31)
 - What must we not forget in our evangelistic preaching? **That regardless of the _____, God blesses the clear and direct _____ to bring the lost to faith in Christ as Savior! So we must be _____ in preaching it, trusting the power of the _____ to use it in human hearts.**

II. EXAMINING PAUL'S FIERY REBUKE AND WARNING TO A LEGALISTIC CHURCH (Galatians 1:6-10)

A. The REALITY of FALSE LEGALISTIC TEACHING among the GALATIAN CHURCHES.

- What was the problem at Galatia?

LEGALIZERS were infiltrating these churches teaching that faith in Christ PLUS the Law was necessary for either JUSTIFICATION or SANCTIFICATION. Thus, Paul writes Galatians to guard the Gospel and teach that the Law cannot JUSTIFY the sinner, nor SANCTIFY the saint—only the GRACE OF GOD can—beginning with the Gospel!

B. The RESPONSE of GUARDING THE GOSPEL by the Apostle PAUL. (Galatians 1:6-10)

* 7 Observations about Galatians 1:6-10:

1. **That there is a severe warning given about a _____ gospel that was being preached – which was no ‘gospel’ at all. (Galatians 1:6)** I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel...
2. **That genuine Christians can _____ from the true Gospel of grace. (Galatians 1:6)** I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel...
3. **That the Gospel of grace was being _____ by some and allows for no _____.** (Galatians 1:7) which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.
4. **That the _____ is upon anyone who preaches “another gospel.” (Galatians 1:8-9)**
5. **That the truth of the Gospel is the _____, even over an angel or apostle. (Galatians 1:8)** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.
6. **That all presentations of the Gospel must be measured against the Gospel Paul _____ and the Galatians _____.** (Gal. 1:8-9) But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.
7. **That all believers who preach the Gospel must decide who they are seeking to _____ - either _____ or _____.** (Gal.1:10) For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.
 - How does justification-legalism show itself in our day?
 - How does sanctification-legalism show itself in our day?
 - How does glorification-legalism show itself in our day?

- What must we remember when it comes to establishing believers in the truths of grace? (1 Timothy 6:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13-14) **That we must let God use us to _____ when needed, and to get newer believers _____ for no one is naturally ‘_____ and there is a very real _____ going on that involves false teaching, and they are vulnerable to this.**

III. EXAMINING PAUL’S PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT TO A PASTOR TO BE FAITHFUL IN DIFFICULT TIMES (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

A. The SERIOUSNESS of GOD’S MANDATE. (4:1)

1. The word “*therefore*” refers back to _____ and _____ of the Scriptures to result in _____, _____, and _____ for the Savior. (3:14-17)
2. The word “*charge*” means _____ .
 - Why should we take this charge seriously? Because _____ and _____ are our witnesses and ultimate audience regarding the ministry of preaching the Word.

B. The SUBJECT of GOD’S MANDATE. (4:2a)

1. The *method* is to _____ which means _____ .
2. The *message* is to “preach _____” .

C. The SPECIFICS of GOD’S MANDATE. (4:2b)

1. As to its *time*, you are to be _____ at _____ times ...”in season and out of season”.
2. As to its *tone*, you are to _____ .
3. As to its *tenure*, you will need to exercise _____ .
4. As to its *teaching*, it must be based upon sound _____ .
 - What does this teaching require and demand?
 - 1) _____ (2 Tim.4:2)
 - 2) _____ (2 Timothy 2:15)
 - 3) _____ (Acts 20:28-32)
 - 4) _____ (John 15:4-8)
 - 5) _____ (1 Tim.4:6, 13-16)

- What is expository preaching? “Expository preaching is the communication of a biblical concept, derived from and transmitted through a historical, grammatical, and literary study of a passage in its context, which the Holy Spirit first applies to the personality and experience of the preacher, then through the preacher, applies to the hearers.” (Haddon Robinson, *Biblical Preaching*)
- Why is expository preaching so important and needed? Because it results in teaching the _____ with its repeated _____ and focuses the hearer on the _____ of Scripture in its _____ to carefully _____, accurately _____, wisely _____, and personally _____ with the Scriptures, and then personally to _____ the passages and _____ the Word of God to their lives.

D. The SOBERNESS of GOD’S MANDATE. (4:3-4)

1. The *requirement* to ‘preach the Word’ to the faithful pastor / teacher is in spite of the reality that “the time will come when they will _____ sound doctrine.”
2. The *rejection* of sound doctrine is that “they will _____ for themselves _____, according to their own _____, because they have _____.”
3. The *result* of the rejection of scriptural teaching is that “they _____ their ears away from _____, and _____ aside to _____.”

E. The SERIES of CLOSING EXHORTATIONS to BE FAITHFUL. (4:5 -18)

1. “But you _____ in all things”
2. “_____ afflictions”
3. “do the work of an _____”
4. “_____ your ministry”

- Will it be worth it? (4:6-8)

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

- How can you be faithful in preaching the Word of God in difficult times (4:16-18)

At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. 17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!