

## The Kind of Preaching We Need #2

*John Isaac Edwards*

**H**aving called attention to the fact that we need preaching and the kind of preaching we don't need, let me suggest the kind of preaching we need.

**First Principle Preaching.** Hebrews 5:12 mentions “...the first principles of the oracles of God.” Some preachers have gotten away from preaching the fundamentals. We have visitors who attend. Young people grow up. Circumstances change. Philip preached the basics as Acts 8:12 records, “...Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”

**Growth Stimulating Preaching.** We need the kind of preaching that stimulates a “babe” to grow to “full age” (Hebrews 5:12-14). The aim and objective of gospel preaching is to “...present every man perfect in Christ Jesus” (Colossians 1:28).

**Plain and Simple Preaching.** The Scriptures speak of “...the simplicity that is in Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:3). The Lord answered Habakkuk, “Write the vision, and make it plain upon the tables, that he may run that readeth it” (Habakkuk 2:2). “...tell us plainly” was the request of the Jews in John 10:24. We need the kind of preaching that is so plain and simple that it cannot be misunderstood!

**Christ Centered Preaching.** The theme of New Testament preaching was “...Christ, and him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2). “Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them” (Acts 8:5). In his work with the man of Ethiopia, he “...preached unto him Jesus” (Acts 8:35). We need preaching that puts Christ at the beginning, at the middle, and at the end!

**Scripture Filled Preaching.** Many sermons are long on comedy and human interest stories, but short on Scripture. Acts 8:35 records, “Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture...” What better place to begin preaching than with Scripture? In a synagogue in Thessalonica, Paul “...reasoned with them out of the scriptures” (Acts 17:2). “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

**Bold Preaching.** We need preachers who are bold like John who have the courage and conviction to rise and say, “It is not lawful for thee to have her” (Matthew 14:4). Men saw “...the boldness of Peter and John...” (Acts 4:13). Saul “...spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him” (Acts 9:29).

Paul's request was, "And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak" (Ephesians 6:20).

**World Turning Preaching.** The preaching of men of God in the first century "...turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6). We need that kind of preaching today!

**Nothing Kept Back Preaching.** Paul reminded the Ephesians, "And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you..." (Acts 20:20). Thus, "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:26-27).

**Warning Preaching.** Meeting with the Ephesian elders Paul mentioned, "Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20:31). Speaking of Christ Paul penned, "Whom we preach, warning every man..." (Colossians 1:28). As one appreciates warnings of danger and peril to one's physical well-being, surely we see the need and value of preaching that warns of spiritual dangers threatening the souls of men and women.

**Heart Pricking Preaching.** The preaching of Peter on Pentecost was of such a nature that "...they were pricked in their heart..." (Acts 2:37). It caused those in the audience to ask, "...Men and brethren what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). We need "...cut to the heart..." preaching today! (Acts 7:54).

**Repentance Demanding Preaching.** The preaching of our Lord demanded repentance. "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). When folks on Pentecost asked, "...what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37), it was pointed out, "Repent, and be baptized...for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38). Paul preached, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30).

**Immediate Decision Calling Preaching.** We need the kind of preaching that calls for men and women to make an immediate decision for the Lord. "Who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me..." (Exodus 32:26) was the call of Moses. The appeal of Joshua was, "...choose you this day whom ye will serve..." (Joshua 24:15). The exhortation and opportunity to obey should always accompany the preaching of the gospel!

May this be the kind of preaching we always do and demand be done!

**The Terre Haute Speaker** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

**Assembling At:**

Holiday Inn Express  
2633 Indiana 46  
Terre Haute, IN 47803  
(Exit 11, I-70 & SR 46)

**Assembling Times:**

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
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