

Preaching - continued

How Can We Improve Our Preaching and Teaching of God's Word

New Testament Christians today continue the practice of preaching and teaching in the assembly. Let's consider briefly what we can do to improve this practice. As a preacher or teacher, we can remember the purpose of preaching is not to entertain, but to change (Acts 14:15), to save (1 Corinthians 1:21), and to mature (Colossians 1:23,28). We can remember what is preached is not human wisdom, but God's word (1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 2 Timothy 4:2). We can remember we are reading the very words of God so let us show reverence (Nehemiah 8:5-6). We can remember to keep preaching and teaching a high priority in the assembly for the sake of our salvation and others (1 Timothy 4:16).

As a listener, we can remember to come prepared to receive and accept God's word (James 1:19-22; 1 Peter 2:1-2). We can also remember to read and examine the Bible text as it is read by the speaker (Acts 17:11). The proclamation of God's word is a great act of worship to God. Let's all honor God as we reverently speak and hear God's word today. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- You are truly rich when are content with what you have.
- It is not a shame to have only one talent, but it is a shame not to use it.
- One way to multiply the fruits of the Spirit in your life is to share them with others.
- It is hard to bless others when you keep all of God's blessings for yourself.

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Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Worship Series: Preaching (Part 3)

And upon the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul discoursed with them, intending to depart on the morrow; and prolonged his speech until midnight.

- Acts 20:7 -

With this article, I would like to continue our five-part series of studies on the basics of New Testament church worship. What did New Testament Christians do when they gathered together to worship the Lord? They gathered together to take the Lord's supper, to pray together, and to hear preaching from God's word. Let's take a look at the biblical preaching found in the New Testament church.

Preaching and Teaching Basics

New Testament churches assembled together to hear God's word proclaimed. They did this in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:42), they did this in Troas on the first day of the week - Sunday (Acts 20:7), and they did this in Corinth (1 Corinthians 14:4, 5, 12, 19, 23, 28, 33, 34, 35; "church" here = "assembly"). "Preaching" was typically done when a man stood up and spoke one lesson to an audience from God's word.

New Testament churches also had teachers. The church at Antioch had them (Acts 13:1) and the church at Corinth had them (1 Corinthians 12:28-29). Jesus gave male evangelists and teachers to his church (Ephesians 4:11-12). Church members are also expected to become teachers themselves (Hebrews 5:12). "Teaching" was typically done when a man stood up and spoke repeated lessons to the same audience from God's word.



God's word was also read publically in the assembly. This was done in the church at Colossae (Colossians 4:16), the church at Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 5:27), and in the seven churches of Asia (Rev. 1:3; 2-3). Paul encouraged Timothy to read the scriptures publically (1 Timothy 4:13; see

the NRSV; and Nehemiah 8:8 in the LXX).

Public reading and exposition of the Bible text in New Testament churches was patterned after the practice of public reading in the Jewish synagogue (Luke 4:16; Acts 13:15,27; 15:21; 2 Corinthians 3:14-15).

Instruction in the word of God through preaching and teaching was very important to New Testament Christians. It was regular, it was authoritative, and most of all, it was Bible-based (2 Timothy 4:1-2). God does not want his people to be ignorant of his will and word (Ephesians 5:17).

Preaching and teaching in New Testament churches (assemblies) was done by men. There were no women preachers in the New Testament who addressed the entire group. The apostle Paul did not allow a woman to teach or have dominion over a man. Hear his words: *"Let a woman learn in quietness with all subjection. But I permit not a woman to teach, nor to have dominion over a man, but to be in quietness. For Adam was first formed, then Eve; and Adam was not beguiled, but the woman being beguiled hath fallen into transgression"* (1 Timothy 2:11-14). - continued