

THE PREACHER'S PASSAGE
2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5

Introduction:

- 1. When I first entered Memphis School of Preaching, I had an important meeting two states away.**
 - a. The distance of the round trip was about 500 miles.**
 - b. I could not miss school so arranged it for a weekend.**
 - c. I left early Saturday and arrived Saturday evening.**
 - d. On the way I found a church location that I could reach in time for services the following day.**

- 2. I arrived a few minutes before services began on the Lord's day.**
 - a. No one greeted me at the door or spoke to me.**
 - b. I sat next to a family who were pleased I greeted them.**
 - c. They were also visitors and no one had spoken to them.**

- 3. The preacher appeared when it was time for the sermon.**
 - a. He had long hair in the popular style of the 1970's.**
 - b. He told how many sermons he read from others each week.**
 - c. He was going to preach one he had read the past week.**
 - d. It was entitled: "Come Before Winter" (2 Timothy 4:21).**
 - e. I do not recall any other Scripture he used.**

- 4. The sermon was from Clarence McCartney, a prominent Presbyterian preacher in the early 1900's.**

- 5. I wrote on the back of the visitor's card: "When I want to hear a Presbyterian sermon, I will attend the Presbyterian Church, but when I attend the church of Christ, I expect to hear Christ preached."**

- 6. It is the God given obligation of preachers to "Preach the Word!"**

Discussion:

I. WE MUST PREACH THE WORD BECAUSE IT MAKES US WISE FOR SALVATION (3:15).

- A. Poetry, philosophy, psychology or pious platitudes cannot save.**
- B. The Gospel of Christ is God's only power to save.**

“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believes: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith’” (Romans 1:16,17).

- C. The Spirit of God works through the Word to convict and convert.**

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” (Ephesians 6:17).

“For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

II. WE MUST PREACH THE WORD BECAUSE IT IS INSPIRED OF GOD (3:16).

- A. It is not inspired in the same sense as works of literature.**
 - 1. A high school English teacher said baptism is a matter of interpretation.**
 - 2. When answered by her students, she resorted to: “The Bible is no more inspired than Shakespeare.”**

3. Inspired is “theopneustos,” meaning “God-breathed.”

B. Inspired writers tells us how they were inspired:

1. David said: “The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and His Word was in my tongue” (2 Samuel 23:2).

2. The Lord told Jeremiah: “Behold, I have put My words in thy mouth” (Jeremiah 1:9).

3. Jesus promised the apostles: “...when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth....” (John 16:13).

4. Paul thanked God for the Thessalonians “...because, when you received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe” (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

III. WE MUST PREACH THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE IT EQUIPS US FOR EVERY GOOD WORK (3:17).

A. Denominational creeds are revised to keep up with the changing times.

B. The faith has been “once (for all - ASV) delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).

1. It the creed which never needs revising.

2. It never goes out of date and is always relevant.

C. There is nothing we need to know, believe or do in order to go to Heaven which is not found in the Word of God.

IV. WE MUST PREACH THE WORD FOR WE WILL BE JUDGED BY IT AT THE LAST DAY (4:1,2).

(3)

A. None will escape the Judgment.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that which he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10).

B. The Word of God will be the standard by which we are judged.

“He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him: the Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the Last Day” (John 12:48).

V. THE WORD MUST BE PREACHED BECAUSE SOME WILL TURN AWAY FROM THE TRUTH (4:3-5).

A. The church is never more than one generation away from apostasy.

- 1. Israel served God all the days of Joshua and the elders of his generation (Joshua 24:31).**
- 2. After that, the history of the judges was a cycle of faithfulness, apostasy, repentance, faithfulness and then the process was repeated over and over.**
- 3. The same has been true of the history of the church.**

B. A large portion of the Lord’s church is in the process of apostasy today as men bring in unauthorized practices.

Conclusion:

- 1. There is only “one body, one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all” (Ephesians 4:4-6).**
- 2. We get into the one body by means of the one baptism (Galatians 3:26,27).**

