

Why Preaching Matters

A close-up photograph of a man's face on the right side of the frame. He has short brown hair, a light beard, and blue eyes. He is holding a silver megaphone to his left ear with his right hand. A white cord extends from the megaphone towards the left side of the image. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

August 17th

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Series – Why this Matters!

Last Week – “The One Another’s”

Today – Why Preaching Matters

- Given a Large Emphasis Here

 - time wise

 - investment of resources wise

- need to convey the importance of preaching

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1. Biblical Patterns to Keep in Mind

a) Corporate Worship

- meet and respond to God
- realignment – hear from and adjust to
 - understanding (encountering truth)
 - delighting in (responding to)
- established pattern we are encouraged to keep

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b) Pattern of Scripture

- people of God gathering under the Word

- Neh. 8:6-8 ***“⁶ And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. ⁸ They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.”***

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- Luke 4:16 “And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him.....And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them,”
- Acts 13:14-15 - Paul teaching in the synagogue
- clear evidence of this pattern

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- c) Clear Gifts to Facilitate this part of Body Life
- Eph 4:11-12 ***“¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,”***
 - evident the role of equipping the saints to do the ‘one another’ ministry placed on those gifted that way.

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d) Evidence of It's Importance

- Acts 6:6 – Disciples choosing others for ministries of the body to “devote themselves to the word and prayer”
- 1 Tim 5:17-18 “ Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.”

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2 Tim. 3:16 – 4:5 “¹⁶ *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,*
¹⁷ *that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching*

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³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵ As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

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2. Preaching – Convey the Truth

a) critical nature of command

- I charge you.....
- presence of God, and of Jesus
- judge of living and the dead
- returning to rule and reign

b) Preach – God works through truth

- Rom. 10:17 “¹⁷ ***So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.***”

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3. The Word is What Matters

a) inspired and authoritative

- 2 Tim. 3:16 – “all scripture God breathed...”

b) alive and active

- Heb. 4:12-13 ***“¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”***

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c) What is needed for life and fruit

- ***Psalms 1:2-3*** “***Blessed is the man***

***who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;***

***² but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.***

³ He is like a tree

***planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.***

In all that he does, he prospers.”

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d) Sanctified by Word

- John 17:17 ***“¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”***

4. Clear Outcomes

a) Dividing Lines

- 1 Tim. 4:3-4 – acceptance or rejection of truth
- cannot serve two masters
- truth either draws or drives away

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b) Maturity is an Outcome

- 2 Tim. 3:17 ***“¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”***
- Eph 4:14-16 ***“so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,***

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16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

c) Reward

- our passage clear, God will judge
 - reward faithful
 - judge our response

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So What

1. Prepare Your Heart
2. Engage with Truth
3. Support the Ministry of the Word
4. Grow to Maturity

