

APOSTOLIC PREACHING

**“Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say’.”
—ACTS 2:14**

All valid preaching is standing up with the apostles. The Christian church was born at Pentecost, and the very first sermon ever given was by Peter, who stood with the eleven other apostles. Throughout the history of the church, the apostles are given a special place of authority. Ephesians 2:20 speaks of the church being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Jesus Christ as the chief cornerstone.

Preaching is the unfolding of the apostolic message, and is under the anointing of the Spirit of God. It is designed to enable people to hear the voice of God, beyond the voice of the preacher. When we take the inspired word of God under the anointing of the Spirit of God for the purpose of hearing the voice of God something happens. People meet with God and lives are saved and transformed.

Good preaching is not backed up by Scripture, but comes out of Scripture. There are all kinds of ideas with many different verses that will back them, but the verses are usually taken out of context. The truth must come out of Scripture and not, “here’s the truth”, and then show passages to back it up.

Noted theologian and author, James Packer, says of Paul’s preaching: “Paul, in his own estimation was not a philosopher, a moralist, or one of the world’s wise men, but simply Christ’s herald. His Master had given

him a message to proclaim and his whole business was to deliver that message with exact and studious faithfulness, adding nothing, altering nothing and omitting nothing. He was to deliver it not as another of people's bright ideas, but as a word from God, spoken in Christ's name, carrying Christ's authority, and authenticated in the hearers by the convincing power of Christ's Spirit."

Jesus Christ is the Truth which all of Scripture bears witness to. If preaching doesn't lead to Christ, then it may be philosophizing or moralizing, but it is not preaching. A good preacher will ask, "What is it I am saying about Christ? How is Christ released in this message?" It will have the ring of authority and confidence to it as it is not the preacher making the claim, but the truth he is preaching, and the truth originates from God. Preaching is much more than giving information. It has to go through the mind, penetrate the heart and motivate the will where we are compelled to do something. In other words, this message involves us. What does this message mean, leads to an explanation of the Gospel, and compels us to do something that leads to the application of it in our lives.

PRAYER: Thank You, Lord, for the Apostles and all the men and women of God who have devoted their lives to passing the Gospel on with clarification and conviction.

TO REFLECT UPON: Am I moved in my heart with the Gospel message and compelled to do something?