



# SUNDAY MORNING

## AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Title:** Learning to Love Preaching

**Passage:** Ezra 6:13-18

**Speaker:** Associate Pastor David Wood

**Introduction:** From an early age, many people become familiar with preaching, yet familiarity can often lead to distraction, indifference, or even resistance. In a culture driven by entertainment and shortened attention spans, many churches have softened or reshaped preaching to appeal to what people want to hear rather than what they need to hear. But Scripture gives a different command.

*“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” (2 Timothy 4:1-4)*

Paul charged Timothy to “preach the word,” even when people would resist sound doctrine and seek messages that pleased their ears. Biblical preaching is not designed merely to entertain or comfort us, but to confront, correct, and transform us through the truth of God’s Word. In Ezra 6, the people of God learned to value the preaching of the Word, and it produced powerful results in their lives.

### I. Preaching Ignites Sustained Momentum



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The people in Ezra had started strong years earlier, but opposition, discouragement, pressure from the outside, and apathy from the inside caused the work to stop.

Preaching has a way of reviving weary hearts and restoring spiritual momentum. There are many Christians who once had passion, consistency, and zeal, but life happened, opposition came, distractions increased, priorities shifted, and slowly, the spiritual work stopped.

The devil knows if he can get you away from preaching long enough, your spiritual momentum will die.

*“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25)*

The preaching of God’s Word keeps us moving forward for Christ when everything around us is trying to make us stop.

## **II. Preaching Fuels Successful Movements**

A person can stay busy all day and still waste their life on things that do not matter eternally. A church can have events, schedules, programs, and constant activity but still fail spiritually if it is disconnected from the Word of God.

Many people are searching for success while avoiding the very thing God uses to produce it.

They want God’s blessing while resisting God’s instruction.

The preaching of God’s Word keeps us from wasting our lives on temporary things and helps us invest in what truly matters.

## **III. Preaching Produces Surreal Moments**





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