

Week 3 | “Our Commitment To The Bible Pt. 3”

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. It’s true to say, among the Church, preaching has fallen on hard times. When it comes to the weekend gathering of God’s family, it’s clear, by way of assumption that the preaching of God’s Word is no longer the primary way that God speaks to His family.
- B. Some people say, if a picture is worth a thousand words, then why are we talking so much, and painting so little within the Church? Some streams in the Church have replaced preaching with singing. Some have replaced preaching with power-points, movies, video clips and other means of technology. And some have replaced preaching with dialogs, group discussion’s and dramas.
- C. These modes are helpful, and could be a part of our gatherings, in some way. But the question isn’t ARE THEY HELPFUL but ARE THEY SUFFICIENT replacements for preaching. Is preaching necessary?

II. THE SOLE PRIORITY OF PREACHING (COL. 1:24-25)

- 1. **Colossians 1:24-25** *“I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the Word of God (NJKV) (to make the Word of God fully known (ESV) | that I might fully carry out the preaching of the Word of God (NASB)...the mystery which was hidden from ages and from generations but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery.”*
- B. Here at Legacy Church, we see that the sole priority of preaching, is to proclaim the Word of God, in its entirety. John Calvin rightly said, *“We owe to the scriptures the same reverence as we owe to God, since it has its only source in Him and has nothing of human origin mixed with it.”*
- C. We preach the Word God, because like Martin Luther and Charles Spurgeon rightly said, *“This book is alive, it speaks to me, it has teeth, it has feet and runs after me, it has hands, it lays hold of me...this book has smiled at me, it’s frowned at me, it’s encouraged me, and lifted me out of the pit.”*
- D. We, like Paul, like Jesus preach the Word of God because it’s alive, it’s never on sabbatical, it never takes a day off, no matter what continent, country, or city it’s preached in, sung in, or prayed in.
 - 1. **Hebrews 4:12** *“For the word of God is living and powerful, sharper than any-two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*
- E. We preach the Word of God, because unlike any other book, it’s alive. Every verse is razor sharp, it’s two-edged because there are no blunt chapters, no dull books, there are no blunted words. It penetrates all the outward facades of our life, and cuts through the calloused places of our hearts.
- F. The Bible doesn’t administer a flesh wound, it doesn’t scratch the surface of your life, it cuts to the division of spirit and soul (the very center of your being).

- G. We preach the Word of God, because like Paul, we've been given a stewardship from God, which means we have to serve the purposes of God regardless of what others think, or how we might be perceived. We will give an account to Jesus for how we made disciples, how we equipped God's family, and how the people that were entrusted to me were raised up in love.
- H. Preaching is to be centered upon the Word of God, not the many other things that can subtly creep into the pulpit. This is where our authority comes from.
 - 1. **Acts 2:5-47; Joel 2:28-32; Psalm 16:8-11; Psalm 110:1** *"This is what Joel said...For David says concerning Him...For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself..."*
- I. There's a reason why our preaching at Legacy Church isn't done from assumptions, or vague truths, or multiple answers; it's assertion. We are asserting what the Bible says. Our faith wasn't handed to us by folks who had assumptions. It wasn't given to folks who had ideas, it was given by people who had firsthand experiences, witnesses.
- J. And they weren't just dogmatic, they were bulldogmatic. Our apostles were martyred, not because they said, Jesus might or might not have been raised from the dead, but because they said, Jesus raised from the dead, and you killed Him!
- K. The reason we gather on the weekend is not primarily for us, it's not primarily for community, it's to come underneath the Word of God.

III. THE GOAL OF PREACHING (COL. 1:28)

- 1. **Colossians 1:28** *"Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we might present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."*
- B. The goal of preaching is to PREACH CHRIST, so that we might PRESENT EVERY PERSON PERFECT/MATURE in Christ. The Gospel isn't a system, it isn't a Church, it's a Person; Christ!
- C. Christ is the message; Christ is the focus of our message. We are working to show Christ, as He's been revealed through the scriptures (**Ephesians 4:11-16, 21**).
- D. But there's two primary things that help us move into maturity;
 - 1. Warning Every Man—*This is where we get the word admonition, or correction.* The idea is that it's preaching that confronts us, preaching that challenges people to change their minds and attitudes. It's preaching that's calling people to get on doing what they know they should be doing!
 - a. Paul summed up his preaching in Ephesus as years of admonishing (**Acts 20**)—*I didn't cease day and night to admonish you*). What does it mean to admonish? It means to get in the face of people. It means to challenge people. In our ideals of personal autonomy and personal privacy, we Americans feel that nobody has the right to tell us anything about our lives. Our jobs are between us and our employer. Our marriages are between us and our spouses and we can end that marriage any time we want. Our lives are our own, and we can do with them what we want, when we want. Don't be sticking your nose in our marriage, into our life, into our parenting, into our money, into our time, into our recreation, into our politics. This thinking is antithetical to the Bible.

- b. The Bible is to inform all of these things, and as we preach through the Bible, as we open up God’s Word, God’s Word shines light and challenges all those areas. Biblical preaching confronts us through the loving, pointed finger of the Word of God.
2. Teaching Every Man—*This is teaching that empowers us and helps to convert us to grow in our relationship with Christ to go on becoming disciples.*

IV. HOW DO WE PREACH (COL 1:29)

1. **Colossians 1:29** *“To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in my mightily.”*
- B. At Legacy Church, we believe that powerful, Biblical preaching, only happens through the divine empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
- C. This is what Paul is saying. To this end—*that every person is presented mature in Christ*. Beloved, this is the aim of our preaching here at Legacy Church! That you might be made complete, mature in Christ.
- D. Our aim isn’t that your successful, or influential, or that you become the greatest, and the most well-known; our aim is that become mature in Christ! Preaching doesn’t just bring about salvation, it’s also the process by which God’s works sanctification in you!
- E. But Paul rightly tells us that it’s not his power, or his grace that brings this about; it’s Gods!
- F. Paul says that he’s striving, according to His working which works in him mightily. Who’s working? Well Paul says hes striving, but he also says that the Spirit’s working in Him mightily.
 1. Well, the answer is yes, they are both working, Paul and the Spirit. Paul’s cooperating with the Spirit who’s working in him!
- G. Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones defined theology as “Logic on Fire.” Lloyd Jones believed that we needed a second work of the Spirit, a baptism by fire that enabled us to fully preach the Word of God.

V. CONCLUSION

- A. A low view of preaching, and the need for preaching, stems from a low view of the Word of God. And if you follow its results, they are disastrous if they are followed out to their ends. Meaning that we will have few salvations, few people convicted, few people called into the ministry, few people walking in obedience, few people pursuing holiness, few people living in authentic community, few people engaged in the spiritual practices of prayer, meditation, sabbath, solitude, fasting, and attending corporate gatherings.
- B. Is preaching necessary? Yes, in fact, it’s not optional for God’s family. We preach because this is the only effective thing that brings about *salvation, revival, transformation and maturity in the lives of those that sit underneath it.*