

II Timothy, Sermon #27

II Timothy 4

We learned some things in Chapter 3—ten messages

Since all that is true in Chapter 3

We are in the last days

We are in perilous times

Things are getting worse and worse

The Bible is our recourse and resource—for salvation, for maturing the believer

Therefore, we have a holy charge given to the preacher—preaching matters—we are all involved in preaching whether delivering it or receiving it. We are all involved.

I've entitled today's message "Preaching That Pleases God"

I did not entitle it—"Preaching That Pleases Man"—we will get into that in verses 3 & 4

II Timothy 4:1

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

II Timothy 4:1-4

Let us pray

You may be seated.

Preaching That Pleases God

What is the ultimate objective of preaching?

What does it take to make us satisfied with the preaching?

I. First of all, we have an activity that is mandated.

That activity – according to vs. 2 is to preach.

What is preaching?

- People are not clear about this.
- People in a spectator position watching someone else do something, is often called preaching.

There are obviously many forms of communication we can use at this church—and we do.

However, we find that instead of preaching, many churches have gone to fads to communicate and are now using PowerPoint, drama, stories, poetry, dancing, plays, and productions on Sunday morning to get the message across—continuing to create ways to avoid preaching.

They are using these things as a substitute for preaching.

Anything that diminishes or replaces people's interest in and subjection to preaching is not of God.

God has mandated preaching as His primary medium.

- John the Baptist came preaching (Matthew 3:1)
- Jesus began to preach (Matthew 4:17)
- Jesus was anointed to preach (Luke 4:18) and He went everywhere preaching
- Jesus ordained twelve to send them forth to preach (Mark 3:14).

Mark 16:15 – Jesus said – *“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel.”*

In the Book of Acts—some of the first deacons were preachers –

- Philip preached in all the cities (Acts 8:40);
- Stephen stood in Acts 7—one of the longest recorded sermons in the Bible—51 verses

When Saul was converted, the Bible says straightway he preached that Jesus was the Christ (Acts 9:20)

The Apostle Paul said in I Timothy 2:7, *“Whereunto I am ordained a preacher . . .”*

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness but unto us who are saved, it is the power of God” (I Corinthians 1:18).

Titus 1:3, *“But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching . . .”*

Listen to what Peter said to Cornelius about Jesus Christ:

Acts 11:42, *“And he commanded us to preach unto the people . . .”*

No one who takes the Bible seriously dare count preachers and preaching out.

- Paul said I am eager to preach—Romans 1:15

God still speaks through the personality and message of a preacher to confront men and women and bring them to Himself.

How is it that the medium of preaching pleases/glorifies God more than any other way of communicating His message?

Why is that? Let me explain.

- This word “preach” is used 131 times in the New Testament.
- The word “preach” is – “kerusso” to herald / to proclaim
“To preach” means to herald.

A herald was a person who spoke for an authority.

- He just reported/spoke what the authority said to the subjects.
- “Hear ye, hear ye!” – and then delivered the word of the king

He was a messenger vested with authority who conveyed official messages of the king.

The preacher is to be the herald of God, delivering God’s authoritative message.

God said to Jonah – *“Arise and go unto Nineveh that great city and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee”* (Jonah 3:2).

But, you may say, Preacher, we live in different times.

From the first century to the 21st century, it does not make any difference what century – we must herald / preach with God’s authority.

Well, I’ve got a different temperament – preach with authority.

God has called preachers to herald with authority—to preach the Word.

Preaching puts both God and man in their rightful positions.

- For God—supremacy; man is a subordinate
- When a man preaches God’s message, there is no room for conversation or debate.

No one else gets to say anything.

God sends His messages and they are not debatable.

And men get to stand in public places and deliver His Word irregardless of how the audience responds.

“Thus saith the Lord” and when people turn from preaching, they are turning away from what God has established.

The Gospel is not an argument; it is an announcement.

And the astounding thing about this announcement is that it meets men’s hearts straight on—in a direct crash—and it aims to reverse them completely.

★It intends to convert them and turn them completely around and nothing less.

When God’s Word is correctly heralded, it needs no apologies.

I Thessalonians 2:13, *“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye 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.”*

Let us never diminish preaching—lose respect, be casual about it.

Preaching is God’s mandated plan.

II. What is the content for the person who stands to preach for God?

- The content assigned by God is what? The Word – vs. 2
- He is to preach the Word

By **the word**, God means the entire written Word of God, His complete revealed truth, which the Bible calls “all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27) and which he has just referred to as “the Holy Scriptures” in II Timothy 3:15-16.

The Word is simply what God hath said.

- We are to preach what has already been spoken.
- Preachers are mouthpieces for God’s message.

We are to preach the Word—we are not preaching our opinions.

The Word of God is what both sinner and saint need. Amen.

Is the Word sufficient?

- All of Heaven is behind us when we preach the Word.
- We are to be dogmatic – our doctrine is non-negotiable.
- This Bible is not negotiable.

Isaiah 40:8 – *“The grass withereth and the flower fadeth but the Word of our God shall stand forever.”*

We can't say anything better than the Word of God.

What is the Word of God able to do?

Through the Word, God brings people to salvation – II Timothy 3:15 – and then God brings them to spiritual maturity – II Timothy 3:16-17 (spiritual development).

The salvation and spiritual growth of the flock comes from the Word of God.
That's why God wants His Word preached.

I believe that expository preaching is the best way to deliver the Word of God
(Nehemiah 8:8).

The marching through verse by verse of a book of the Bible and laying it out exactly as God intended.

In order to preach accurately, we must have proper study.

II Timothy 2:15 – *“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

Labor and give every effort.

Preaching is a priority for the pastor. He must labor in the Word. You need to demand that of your preacher and make sure he is spending his time and energy in that endeavor.

Preachers are not to stick messages together late Saturday night after being lazy all week.

- They are not to “dummy” it down – dilute it.
- They are not to come up with their own message and then search the Bible to find a few verses to support their view and sprinkle them on like sprinkles on a cupcake.

Our proper role – when it comes to the scriptures – is not creator but exegetor.

It is not to be a chef—where we create in the kitchen, but to be the waiter—where we dish it up and serve it out.

We do not create – we deliver.

Our proper role is not to preach our message.

Scripture determines what the preacher preaches.

★When a preacher fails to preach the Scriptures, he has abandoned his authority and God is not in it.

- It is not, “What can I say about this?”
- It is, “What does the text say?”

1. This truth. We must uncover it. Find out what it says.

2. The preacher must submit to the Truth. What does it mean?

Only one meaning for every text –

I don't get to decide what it means.

I discover what it means.

3. The Holy Spirit, who wrote it will also illumine and teach us. The Bible is not of any private interpretation.

Every preacher, when looking at a text, comes at it in one of two ways:

- What can I say about this?
- Or, what does that say?

If I go with the second question, I subordinate myself to the Word—I am passive.

But if a man is asking “what can I say?” he is over it, manipulating it, and stuffing it full of things.

Now, once he has found out what the text says, then he can look at how it applies today.

We are to bridge the world of the Bible and the world we live in.

So, we need to preach contextually, accurately, applicationally, and completely (Acts 20:27)—the whole counsel.

Now, here is the problem of today.

In his book, *Marketing the Church*, George Barna—guru of church growth—says the fundamental principle of communication is not preaching, but the audience.

- This thinking has shaped preaching today.
- This advice is not new; it is old advice—just echoed in a new generation of people.

What we get from that kind of wrong philosophy is compromised messages—messages that are sugar-coated and watered down—messages that are accommodating to everybody—sermons that will not offend anyone.

I Peter 2:8, “*And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.*”

When have lost people ever liked to be told anything contrary to their lost condition?

Lost people do not like preaching.

In fact, they do not like anything at all about it.

The length of it

The content of it

The style of it

The harshness of it

The loudness of it

Now, listen to what the Bible says about lost people.

The mind of the flesh is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be (Rom. 8:7).

I Corinthians 2:14, *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

So, the audience has become the focus—not the message, rather than the message

The preacher’s task is to proclaim Scripture—not easy, the message is hard and offensive.

The calling is to preach the Word.

★There is no substitute for the preaching of the Word of God.★

Who ordained the preaching of His Word? God did.

What is God’s demand for the content of preaching?

It’s been the same throughout!

God said to Jonah, “. . . *preach unto them the preaching that I bid thee.*”

God said to Jeremiah, “*Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee*” (Jeremiah 1:17).

We are not to contradict what is written.

We are not to subtract from it.

We are not to add to it.

We are to preach what has already been given.

Preach the Word

That kind of ministry pleases God!

This is the centerpiece of every Biblical ministry philosophy – preach the Word.

Let us stand for closing invitation—every eye closed.

What does it take to make us satisfied with preaching?

We should demand that our preachers preach the Word. That they deliver it to us straight. No compromising, no skipping the hard stuff

Our desire especially as husbands, the spiritual leaders, is to make sure we have our families under the preaching of the Word of God on a regular basis.

Preaching is God's primary way of communicating His message.

Maybe you are a lost person this morning—you do not know Christ as your Savior. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.

How does Jesus save people? He saves them from their sins. He died for their sins. He was buried and resurrected from the dead and calls on people to believe and receive Him as Lord and Savior.