

3. PREACH THE WORD

The New Testament refers repeatedly to the preaching of the gospel (i.e. Rom. 1:15, 1 Cor. 9:14, and 1 Thes. 2:9). Paul instructed Timothy to “Preach the word” (2 Tim. 4:1-5), which means the same thing. Preaching should be Bible centered, with an emphasis on what we must do to be saved.

Read 1 Cor. 15:12-20, noticing that Paul was criticizing the false teachers who were saying Jesus had not risen from the dead. We would have no hope of being resurrected if Christ had not risen. Our faith would be worthless. But since Christ has risen, our hope is not in vain. Preachers are obligated to share the good news from the pulpit, as all Christians are to share the good news with lost souls as we have opportunity.

Prior to returning to heaven to live eternally, Christ taught “that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name [Christ’s name] among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem” (Luke 24:47). The church began in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

Later, Paul warned Timothy, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron” (1 Tim. 4:1,2). Some of the false doctrines they would promote are: “Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats...” (v. 3).

God is not pleased when preaching becomes promotion of a social gospel, talking mainly about political and social issues rather than centering on the Bible. When social issues are discussed from the pulpit, the emphasis needs to be on what the Bible teaches (such as: why gambling is sinful).

In order for our worship to be “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24), the preacher must be a man. God commands, “Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve” (1 Tim. 2:11-13).



It is essential to use Bible terms for the man who preaches. He may be called a preacher (2 Tim. 1:11) or an evangelist (2 Tim. 4:5). Minister is a term used in the New Testament which means to serve. The Bible never calls a preacher “Reverend” or “Father” (see Matt. 23:7-12). “Pastor” is a term which refers to the elders who shepherd the flock, or congregation of God’s people (Acts 20:17, 28). The preacher should never be called a pastor unless he also serves as an elder.

As we worship God, let us have a proper attitude during the preaching. Our minds should be focused on the lesson and how we may better prepare ourselves to serve God. Students in this class are all old enough to listen to the sermon.

Fill in the missing words, then find them in the word search below.

1. "But though we, or an _ _ _ _ _ from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:8).
2. "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which _ _ _ _ _ the gospel should _ _ _ _ of the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).
3. The _ _ _ _ _ are commanded to oversee the flock (Acts 20:17,28), and are the only ones who may scripturally be called pastors (Greek word means shepherd).
4. Preachers are to preach truth even when persecuted. Paul instructed in 2 Tim. 4:2, "Preach the _ _ _ _ , be instant in _ _ _ _ _ out of _ _ _ _ _ [same word]..."
5. Paul warned Timothy, "For the time will come when they will _ _ _ _ _ ; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves _ _ _ _ _ , having itching ears" (2 Tim. 4:3).
6. God does not authorize women to preach. Rather, 1 Tim. 2:11 says, "Let the woman learn in silence with all _ _ _ _ _ ."
7. Psalm 111 speaks of the importance of praising God. Verse 9 declares: "holy and reverend is his _ _ _ _ ." Preachers are never called "Reverend" in the Bible.
8. Paul wrote to Timothy, "Whereunto I am appointed a _ _ _ _ _ , and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles" (2 Tim. 1:11).
9. Paul instructed Timothy to "do the work of an _ _ _ _ _ " (2 Tim. 4:5).
10. Romans 10:15 declares, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad _ _ _ _ _ of good things!"
11. The gospel "is the power of God unto _ _ _ _ _ ..." (Rom 1:16).
12. According to 1 Peter 3:21, "baptism doth also _ _ _ save us."

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FOR NEXT WEEK: Read Psalms 15-20. **Memorize,** "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come" (1 Cor. 11:26).