

THE IMPORTANCE OF PREACHING IN THE LIFE OF A TYPICAL BAPTIST
PASTOR AND HIS CONGREGATION

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ABSTRACT

The place of preaching in the ministry of Christian community development and growth is very crucial. Preaching helps in bringing efforts to win soul for Christ effective through the preachers' declaration of God's counsel to his people. The thesis dealt with the introduction to what is preaching? The history and the importance of preaching, the expectation of a good preacher, the need of the congregation and pastor's responsibilities in preaching were discussed. Finally were the summary, conclusion and recommendation. The entire work was divided into five major parts considering preaching from its origin.

Chapter one focused on the general introduction to the meaning of preaching. Chapter two examined the brief history of preaching, the importance of preaching the preacher's portrait and the expectation of a good preacher. Here, attention was given to the conversion experience, the preacher's sense of call, the discipleship experience, his understanding of the place of Holy Spirit in the ministry, moral integrity, the firm conviction, and his acknowledgement of Bible study and prayer as vital tools for effective ministry.

In chapter three, the discussion was on the need of the congregation which includes the interaction between the preacher and his hearers, the listening ability of his congregation and the act of communication with the audience.

Chapter four dealt with the pastor's responsibilities in preaching. In this chapter, the context of pastor's task, the pastors' authority in preaching, pastoral and Biblical preaching were discussed.

The research was concluded with the summary that since preaching is a sacred task, the preacher must display true sincerity and integrity in both his sermons and life style. Some recommendations were made as part of new discovery in the course of doing this research.

5.2. CONCLUSION

A godly life combined with a well studied sermon brings on the power of the Holy Spirit in preaching. Church coldness comes from a lack of emotion and church error comes from a lack of truth. The technical knowledge of preaching will not overcome the need for spiritual preparation. From beginning to end the sermon must be led of the Holy Spirit; And this leading comes through the work of prayer.

A preacher begins his study in prayer even during the sermon that God will do His work in the lives of the listeners. When the preacher is spiritually prepared, the sermon will have a great impact. His understanding of how people would like to behave as opposed to how they actually live will reveal an important resource and connection for preaching.

Preaching is one of the most fulfilling and joyous work a man can undertake. Only a few men are privilege to work in the ministry of preaching. They are the ones who study the Word of God, effectively communicate it, see lives transformed, and have a great sense of fellowship with God. This is a great privilege and an excellent way for a man to invest his life.

5.3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Having examined the importance of preaching in the life of a typical Baptist pastor and his congregation, the following recommendations are hereby found to be inevitable for an effective preaching ministry among the Baptist denominations.

- (1) Preaching requires very hardworking pastor. The pastor should be one who is

gifted with enthusiasm and interest to study and prepared better before preaching any of his sermon. This is because; he must make impressive impact upon those who listen to his preaching.

(2) Most Baptist Churches are experiencing poor growth in the knowledge of God's truth because of the lack of adequate exposition of scripture. Such a church should be encouraged to engage the service of any pastor who can teach, and preach the sound doctrine of the God's Word to them.

(3) The preaching that will win soul and avail must come from the one who speaks and communicate in the language very simple and clear with adequate capacity to communicate the audience. The preacher must ensure that his message comes in the light of language with multi-various cultural consideration as the case may be.

(4) The contemporary preacher must seek God's unction. His message should not be the type cooked by the minister, rather it must be a message from God to him first and then to the receiving congregation.

(5) Preaching should be a creative activity and not the same thing week after week. The more one looks into creation, the more God's creative hand can be seen. The beauty, quality, and variety of creation show the hand of a creative God. Therefore a preacher should be creative in his approach to the pulpit.

(6) The preacher should try as much as possible to avoid an entertainment style sermon. This can only gives the milk without the meat. Most time when jokes, stories or drama is introduce in the sermons it weakens the spiritual strength of such message