

**THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PREACHING IN CHURCH  
GROWTH: A CASE STUDY OF BAPTIST CHURCHES IN  
OGBOMOSO BAPTIST CONFERENCE**

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## ABSTRACT

The significance of preaching in Church Growth: A case study of Baptist Churches in Ogbomoso Baptist conference is a research work designed to know the effects of preaching in relation to church Growth having observed that many of the preachers of the word of God takes preaching for fun, or as a normal routine that involves reading of Bible passage(s) and find something to say to the congregation or as an avenue to lambaste certain people in the congregation without taking the entire needs of the congregation into consideration, and that many Church Growth experts placed little or no value to preaching as a factor to Church Growth.

Hence, chapter One, is an introduction to the work that revealed the problem of the paper, i.e. to find out the effects of preaching in Church Growth, it's thesis statement that effective preaching is determining factor to Church Growth, method to be used in carrying out the research and the limitation of the study including the clarification key terms.

Chapter Two shows the ideal effects of preaching in Church Growth obtained from literatures that preaching that is biblical; fully prepared for; relevant to meet the audience needs; and well delivered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit is a factor to Church Growth.

Chapter Three, presents the results of the field research that biblical, illustrative, instructive, interesting, warm, logical and positive preaching is one of the most attracting factor causing the members to first attend their respective Churches and that it is the most influencing factor responsible for their continual coming to the church based on it's aforementioned contents.

Chapter Four, presents the analysis of the result where it was found that though there is a room for improvement on it but the effect that preaching has in Church Growth is a positive one.

Chapter Five concludes the work with some recommendations that if they were taking into consideration by the preachers of the word would make preaching to be a determining factor to Church Growth.

Above all, its synopsis is that effective preaching is a decisive factor to Church *Growth*.

## I CONCLUSIONS

Based on my findings from the actual field research of preaching effect in Church growth using Baptist churches in Ogbomoso Baptist Conference as a case study via the responses obtained from the church members and the church pastors, two inferences can be drawn:

- (a) Preaching is a determining factor in Church growth; and
- (b) For preaching to be effective in producing a balanced Church growth, it must be:
  - (i) **Biblical:** Bible based and not in passive reference to the word of God.
  - (ii) **Delivered in the power of the Holy Spirit:** which is in line with what Smith said that  
  
Let the spirit be lacking, and there may be wisdom of words, but not the wisdom of God; the powers of oratory, but not the power of God; the demonstration of argument and the logic of the schools, but not the demonstration of the Holy Spirit, the all convincing logic of His lightning flash, such as convinced Saul before the Damascus gate.<sup>1</sup>
  - (iii) **Exemplary:** the preachers life must be consistent with what they preach in as much that "preaching is the bringing of truth through personality."<sup>2</sup>
  - (iii) **Able to effect learning:** Must be instructive.

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<sup>1</sup> Oswald J. Smith. The Revival We Need (London: Purnell and Sons, Ltd., 1964), pp. 33 – 34.

<sup>2</sup> Andrew Watterson Blackwood, Preaching in Time of Reconstruction (New York: The pulpit press 1955), p. 23

- (v) **Understandable:** Communicated at the level of the audience by the preachers for it to be clearly understood by the audience.
- (vi) **Contextualize:** Meet the present needs of the audience, that is “a preacher, therefore, should forget about speaking to the ages and speak to his day.”<sup>3</sup>
- (vii) **Positive:** It must lead to change of attitude positively toward God.
- (viii) **Delivered compassionately:** so as to make the audience feel comfortable in that “to love to preach is one thing, to love those to whom you preach is quite another,”<sup>4</sup> and
- (ix) **Exciting:** in that “a dull preacher is a contradiction in terms, if he is dull he is not a preacher.”<sup>5</sup>

Therefore, provision of an effective preaching coupled with other factors for the congregation would definitely lead to their growth both spiritually and numerically.

## II RECOMMENDATIONS

For an effective preaching to be a decisive factor in church Growth, I want to put forth the following recommendations based on my findings so far

1. The contemporary preachers of the word nowadays must develop themselves spiritually, physically and academically in order to keep the pulpit growing taller than the pews.

<sup>3</sup> Haddon W. Robinson, *Biblical Preaching* (Grand Rapids: Barker Book House, 1980), p. 27.

<sup>4</sup> D. Martyn Lloyd – Jones, *Preaching and Preachers* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1971), p. 92.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 92.

2. The preachers of the word must know that an effective preaching ministry that would produce a balanced sustainable growth spiritually and numerically requires feeding the members with varieties that would help to realize such growth.
3. I would suggest to the new breeds of preachers to plan their preaching quarterly and annually rather than weekly in that it with safe guard against laziness and insufficient preparation that often characterize most pastors”<sup>6</sup>
4. Pastors of nowadays should take visitation to members of their Church seriously in that through it, the needs of the members can be known which can be taken care of in the preaching; and
5. In as much that the ultimate goal of any called of God pastors is to grow people, therefore adequate and regular keeping of church records such as baptismal record, Church membership record among many others is highly necessary for the pastors to ascertain their growth or not.

However, further research can be carried out on an interdenominational basis in order to be able to know the effect of preaching in various denominations that would help to authenticate widely it's effect in Church Growth.

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<sup>6</sup> Imasogie “Planning A year’s preaching,” p. 8.