

CONTEMPORARY PREACHING IN THE LIGHT OF BIBLICAL TEACHING

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ABSTRACT

Preaching appeals to both the mind and the spirit. Preaching is more than a lecture or recitation of truth. It is assisting people in their spiritual development. It holds a crucial place in life of the church in the sense that if it does not give a proper attention to the community will surely decline from doing what is right and acceptable in the sight of God. It is obvious again that, preaching is biblical when what is preached is what the scriptures teach. Each point must be examined to be sure it expresses biblical truth and each point should be supported by direct scriptural reference. Any sermon is a biblical teaching if it confronts the hearers with an accurate interpretation of the biblical revelation and its present meaning for their lives.

In this present day, some of the contemporary preaching have lost biblical teaching and rooting which have led to some findings on this work and finally deduced that some of the contemporary preaching are not in the light of biblical teaching in term of some of the parameter that were used in conducting the oral interview.

On the basis of this study, for the contemporary preaching to be what it should be, particularly to be presented in the light of the biblical teaching or scriptures, it is imperative that contemporary preaching or preaching today should expound the thought of the Bible. It should be Christ centered and with redemptive message and it should depict what the Bible text is about.

In addition, the message should be supported with sufficient biblical proof, also the content of the message should be clear and helpful, and there should be avoidance of lengthy Bible texts. The aspect of life application should be taken with all seriousness because it helps people to understand what they have learnt and how to use it.

4.2 Conclusion

This study has revealed that for contemporary preaching to be relevant in these days and to guide the matter of faith and practice, the Bible must be judiciously utilized as the basis and primary content of the preaching. It is noted that preachers who have been most effective through the ages have accepted the Bible as the word of God, have comprehended its central message, have believed in the ministry of

preaching and have proclaimed the gospel boldly. They have believed the biblical text to be inspired by God, to be the authority for their preaching, and to be the means of God's revelation for their message.

In view of this, it is clear and glaring that contemporary preaching must be preached in the light of the scripture.

4.3 Recommendations

Obviously, an accurate interpretation of the Bible is also essential to preaching. The Lord Jesus after His resurrection had to open the understanding of the apostles that they might understand the scripture, particularly those pertaining to Him. This was necessary in order that they might proclaim the gospel throughout the world (Luke 24:44-49).

The preacher therefore should be prayerful and diligent as he interprets the word of God so that he might properly present it to men (II Tim. 2:15). So, the following principles of interpretation should be embraced or followed:

1. The preacher should first of all comprehend the meaning of the text. If the interpretation is still doubtful, he should consult reputable scholars or commentaries or other passages on the same subject and select one in which the meaning is more evident.
2. He should make effort to understand the occasion for the writing. He should consider the historical setting (time, place, etc.), the people being addressed (Jew, Gentile, Believers etc.) and similar point for proper understanding.
3. He should comprehend the purpose of the author. Consideration should be given to the reason, the need or the problem that motivated the author to write. This includes an understanding of the relation between the author and the readers.

4. He should understand the nature of the literature. This includes an understanding of the style of the writer, a general knowledge of the original languages both in (Old Testament Hebrew, and New Testament Greek).
5. He should consider the context of the passage. The authors moved logically from one thought to another and thus each verse must be interpreted in relation to the verses around it and to the book to which it belongs, therefore, the preacher should avoid interpreting the passage independent of the context in order to prevent meaning of the passage not indicated by the content of that particular passage of the Bible.
6. He should try to apply the scripture with the present situation. The application should be the natural outcome of the expression of truth, whether scripture passages, or doctrines or duties. Application should be made with simplicity, and clarity. Also, an appeal should be made with feelings and force according to the situation. It may be directed toward the lost or toward the saved, or both, in the sense that it may have meaning to them according to their needs, whether comfort, encouragement, warning, rebuke, reproof, exhortation, enlightenment, direction or challenge.

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