

Why Preaching is still important .

Reading: Matt 4:1-4 and Deut. 8:1-3

Introduction

1. Convictions

- *Jesus' conviction.....'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'*

• faithful biblical preaching seeks to help people hear, understand & obey God's living Word
Sadly such faithful biblical preaching is becoming rarer in our churches and the major reason is a lack of conviction about its importance to the church.

2. Defining Biblical Preaching

- It is preaching that exposes God's truth within the text. Whatever approach we use, talking, multimedia, drama etc, the issue must be*Has it exposed the truth in the text?*

3. Convictions are v. different from Beliefs

We can believe something but that belief may not seriously affect our behaviour eg prayer/exercise

THREE THEOLOGICAL CONVICTIONS THAT UNDERPIN THE IMPORTANCE OF PREACHING

I. CONVICTIONS ABOUT GOD

1. God is light.

He wants to be known by men & women..to shine His light into the listeners' darkness

1Jn.1:5 ; Jn. 8:12; 2 Cor. 4:4-6

Bible = revelation of God – His character, feelings and dealings.

2. God has acted to make himself known

a. In creation

Ps 19 : 1; Isaiah 6:3; Rom.1:20

b. In redemption.....God's rescue mission!

It begins with Abraham in Ur and culminating in the new exodus thro Jesus....

the revelation of a new and better covenant ... a more glorious and eternal redemption

3. God has spoken and explained his actions

a. in OT Scriptures Gen.15:1; Exod.19:7; 1Sam.15:10; Isa.38:4; Micah.1:1; Jer.10:5;
Hab.2:18

b. in the life and ministry of Jesus E.g *John 7:16; 14:10&24*

II. CONVICTIONS ABOUT SCRIPTURE

1. It is God's Word written down

Jesus and the apostolic writers quote it and base their teaching on it.

Jesus e.g. Matt.4:4 Paul e.g. 2Tim.3:16&17 ; 1 Cor.2:12-13

2. God still speaks thro what he has written

e.g..Hebrews 3:7ff refers to 3 different occasions in which God is said to speak

Q. Do you have personal experience of God's Word speaking to you. Can you share examples?

3. God's word is powerful

Ps19:10 ; Ps119:105 ; Jer23:29 ; Heb4:12 ; Jas1:22-25 ; 1Pet2:2 ; Rom.1:16

III. CONVICTION ABOUT THE NEED OF THE CHURCH TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Need of OT people to listen & obey: Deut.26:17 ;Neh.9:29 ;Isa.58:1&2 ;Jer.13:10&11 ;Micah 6:8

Need of NT church

Jesus at the beginning : Luke 24:45-49

They were going to be empowered by the Holy Spirit but their message was based on God's Word

Jesus' provision of pastors and teachers (Ephes.4:11&12)

Paul at end of the apostolic period insisting on the need to teach God's Word : 2 Tim.4:4

CONCLUSION

People come to faith through believing what is revealed in God's word and they grow in their faith thro hearing, understanding and obeying the word and so the church needs faithful preachers of God's word

We need God's Word the way we need bread !