

Olela Evangelism Conf. 5 Bible Studies 30 min

Must decide what kind of ministry & message we have - 2nd Evangelists appeal of NT. & has not bigger churches but to make converts or called us to make disciples

I Cor. 1:17-2:5

~ Preachers lose faith in preaching - why? Because many have never been exposed to true preaching.

Seminary student: "Christ's appeal for 11 AM sermon - but moving away. Preaching not as important as some was."
- share instead of preach
- Diminishing faith in preaching
- when others have spectacular success w/out great preaching - what is great preaching?

I. PREACHING DOES EVANGELIZE!

Cf. Rom 10 -- "How shall they hear without a preacher?" The necessity of the ~~XXX~~ ACT of preaching...the public proclamation. See H.H. Farmer, THE SERVANT OF THE WORD.

Also Donald Miller -- Preaching as a redemptive act.

Ch Sanster on Preaching - "Believe it"

II. PREACHING THAT EXALTS THE CROSS.

1. An exclusive theme

2. An inclusive theme

Difference between striking a pose & taking a stand.
Paul didn't give them what they wanted - sign & wisdom

III. PREACHING THAT ECLIPSES THE PREACHER 1:17; 2:1,3.

James Denney: "No man can give at the same time the impression that he himself is clever and that Jesus Christ is mighty to save."

Either the preacher is eclipsed or Jesus is. Don't upstage the Master.

IV. PREACHING EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT. 2:4

Three ways of empowering a message: 1. By cleverness of words; 2. Eloquence of speech; 3. Fulness of Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit makes the message REAL -- He demonstrates to the world the reality of the fact. Gr. Demonstration: only here in ~~NT~~ N.T.: Vigorous proof. Divine revelation needed for salvation.

2. The Holy Spirit makes the message RELEVANT. He authenticates the message. Not a guitar or beads.

V. PREACHING THAT ESTABLISHES THE SAINTS 2:5

Bernard: "yesterday I preached myself & the intellectuals praised me. today I preached the Cross & the sinners thanked me."

Texas Evangelists meeting - Jan 79
Mid-American Bapt Seminary, Memphis - 9-26-79

wisdom of men = not constant, changes from age to age
found fault in something that never changes.

When our evangelistic is fundamentally Jesus offering joy, happiness and success, then we have to preach a Christianity that is free from the negatives of those things. And our converts are thrown into a tailspin of confusion when they experience loneliness, difficulty and unhappiness. This is not the Jesus that was presented to them -- this is not the Christianity that they embraced. Their faith does not stand in the wisdom and power of God.

Preaching that emphasizes the Cross, energized by the Spirit, ~~edifies the church~~, establishes the saint.

James Denny Quote -

Ch on Paul's
Conversion in
Acts

1. Eclipses the preacher - 2 Cor 4 - we preach not ourselves - James Denny quote - call attention to self - was impressed w/ us than w/ Him.
2. Exalts the Cross
3. Energized by the Spirit - per. Paul - & continues in the character of the Crucified one
4. Establishes the Saints - per. summary of entire Gospel
→ Spirit reveals & makes real the Cross
demonstration = rigorous proof → Relevant

Paul didn't try to make it palatable or appealing

to know - not to preach - Paul didn't discuss his preaching from his personal life.

The Cross = an exclusive theme - nothing but - why? Because that nothing is everything = sufficient.

Exclusive the Jews require a sign, but such wisdom - our preaching must not meet the requirements of their desire - not what they want but what they need.

Comprehensive & everything = / It is the sign, the wisdom