

Basics of Faithful Bible Preaching: Intro.

Group Bible study: Colossians 1:21-2:5

Looking at 1:21-23:

- What is the gospel?
- What temptations are there for us in our context to *move on* from the gospel?
- What is Paul's relationship with the gospel he preaches? What might that attitude mean in practice?

Looking at 1:24-29:

- What is Paul's relationship with the Church?
- Who is his master? And what is his master's commission?
- What exactly is the content of Paul's preaching? And what is his aim?
- Is this an easy work?
- How does all this compare with preaching in our context?

Looking at 2:1-5:

- Why is a focus on Christ so important?

How does all this compare with the preaching in our context?

1. A servant of the Gospel of Christ crucified

Paul is a servant of the gospel – v23 – not his to use or change

The **gospel** is what he is preaching – v23

We must not assume the gospel. That is what we preach.

 To unbelievers and believers – v23 “not moving on”

v27 – the riches of the glory of the mystery is Christ in you Gentiles

v28 – Him we proclaim – **that is how people are brought to maturity**

Why? v2-3 – all the treasures are in Christ

We must preach Christ

 Not always what people will want but it is always what people need

2. Presenting the Word of God in its fullness

Servant of the church – v25 – but the church is not his boss

 Has a commission from God to make the Word fully known

The authority is the Word and the aim of the preacher is to become invisible, to point away from himself to the Word

How? – **We let the Bible speak for itself** – preach through single passages and books – Preach the message given by the text (versus the preacher's topic with verses from all over)

 What advantages of that?

 What disadvantages of doing that?

- Objective vs. subjective
- CONTEXT CONTEXT CONTEXT – sentence, passage, book, Bible – controls the meaning
- Listening (Isa.66:2; 64:8) - We do not 'use' the Bible or 'do something with' the Bible - it is not a stepping stone or a spring board
- Word sets the agenda not the pastors pet topics – becomes fresh, exciting, cutting – imagine preaching through 1 Corinthians

- Have to face the hard topics
 - Let the text change us and our theological framework / worldview (Rom. 12:2) – if we just pour in our framework into a passage it will either be dangerous or lack cutting edge or be boring!
 - Pure – no artificial additives and no watering down – the pure Word is the power for new life and growth (1 Peter 1:23-2:3)
 - Not “What is my message this week? Lord give me a message?” - look at the text!
- Is there a tension between preaching Christ and expository preaching / faithfully handling the Scriptures?
 - v25 (Word) → v26 (mystery) → v27 (Christ)
 - Should not be a tension – John 5:39-40; 2 Cor. 4:1-6; 1 Peter 1:10-12; Luke 24:25-27,44-47; 2 Tim. 3:15
 - The Word is all about Christ from first to last so if I handle it faithfully I *will* preach Him

3. And God speaks

Which do we think is more spiritual? A prepared exposition or a spontaneous ‘rhema’ word?

Which is more powerful and exciting? What the Bible says or what a new prophet says now?

v25 – the WORD of God – God speaking! – the Bible is not a dead letter but living and active

v27 – God making known mystery of Christ in you – should be very exciting - but we want other mysteries, something other than Christ, a Word for us not a revelation of God

Read: Hebrews 3:7-4:12; 12:5-11; Rev. 2-3

The more you let the Word speak the more God speaks

Acts 10:44; ‘While Peter was still saying these things (rhema), the Holy Spirit fell on those who heard the word (logos).’ - the Rhema Word is the preaching of the Logos Word and the power is in the Logos

v6 – most exciting thing of all - as Christ is proclaimed (v28) he is offered to be received

Wesley: “I offered them Christ”

It will be very hard work – v29

Notice – I toil but it’s his energy and his work

So false choice – I work/prepare or God work’s/Spirit speaks

2 Tim. 2:7 – noses in the text, knees on the floor

It is to be done in the context of love

A servant of the church – v25

Struggling for you – v1

Rejoicing in them – v5