

The Purpose of a Sermon

Introduction

1. **There are some in the church who have a misunderstanding of what the purpose of a gospel sermon is for.**
2. **This misunderstanding can be by the audience.**
 - A. **Think the sermon is to entertain.**
 - B. **Think it shouldn't reprove and rebuke.**
 - C. **Think it should never expose error. Especially in the local congregation!**
 - D. **Think it should make them feel good.**
 - E. **Think it should always agree with their beliefs.**
 - F. **Think it should be SHORT!**
3. **This misunderstanding can be the preacher's.**
 - A. **Think it must entertain (jokes, stories, etc.)**
 - B. **Think he must stir the audience to a high emotional state.**
 - C. **Think it should never expose error, reprove, nor rebuke.**
 - D. **Think it should always cause an audience to praise him.**
 - E. **Think it has to be without end to be ETERNAL!**
4. **There are many other misconceptions, abuses, and misuses.**
5. **Let's look at some real purposes of a sermon.**
 - A. **Preaching is very important – it is a big responsibility because God is listening to everything that is said.**

Scriptural Purposes of a Sermon:

1. It should instruct in righteousness.

Psalms 119:172 My tongue shall speak of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness.

A. Scripture is profitable for such.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

B. Scripture should be used in the sermon.

1) We must be receptive to God's Word.

1 Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God....

C. Should tell people what they need to do.

1) Peter's Sermon:

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

2) Paul before Agrippa -recounts his encounter with Christ. **Acts 26:16-18**

- **Four Points Revealed:**

Believe (*open their eyes*)

Repent (*turn from darkness to light*)

Confess (*Satan to God*)

Be Baptized (*receive forgiveness of sins*)

Live Faithful (*Sanctified by faith in me*)

2. It should remind brethren of what they already know.

A. Paul to Timothy:
2 Timothy 2:11-14

B. Peter's determination to do this:
2 Peter 1:12-15; 3:1

3. To exhort brethren to continue to be faithful.

A. The Apostle Paul:

1) 1st Journey – Paul had just been stoned at Lystra and left for dead

Acts 14:21-22 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them *to continue in the faith*, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

B. Paul to Timothy, exhort:

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort *with all longsuffering and doctrine*.

4. To reprove and rebuke when needed.

- **Reprove:** To speak out in disapproval
- **Rebuke:** To reprimand; a sharp disapproval

A. Christ did:
Matthew 15:7-9

B. Stephen did:
Acts 7:51-53

C. Paul to Timothy:
2 Timothy 4:1-4

1) God's Word is very serious and should be treated so.

5. To comfort the faithful.

A. Paul speaks of comfort of the scripture:

Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

B. We should comfort one another:

1 Thess 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1) Of the resurrection and second coming of Christ.

6. To Warn.

A. Warn against error:

1) Paul did (to the elders at Ephesus): **Acts 20:28-31**

2) Peter did:

2 Peter 2:1-2 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

3) John did:

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

B. Warn against disobedience:

- 1) **Christianity is serious – we need to be convicted!**
- 2) **God's vengeance will come:**

Romans 12:19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

- 3) **Paul warned what would happen to the disobedient:
2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**
- 4) **We must love, believe, and obey the truth or be eternally lost.
2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**

Hebrews 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

- 5) **People need to be told plainly and simply that they are going to be eternally condemned unless they obey and stay faithful to the Lord.**

Jesus did!

Matthew 23:33 Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?

- **People MUST change and obey or else their eternity will be served in Hell.**

Conclusion

- 1. Preaching the gospel is to be preached in love – but not compromising the clear Word of God in all things.**

Ephesians 4:15 but, **speaking the truth in love**, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--

- A. Preaching should not leave the impression that people can get by without obedience!**
- 2. Every sermon does not have to fulfill every purpose; but something is wrong if it does not fulfill any of these purposes!**
- 3. It can't fulfill any of these if the preacher doesn't understand the purpose of a sermon, or if he is a man pleaser!**

Galatians 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

- 4. OR – he doesn't want anybody to become his enemy.**

Galatians 4:16 Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

- 6. Just because some might not want the sermon to fulfill its purpose, is no excuse for the preacher to let it fail.**
- 7. The gospel is the same yesterday, today, and forever!**
 - A. The gospel message is to be preached in love because God wants everyone to be saved.**
 - B. But ultimately – it is our choice, our decision, whether to obey the preaching of God or not.**

