

The Church's Responsibility in Preaching / Teaching

Romans 1:15-16

Introduction:

- A. There is no greater work to be done than that of preaching or teaching the gospel – the power to save.
 - 1. The difference between “preaching” and “teaching” is technical, not practical.
 - a. Seen from different accounts of the great commission (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16).
 - b. Scriptural preaching includes teaching (2 Tim. 4:1-2 asv, nkj)
 - 2. The work of evangelists includes preaching to and teaching the church.
 - a. Paul was ready to preach the gospel to the saints at Rome (1:7, 15)
 - b. Timothy's “work of an Evangelist” included preaching to Christians (2 Tim. 4:1-5)
 - c. Evangelists were among those in the church that edified it (Eph. 4:11, 15-16)
- B. We want to notice two things in this lesson.
 - 1. Three attributes of good preaching / teaching.
 - 2. The church's responsibility in such preaching and teaching.

Discussion:

I. Three Attributes of Good Preaching (2 Tim. 4:1-5)

- A. ***Biblical in content*** (v. 2)
 - 1. The word is sufficient (2 Tim. 3:15-17; Gal. 1:8-9)
 - 2. The word is powerful (Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16; Jas. 1:21-22; cf. Acts 2:37)
 - 3. Bible teaching rather than fluff.
- B. ***Practical in application*** (v. 2)
 - 1. Reproves (convinces) the unconvinced.
 - 2. Rebukes the rebellious (cf. Titus 1:10-13)
 - 3. Exhorts the discouraged and striving.
- C. ***Urgent in its need*** – “in season, out of season”.
 - 1. Sinners are lost without it!
 - 2. Brethren must feed regularly on it or drift into error. (vv. 3-4)
 - 3. Must be received and supported now or “time will come”

II. The Church's Responsibility in Preaching / Teaching.

- A. Strictly speaking, the church does not preach or teach – individuals do.
 - 1. Preachers (evangelists), teachers and all Christians to extent of ability (cf. Acts 8:4)
 - 2. Some use own resources to do it – others receive support to do it.
- B. The church provides the means for preachers and teachers to their work.
 - 1. Includes financial support – wages (Phil. 4:15-16; 2 Cor. 11:8; cf. 1 Cor. 9:3-13).
 - 2. Includes arranging events, facilities, tools selecting personnel for preaching the gospel.
 - 3. As such, the church is it's own “missionary society.”
- C. The church sends the support directly to the preacher and not through another institution.
 - 1. No “sponsoring church” arrangement – opens door for absurdities and centralization.
 - 2. No “missionary organization”
 - 3. No church ever sent a dime to another church unless the receiving church was in need.
 - 4. No church ever sent to another church for work for which all churches were equally related.
 - a. All congregations are equally related in evangelism – to whole word to extent of ability.
 - b. All congregations are not equally related to the poor of a congregation.

Conclusion:

- A. The preaching of the gospel is a great work shared by individuals and the church.
- B. The churches need to be reaching out to support men who are willing to go “hard places.”