

Why So Much Preaching Does So Little Good

Acts 13:24-31

Introduction:

- A. The Jews' ignorance of Jesus as Christ was not from lack of preaching (v. 24-27).
 - 1. They still ignorantly crucified him (Acts 3:17; 1 Cor. 2:8).
 - 2. While a Jew, Paul ignorantly rejected Him (1 Tim. 1:13)
- B. The ignorance of spiritual things in America and the church is not from lack of preaching.
 - 1. Various church services
 - 2. Radio - Television - Printed Page.
- C. The present-day ignorance can be laid to too factors:

Discussion:

I. Poor Preaching.

- A. Good preaching is scriptural in manner and matter (Lk. 12:11,12)
 - 1. The what or matter (2 Tim. 4:1-4; Mk. 16:15; Acts 20:20,26; 1 Tim.4:6,7)
 - 2. The how or manner (Eph. 4:15; 6:20; 1 Cor. 14:19).
- B. Good preaching applies the scriptures:
 - 1. To the audience (Neh. 8:8; 2 Sam. 12:7; Acts 2:36; Ill. "Am a cow")
 - 2. To the speaker (1 Tim. 4:12, 16; 1 Cor. 9:27; Rom. 2:21).
 - Note: Obey truth preached even if preacher does not apply it to himself (Mt. 23:2,3)
- C. Good preaching continues even without visible results.(cf. Noah)
 - 1. Does good if not seen immediately (Isa. 55:11)
 - 2. Must sow, leave increase to God (1 Cor. 3:6, 7).
 - 3. May not see full fruit until the judgment (cf. 1 Tim. 5:24,25).

II. Poor Listening.

- A. Listening, but not really paying attention (Neh. 8:3; Acts 17:11)
- B. Listening, but not grasping its importance (cf. Heb. 2:1-4; Acts 24:25).
- C. Listening, but having room for the word (Lk. 8:14).
- D. Listening, but with prejudice (Acts 22:21,22; Matt. 13:15).
- E. Listening, but paying more attention to messenger than message (1 Cor. 2:1-4; 2 Cor. 10:10; Rom 16:18; Acts 4:13).
- F. Listening, but apply it to everyone but self (v. 27; 2 Sam. 12:5-7)

Conclusion:

- A. Let us pray for good preaching and good listening.
- B. Let us strive for good preaching and good listening.
- C. Let us obey good preaching (cf. Jas. 1:22-25)