

Title: Gospel-Centered Preaching and Teaching

Passage: Ephesians 4:11-13, 6:13-18; 2 Timothy 3:12-4:4

Introduction:

Trinity Church Ministry Vision: to bring glory to God by building up and equipping its members for living out the Gospel in every facet of life.

Question: How do we then go about this task?

Answer: Values in Scripture

Series Overview: Gospel-centered...

Preaching and Teaching, Worship, Prayer, Servant Leadership, Fellowship, Living, Evangelism and Mission

Overview: Key Questions

I. Why Gospel-Centered Preaching and Teaching?

II. How Should We Do Gospel-Centered Preaching and Teaching?

Passages

Ephesians 4:11-13

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Ephesians 6:13-18

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints

2 Timothy 3:12 - 4:4

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

I. Why Gospel-Centered Preaching and Teaching?

Reasons:

A. It is God's Word

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

2 Peter 1:19-21

And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but *men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

- God inspired special people to write His Words through the leading and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- Over 44 authors with a unified message
- "The LORD spoke..." - mentioned over 3,000 times in the Bible
- The Bible is infallible and inerrant (without errors). It can be trusted.

B. It is the ultimate standard for Truth

Psalms 19:7-9

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

John 17:17

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Contrast: modern culture (secular, pragmatic, relativist, post-modern, etc.)

- view: don't believe in God, the Bible doesn't work in my view, God can't send people to hell, etc.)

C. It's Life giving

- The power of God's Word is seen by all He has created as well as what He provides

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

- only the people of God can be created and built up by God's Word

D. It's Life transforming

- it transforms us into Christ-likeness.

Ephesians 5:25-27

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her *by the washing of water with the word*, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

2 Chronicles 34:19

And when the king [Josiah] heard the words of the Law, he tore his clothes.

- when we do not live according to God's Word, we are left in our sinfulness

Question: How often do you put yourself under the cleansing power of God's Word? Are you ready to be cleansed?

Isaiah 5:24 (contrast: one who rejects God's Word)

Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom go up like dust; *for they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.*

II. How Should We Do Gospel-Centered Preaching and Teaching?

A. In an expositional way

- preach what the text says in context in the Bible (not according to my own personal perspective)

2 Timothy 4:3 (contrasting example)

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,

B. In a Gospel-Centered Way

- everything should be focused and centered on Jesus.

- apart from the Gospel, we are merely moralists and good behaviorists.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For I delivered to you *as of first importance* what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

- contrast: Pharisees who knew the Scripture yet did not stay centered on Jesus.

C. In a persuasive/passionate way

2 Corinthians 5:20

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. *We implore you on behalf of Christ*, be reconciled to God.

1 Corinthians 9:22-23

To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.