

Preaching Like Peter and Paul

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. 1Cor. 2:1-5 - This is how preaching is to be done
 - 1. Preaching is the means God ordained to communicate the most important message this world will ever receive
 - 2. 1Cor. 1:17-24; Rom. 10:14, 17

I. WHAT SHOULD BE AVOIDED IN PREACHING

- A. 1Cor. 2:1, 4 - Emotive oratory
 - 1. “Excellency” refers to “something that is elevated; flowery speech designed to catch the ear”
 - 2. “Enticing” is “persuasive; designed to coerce men into a particular course of action”
 - 3. It is the power of the Gospel that convicts and converts the heart, not the skill of the preacher.
 - 4. Some take this to mean that the preacher cannot be educated or have a skilled vocabulary; that misses Paul’s point entirely
 - 5. Since the point is to get the gospel into the hearts of the hearer, the preacher must use the speech tools that are most effective for his hearers, not for himself
 - a. A Trio of Sightless Rodents or Three Blind Mice?
 - b. Scintillate, Scintillate, Diminutive Stellar Sphere or Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star?
 - c. Propel, Propel, Propel Your Craft or Row, Row, Row Your Boat?
 - 6. When criticized for his plain speech, D.L. Moody responded by saying, “I have been called to feed sheep, and not giraffes. I put the cookies on the bottom shelf where the children can reach them.”
- B. 1Cor. 2:1 - Human wisdom
 - 1. The Greeks worshiped knowledge. They would not listen to someone who was not proposing new concepts
 - 2. Peter and Paul did not preach their opinions or the latest fashionable cultural issue; they did not preach their favorite hobby doctrines or bind scruples of conscience on others; they were called to preach the gospel
 - 3. 2Tim. 4:1-2; 1Cor. 15:3-4; 1Tim. 4:13
 - 4. The world does not need our opinions. The world needs to hear about Jesus Christ. They do not need philosophical thoughts or a treatise on current events. They need to hear the plain, simple Word of God.

II. WHAT SHOULD BE ADOPTED IN PREACHING

- A. Trust in God - 1Cor. 3:5-7, 15:10; 2Cor. 3:5
- B. Love for souls - Rom. 9:1-3
- C. Reverence for truth - Psalm 40:9-10; 2Tim. 1:8

III. WHAT SHOULD BE AFFIRMED IN PREACHING

- A. The testimony of God - Acts 20:27; 2Tim. 4:2
 - 1. Not just the parts you approve of - 1Tim. 4:2
 - 2. Not just the parts that are pleasing to others - Gal. 1:10
 - 3. Not just the parts that are without controversy - 2Tim. 4:3
- B. The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - 1. 1Cor. 2:2, 15:3-4; Rom. 4:25; 1John 5:12

Conclusion:

- A. When a preacher dies and is laid to rest in the earth, every opinion he ever held passes with him. His prejudices, opinions, personal views will not outlive him. Since they are fleeting, none of those things are worth taking up any preaching time now. The focus of our preaching should be nothing but the whole counsel of the word of God, not one thing more nor one thing less.
- B. Rev. 22:18-19