

What Should I Preach?

2Timothy 4:1-2

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- 2Tim. 4:1-2 - “I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”

What Should I Preach?

- How do preachers choose lessons?
 - Some buy outline books or copy from sermons on websites
 - Some are fixated on current issues or personal hobbies
 - Some limit their preaching to first principles
 - Some develop lessons that mirror their personal studies

What Should I Preach?

- Acts 10:19-48
- Peter first resolved to preach the word of God
- He then examined his audience and considered their condition and drew conclusions about their needs
- The lesson he then preached was from the word of God tailored and presented to address the current needs of his audience

What Should I Preach?

- While the audience's condition determines what the preacher will teach, the audience does not get to choose what they will hear
- "A man who first tried to guess 'what the public wants,' and then preached that as Christianity because the public wants it, would be a petty mixture of fool and knave" (C. S. Lewis)
- "People have an idea that the preacher is an actor on a stage and they are the critics, blaming or praising him. What they don't know is that they are the actors on the stage; the preacher is merely the prompter standing in the wings, reminding them of their lost or forgotten lines." (Søren Kierkegaard)

“Preach Jesus Christ And Him Crucified”

- He is the central figure of our faith
 - 1Cor. 2:2 - “For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”
 - John 8:24 - “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

“Preach Jesus Christ And Him Crucified”

- He is the primary pattern in our salvation
 - Rom. 6:3-5 - “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection”

“Preach Jesus Christ And Him Crucified”

- He is the reason we survive our sojourn in this world
 - Acts 1:11 - “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”
 - Acts 5:42 - “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”
- He is the judge of how we passed our sojourn here
 - Matt. 25:31-46

“Preach The Kingdom Of God”

- It is our earthly marker of our home in heaven
 - Acts 28:30-31 - “Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, 31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.”
 - Matt. 16:18-19 - “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

“Preach The Kingdom Of God”

- It is the place of our citizenship in Christ
 - Acts 8:12 - “But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.”
 - Col. 1:13 - “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love”

“Preach The Kingdom Of God”

- There is nothing in this universe more precious
 - Acts 20:28 - “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”
 - 1Peter 1:18-19 - “Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

“Preach The Kingdom Of God”

- It does something that has not happened since the time before the tower of Babel; it unites all men
 - Eph. 4:4 - “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling”
 - Eph. 2:14-19 - “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. 19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God”

“Preach Salvation”

- It is the implicit purpose of every sermon
 - Acts 11:1-4 - “Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. 2 And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, 3 saying, You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them! 4 But Peter explained it to them in order from the beginning, saying...”

“Preach Salvation”

- Acts 11:11-18 - “At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent to me from Caesarea. 12 Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. 13 And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, 14 who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved. 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. 16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit. 17 If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God? 18 When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.”

“Preach Salvation”

- It is the explicit purpose of every scriptural response to the gospel
- Salvation and believing
 - John 3:16-18 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

“Preach Salvation”

- Salvation and repentance
 - Luke 24:46-47 - “Then He said to them, Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

“Preach Salvation”

- Salvation and confession
 - Rom. 10:9-10 - “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

“Preach Salvation”

- Salvation and baptism
 - Mark. 16:16 - “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”
 - Acts 2:38 - “Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

“Preach Against Useless Things”

- Apostle Paul did it
 - Acts 14:15 - “Saying, Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them”
 - Gal. 1:8-9 - “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”

“Preach Against Useless Things”

- Jesus did it
 - Rev. 2:15-16, 20 - “Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. 16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth... 20 Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.”

“Preach Against Useless Things”

- Elders must do it
 - Titus 1:10-11, 13-14 - “For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain... 13 ...Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, 14 not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.”

“Preach The Whole Counsel Of God”

- Preach everything; hold nothing back
 - Acts 20:20, 27 - “I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house... 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God”

“Preach The Whole Counsel Of God”

- It is designed to be understood
 - 1Cor. 1:18-27
 - Eph. 3:2-4 - “If indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)”

“Preach The Whole Counsel Of God”

- Preach it as God’s mouthpiece, not His editor
 - 1Peter 4:11 - “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.”
 - Jer. 23:21-22 - “I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. 22 But if they had stood in My counsel, And had caused My people to hear My words, Then they would have turned them from their evil way And from the evil of their doings.”

“Preach The Whole Counsel Of God”

- “I preach as if I am never sure to preach again; as a dying man to other dying men.” (Richard Baxter)
- “Preach and live as if Jesus was crucified yesterday, rose from the dead today, and is returning tomorrow.” (Martin Luther)

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