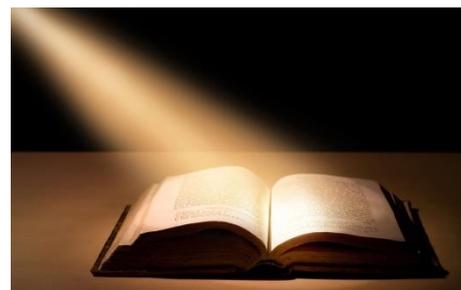
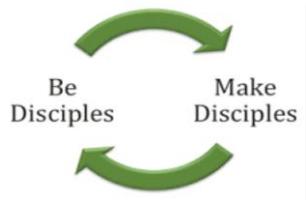
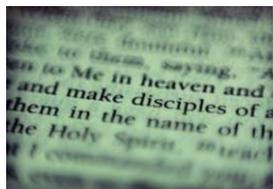


Preach the Gospel



Most people probably remember where they were when our country was attacked by foreign terrorists in 2001 on this very day. I was a second year student at the Memphis School of Preaching and we were sitting in Greek class waiting upon the arrival of the instructor. Many students watched the newscast before the start chapel service and witnessed an airliner flying into the side of one of the Twin Towers. After chapel was over, we all went to class, but our instructor was not able to get back to Memphis because most of the airports had cancelled many of the flights.

As we watched the news and heard reports of the devastation and loss of many lives, we as preacher students thought about the souls that were being ushered into eternity at that very moment. One of my fellow students said, "This is why we must to learn to preach the gospel, so that we can help lost souls."

Preaching is about souls! Preaching, over the past few years, seems to have lost some of its purpose and focus. So many are using the Lord's pulpit for everything except preaching the gospel. More concern is dedicated to making sure a sermon is mechanically correct than to ensuring it is biblically correct. Preaching is not for the purpose of entertaining, nor for the purpose of just filling 30 minutes for a worship service on the first day of the week so a minister can earn and collect a paycheck. Preaching is all about souls!

As souls gather together to worship, those souls are at different stages of their lives. Some have been Christians for many years and need to hear a message of encouragement to stay steadfast. Some saints are approaching their time departure and need to hear a message of assurance from God's comforting word. Some souls have been recently converted and need to feast on the milk of the word for growth. There are others who are not as faithful as they should be and need to hear God's word to encourage more faithfulness in their lives. Then there are others who are outside of the body of Christ and need to hear how to get into Jesus Christ where salvation is located. No matter what stage of life we are at spiritually, we need to hear the gospel preached.

Many people who left for work on 9/11/01 probably had not given thought that that day would be their last on earth. We never know when the day of our departure is coming. How many workers on that day thought it would be the last time they would see family members, loved ones, or friends? Since we don't know, we must preach God's word and be faithful hearers and doers of it. Paul said, "Moreover brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain" (1 Cor. 15:1-2).

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- K.A. Pugh

**LET'S GET
ENERGIZED
ABOUT
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