

“THINK ON THESE THINGS”

Philippians 4:8

Foolish Preaching

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:21: *“For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”* Paul did not mean that preaching was a foolish act, but, by the simplicity of preaching God’s word, salvation is possible. Many today and in Paul’s day looked upon preaching as a foolish act. Most certainly, much of the preaching done today is foolishness!

Preaching is Foolishness

When the gospel message is perverted! The apostle Paul wrote: *“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed”* (Gal. 1:8, 9). Paul marveled that the Galatians had been persuaded to believe *“another gospel: which is not another.”* Many preachers today pervert the pure and simple gospel of Christ by teaching such doctrines as, justification or salvation by faith only, the impossibility of apostasy, Holy Spirit baptism, etc. These doctrines are distortions of the truth and are foolish preaching!

When all the counsel of God is not proclaimed! To omit teaching the truth on a subject because the subject is controversial, is wrong! Paul wrote to the Galatians saying: *“For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ”* (Gal.1:10). Preachers must *“preach the word; be instant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine”* (1 Tim. 4:2). Paul taught all the counsel of God (Acts 20:26). Can we preach anything less and be pleasing to God? To preach so that the message is pleasing to men, results in a compromise of the truth and this is condemned by the inspired apostle.

When a preacher spends more time telling jokes and stories than he does preaching! Some “preachers” would do well to be comedians instead of preachers. I have heard some “preachers” who spent more time telling jokes and talking about current events than they did preaching a Scripture based sermon. Some seek popularity and will tickle the ears of the hearers with trivial talk, which will not save one soul! Only the gospel has the power to save and it must be preached for souls to be saved (Rom. 1:16, 17). See also 1 Peter 4:11; Titus 2:6-8.

When application to God’s truths are not made! Preaching must involve making proper application to the truths taught. For example, some preachers talk long and loud about believing God, but never get around to preaching on what belief involves or making application by using Bible examples and principles of truth. Paul made application in his preaching! He dealt with sin and error and got to the point! In 1 Corinthians 5, he specifically dealt with the problem of the church in Corinth accepting a brother who was guilty of fornication. Paul didn’t hold back when sin was in the camp. Likewise, gospel preachers need to make application as Paul did.

When a woman is preaching! Some denominations have women “preachers” in their so-called “clergies.” Where in all of the New Testament do you find an example of this practice? In fact, this is condemned by the Scriptures! When Paul wrote to the Corinthians concerning the proper use of spiritual gifts he said: *“Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church”* (1 Cor. 14:34, 35). Women are to learn in silence and not usurp authority over the man (1 Tim. 2:11-15). In Titus 2:3-5 Paul wrote: *“The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good*

things; that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.” Women can and should teach in their proper place, but they must keep silence in the church.

Yes, there are many ways to preach foolishly. But, souls are saved by the “*foolishness of preaching*” (1 Cor. 1:21). What kind of preaching do you desire to hear? — *tgmc* ■

Do You Have An Obedient Faith?

Edited
By Carrol R. Sutton

Alien sinners are saved by faith! See such passages as John 3:16; 3:36; John 5:24; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 10:43; 16:30; Romans 3:25; 5:1-2; Ephesians 2:8, etc. Every Bible believer understands and accepts this fact. However, none of the above Scriptures (or any other), teach that alien sinners are saved by faith only.

To be saved by faith some other things must accompany it. In other words, it must be a working faith. Without works it is dead (See Jas. 2:14-26)! This is another way of saying that it must obey God. We learn in the Scriptures what the Lord requires of us in our obedience to Him.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is our Savior (See Matt. 1:21; Lk. 2:11; Acts 5:31; 1 Jn. 4:14; 3:16)! He died on the cross for the sins of the world (See Rom. 5:6-8; 1 Cor. 15:3; Rom. 5:9; Eph. 1:7, etc.).

To please and to have access into the grace of God and to be saved, it is essential that we have faith in God and in Jesus Christ as the Son of God (See Heb. 11:6; Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 5:1-2).

Since a faith without works is dead, passive, inactive. It will not save. To be alive, faith must work. It must be active in obedience to God (See Gal. 5:6; Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9).

Sinners do not have the right to decide what will please God to give them access into grace and save them. They must accept the conditions that God has already given in His Word. The doctrines of “grace only,” “faith only,” “pray the sinner’s prayer,” etc., are not taught in the Scriptures. They are all doctrines that originated in the minds of men. They cause people to remain lost. Faith must obey (See Rom. 1:5)!

To have a saving faith a sinner must receive his faith by hearing the Word of God (See Rom. 10:17). His faith must cause him to repent of his sins according to Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38; 17:30-32, etc. The sinner’s faith must cause him to confess with his mouth Jesus as the Son of God, as truly being Lord according to Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37, etc. The sinner’s faith must cause him to be baptized for the remission of sins according to Acts 2:38; to be saved according to Mark 16:16; to get into Christ according to Romans 6:3-4 and Galatians 3:26-27.

Do you have any obedient faith? If not, you have no true hope of salvation. – *East Albertville church of Christ*, July 1, 2017. ■

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, ‘In Isaac your seed shall be called,’ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense” (Heb. 11:17-19, NKJV).

Service Times - Sunday: 9:00 & 10:00 AM; 6:00 PM - Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Tommy Glendol McClure, Editor and Evangelist - 925-759-4357

Web Site: www.lodiCAchurchofchrist.com - Email: lodicachurchofchrist@gmail.com - Phone: 209-365-9250