Preaching Workshop SWBTS March 2017

Two subjects – Preaching and Pastoral Leadership

Classic definition: Phillip Brooks, “Preaching is bringing of truth through personality.” Cannot separate the preacher from the message.

Text-driven preaching is to move through a passage and let the sermon flow from the passage itself. It is centered in the Word of God.

The Biblical picture of the pastor/preacher is found in Rev. 1:20, where Christ is pictured as holding the “angels” or pastors in His hands.

Albert Mohler’s blog on Feb. 27

Paul Sherer in “For We Have This Treasure”, Yale Lectures on Preaching 1943, concerning preaching said, “What else is there on the threshold of a changing world, where the wealth and poverty of all our yesterdays move in upon the promise or the threat of tomorrow, -- what else that can lift its head and lead man toward the peace and the power of a still and mighty Presence?”

Pastoral leadership is expressed in the primary role of the pastor – preaching the Word! 2 Tim. 4:1-5. Proclaiming the Word of God undergirds everything the pastor does.

Preaching is not all the pastor does, but it demonstrates, confirms and reveals his ministry. He leads by his example.

The preacher’s authority means that the words of Scripture are God’s words, and to deny or disbelieve any word in Scripture is to disbelieve & disobey God. (Tony Merida)

Preach with boldness:

Be yourself! Aim for simplicity & clarity. A deacon told me when I first started to preach, “Preach so a third grader can understand it, and the adults will likely understand it, too.”

We desperately need the Holy Spirit in our preaching. The work of preaching is too demanding to attempt to do in our own strength! We will not see our inability to properly preach God’s Word until we fully understand our own sinfulness and insufficiency. We need the Holy Spirit anointing on our preaching.

Greg Heisler, “Spirit-Led Preaching” identified 10 ways the Holy Spirit is at work in preaching:

Research has identified 7 common beliefs among preachers who are being used to effectively preach and reach people (Ed Stetzer):

Preaching today is similar but not identical to Biblical preachers.

Leadership is communication. Preaching should lead to Christ. That is consistent with the redemptive message of the Bible.

THE BREADTH OF MINISTRY

The names given in the N.T. reveal the depth, breadth and necessity of preaching.

1. PASTOR – shepherd

2. Herald – kerux. 1 Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:11; Col. 1:23

3. Ambassador – 2 Cor. 5:20, Eph. 6:20.

4. Overseer – Acts 10:10, 17, 28. Title first held by Christ (1 Peter 2:25).

5. Elder – speaks of wisdom & gravity of ministry

6. Servant – 1 Cor. 3:5, Luke 22:27.

7. Underrowers – 1 Cor. 4:1.

8. Steward – 1 Cor. 4:1. Stewards of God’s mysteries. See Eph. 2:11-15.

9. Prisoner – Eph. 3:1, 4:1; 2 Tim. 1:8; Philemon 1, 9, 23.

10. Saint – Phil. 1:1, Heb. 3:1, Eph. 5:3, Titus 2:7.

11.Disciple – learner, lifelong student. Matt. 5:1; 8:23; 9:11, 19, 37; 10:1; 11:1.

12. God’s Co-workers – 1 Cor. 3:9; 1 Thess. 3:2.

13. Teacher – 1 Tim. 2:7, 32; Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 2:15.

14. Witness – Luke 24:48; Acts 1:8

IMPORTANCE OF PREACHING

Books:

“For We Have This Treasure” by Paul Sherer, Yale Lectures on Preaching 1943.

“Faithful Preaching” by Tony Merida, B & H Publishers, Nashville, TN 2006.

“Preaching Evangelistically” by Al Fasol, Roy Fish, Steve Gaines and Ralph Douglas West, B & H Publishers, 2006.

“Anointed Expository Preaching”, B & H Publishing Group, 2003.

“The Task Worth While” by H.C. Mabie, Griffith & Rowland Press, Philadelphia, 1910.

“Point and Purpose in Preaching” by Elijah P. Brown, Fleming H. Revell Company, 1917.

“Preaching On Your Feet” by Fred R. Lybrand, B & H Academic, 2008.

“Spirit-Led Preaching” by Greg Heisler, B & H Publishers, 2007.