

# A Short Philosophy of Preaching

for Faith Community Baptist Church

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**W**e take a very high view of the preaching of the Word here at Faith Community Baptist Church. We believe preaching to be the principal and highest means by which Christ ministers his unfathomable grace to his needy people. We strive to hold to a consistently Reformed view of the preached word that is powerfully expressed in the Second Helvetic Confession of Heinrich Bullinger where it emphatically states that

*The preaching of the word of God  
is the word of God.*

It goes on to declare that

when this Word of God is now preached in the church by preachers lawfully called, we believe that the very Word of God is proclaimed, and received by the faithful; and that neither any other Word of God is to be invented nor is to be expected from heaven.

In a day when the words of the preacher are often seen as nice ideas, suggestions, the opinions of men or something else in the category of "take it or leave it" the words of the Second Helvetic Confession have a high view of preaching indeed! Furthermore it is a consistently Reformed view of preaching. And most importantly, it is a thoroughly Biblical view of preaching. The Apostle Paul addresses this issue of hearing the very word of God in the preaching of the word of God when he writes in Romans 10:14

How are they to believe in him whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

Here the Apostle Paul, effectively demonstrates that preaching is the means that God has chosen through which Christ's gospel word is to be heard, the heart stirred to a deeper love for truth, and the life changed into conformity of his image. Or as it states in "Answer 96" in the Baptist Catechism -

The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation.

It is for this reason the preaching of the word of God is often rightly referred to as the primary means of grace for the church. It is our prayer, seeing its essence and profit, that we might continue to preach and continue to receive the word of the gospel for what it is in truth - the very word of Christ!