

The Messenger MSWSBA March 2016

Preaching The Word: God's Battle-Cry For The Church (Part 1) by Chris Kuenzle

What is the primary ministry of the church? If you evaluate your church, what is the one thing that is placed at the front of the priority list? What is its battle-cry as it goes to spiritual battle for God to advance His kingdom? By examining the church in Acts, it becomes clear that what we see topping that priority list is the proclamation of the Word of God. As the Holy Spirit had come upon disciples in chapter 2, it was noted that they spoke in tongues that others understood, symbolizing the importance to share this Gospel to the world. To further build on the thesis statement of Acts (Acts 1:8), we see that the preaching of the Word became prominent in the church.

At Pentecost, after the Holy Spirit had come upon the disciples and they spoke in tongues, Peter stood up in verse 14 and began preaching to those in Judea and Jerusalem that were present (first two locations of Acts 1:8). As a result of this preaching, we see that a great number of people were saved and joined the church. This sets a pattern that can be seen throughout the rest of Acts that the preaching of the Gospel would be the top priority of the church's mission to fulfill its role as being a witness to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. We see that the first strategy in the sermon of Peter is that he speaks to the issue at hand so that the hearers have a reason to listen to what he is preaching. He then goes on to expound on the Word of God in Joel 2:28-32. He showed how this prophecy was fulfilled by the speaking of tongues. He then points to Christ as the fulfillment of Psalm 16:8-11 and Psalm 110:1. Essentially, what Peter has done here is given the people the Word of God and expounded on it, pointing it to Jesus. In pointing to Jesus, he also points out the need of Him to the hearers as he mentions that they had crucified Him. As a result of this sermon backed by the power of the Holy Spirit, many fell under great conviction and were saved. It should be noted that these bystanders did not fall under conviction until they heard Peter preaching the gospel. Prior to this, many of them mocked the scene and accused them of being drunk. After the preaching of the gospel, however, the Holy Spirit pricked their hearts (2:37) and led them to repentance and salvation.

In chapter 3, Peter once again preaches the Gospel after healing a lame beggar. He once again began his sermon by taking what the people had seen and explaining it with the Gospel. He also expounded on the Old Testament Scriptures in Deuteronomy 18 in order to point out that Jesus was the prophet and explain to them the dangers of rejecting this truth. We also see that there is a call to repentance. It was through this preaching once again that the Holy Spirit worked and a great number of people were added to the church. After this, Peter preached the Gospel again when he was set before the Jewish council (4:5-12). He once again preached the Scriptures as he quoted Psalm 118:22. Even after the release from prison, the believers prayed for boldness and continued to speak the Word of God with boldness (4:31).

We cannot properly expound on the prominence of preaching in the early church in one page, but we have briefly examined how the church took the gospel to Jerusalem and Judea. Next month, we will examine the strategy of taking the gospel to Samaria and the ends of the earth. It is plain to see, however, that at the heart of the church's mission and strategy, we see Spirit-filled preaching of the Word as the primary task for taking the gospel into the world and advancing the kingdom of God. How are you supporting the preaching of the Word in your church? Are you creating an environment where your pastor can most effectively prepare and preach great sermons? Are you supporting him in prayer? As the preacher, he has the highest of burdens on his shoulders and faces a great deal of spiritual warfare. Let me encourage you to pray for your pastor every day. He carries a burden that most will never understand. The church not only needs the pastor, the pastor needs you lifting him up in your prayers!

Pray for your Pastor



How to Contact your DOM

Phone: 573-406-9691

Email:

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Office Hours:

@ FBC Ewing 9:00am- 1:00pm



Remember to Pray for our churches seeking a Pastor

- Wyaconda Baptist Church
- South Wyaconda Baptist Church
- FBC LaGrange



MAR

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SAT

Week of Prayer - North American Missions

Contact NAMB and MBC for more information.

Disaster Relief Training in Waynesville, MO

Go to www.mobaptist.org/dr for more information and to register.

MAR

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SUN

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Week of Prayer - North American Missions

Contact NAMB and MBC for more information.

MAR

17

THU

St. Patrick's Day

MAR

19

SAT

First Day of Spring (March Equinox)

MAR

20

SUN

Palm Sunday

MAR

24

THU

Maundy Thursday (Day of Last Supper)

MAR

25

FRI

Good Friday

MSWSBA MESSENGER Newsletter Article Deadline

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