

**Old Union Ministers School**  
**March 27, 28, 29**  
**Preaching With Power**  
**By Eld. Don Watts**

**Lesson 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 2: 1-16**

**Lesson text Eph.6: 18-20**

**Definition**—————**Preaching**—this word comes from the Gr. word [kay-oos-so]  
And that means to herald or proclaim divine truth

**Power**—————this word also comes from a Gr. word [doo-nam-is]  
And that means miraculous power.  
Introduction

The object of my lesson is to try and head off a dangerous trend that I see affecting so many of our preachers today. This problem seems to be affecting more and more of our young preachers, especially now while we are living in this fast life style. The problem seems to be “too much time for work and pleasure and not enough time for prayer and study. As a result of this, we try to preach God’s word with little to no power. We don’t need to tell everyone about our lack of study, it will soon tell on itself.

My lesson may seem a little harsh but we are living in harsh times. I think if we would face and deal with our problems head on, we would be better served. I realized maybe as much as anyone, coming from the school of hard knocks that some statements or phrases spoken with firmness may seem to prick our hearts and it may even hurt our feelings a little. But I think really sometimes, the things we withhold from others and don’t say hurts even worse and could actually start another dangerous trend.

If we have been called of God, and we surely must have been, or else we wouldn’t be here. Along with this calling, we have been given the highest honor and the greatest responsibility that has ever been bestowed upon a human being.

This is not a work [the preaching of the gospel] that we should take lightly or half hearted. Preachers must make the best preparations that they can before they take the stand. Don’t wait one hour before you take the stand to begin studying for a sermon.

If we take the pulpit with limited confidence in God’s ability to deliver his message through you, Satan will strip you of all your trust. You will then probably lean toward the dangerous trend of trying to preach the gospel with little to no power.

God can't and won't use someone effectively who does not see the seriousness and the necessity of preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with power. The almighty God of Heaven has called us and sent us on an errand of life and death. The well being of the church and the salvation of lost souls rest within our abilities to trust God.

You may feel that you are too unlearned or maybe that your voice doesn't sound right or some other excuse that you may be using. Put these excuses aside and trust God for your help. If God has called you, he will use you if you will let Him. The apostle Paul made this statement in I Corinthians 1:26-29, For ye see your calling, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many noble, are called. But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty; and things that which are despised, hath God chosen yea, and things which are not to bring to nought things that are. That no flesh should glory in His presence.

The apostle was showing here that preachers nor the gospel depended upon rapid speaking, nor slow speaking. Neither do men have to preach loud or soft to fit the scriptural recipe of a gospel preacher. However, when the Spirit of God gets in our preaching, speed and volume will usually appear. Paul was also saying that these people, that they were preaching to did not have an elaborate education, they were not rich people, and they were not a people filled with wisdom. They were just simple, humble people like you and I preach to every Sunday.

If we aren't very careful, we will try so hard to please man or to impress him that we will forget that we are to show ourselves approved unto God.

The apostle Paul made this statement in second Corinthians 4:7. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the Excellency of the power may <sup>be</sup> of God and not of us.

The treasure that we have is the pure rich word of God, and the reason it is called a treasure is because of its divine value. Paul mentioned in another place concerning the gospel being full of glory and he also mentioned that it was very precious. All these rich treasures were committed to the apostle and then to you and I. We were commanded by the Lord to go and dispense this treasure to the entire world. The Lord commissioned his church to take the gospel to the entire world, to the Jew first and then to the Gentile.

The earthen vessels no doubt must be men like you and I who have been saved and called by the Holy Spirit. This earthen vessel no doubt must be men like you and I who are

feeble and dieing every day of our life. God has hand picked every one of us by himself and for himself to carry or [preach] His never dieing word or (gospel) to the whole creation of this world.

The reason I am saying these things is because as we run this race of life, we need to be able to run this race with patience and by faith. We want pass the baton on to you today so you may run your race with power while preaching the gospel. It's not a matter of being out in front in this, but being where God wants you.

The idea is this, that we as men are altogether insufficient by our strength to accomplish what was accomplished by the power of the gospel. It doesn't matter how beautiful we can speak our words or how loud we say them, if our speaking is not seasoned with the Holy Spirit of God, they will more than likely fall on deaf ears.

We need the Spirit of God in our study. Our speech needs to be seasoned with the Spirit of God. Paul tells us in [Col. 4:6] Let your speech be seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. We must have the Spirit of God in our preaching if it's going to be effective. Paul tells us this in [Eph. 3-7] Wherefore I was made a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given me by the effectual working of his power. Have you ever wondered why some of us are not called back for that second and third preaching appointment? People of God want to be fed with the pure rich word of God. If we don't let God use us to feed them, they will find someone who will. Jesus told Peter to feed his sheep.

Now there is something else that I want to bring up at this time. There is a burden for the word of God. The word of God should be in us like a raging fire struggling and searching for a place and a way to come forth. God called men who posses this burden don't talk just for talking sake. They preach with power to persuade men and women and boys and girls to turn to Jesus and be saved for Jesus sake. The bible tells us that it pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Now this statement may raise few eyebrows, but, I feel it necessary. I feel like there are great battles being fought in our studies, in our churches and especially in our pulpits. Our enemy and the enemy to God's cause has brought out his heavy artillery against the ministry. It has always been the devil's purpose to disrupt God's plan for spreading the gospel. Lean not upon our own understanding. I think God is pleased when men of God search for biblical understanding, but lean on God for the use of it. The battles rage when we feel self sufficient. Satan is walking about seeking who he may devour [I Peter 5:8] The battles are going to go on , so seek after the power of God and fight the good of faith.

This is where the eyebrow may be raised, and I hope none of you will misunderstand when I use the word notes or help's. I personally use notes when I am trying to teach a lesson, and I use them sometimes when I am attempting to preach. But I do think that notes or helps in the pulpit have been over emphasized. Solomon told us Prov. 3 :5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; lean not unto thy own understanding. When we get in a habit of leaning more on our mechanics, we automatically lean less on the almighty God. I have noticed this more and more in the last few years especially among the younger preachers; they have their sermon written out word for word and they read it verbatim. I can only speak for myself in a situation like this, I don't feel any of God's power in a sermon like this. Question? What would you do if you had a night appointment and somewhere, maybe about mid way of your sermon the electricity goes off.? Could you finish the task or would you ask the people to wait for the lights to come back on? Our churches in America are on the decline. You can go from church to church and in most services, it is almost like sitting in a funeral home. Satan is rocking us to sleep with little dry sermonets. Preachers seem to be afraid to bear down and preach what God wants for fear of loosing their church. I tell you the truth, if we don't bear down, Satan is going to win your church and then not only you will loose, but your whole congregation will suffer for your inconsistency.

Paul the apostle made this statement in [I Cor. 2:4] And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and Power. In conjunction with what I have just said, a preacher should make the best preparation that he can every time he takes the stand. If it is important for you to use notes or some kind of helps in the pulpit, please don't let them use you. Put your faith in God; fall back in the big arms of God and allow Him to bring to mind the things that you have studied.

The speech of a preacher should be clear, and your words should be pronounced correctly. This should be done to help those you are speaking to. When people are helped through the preached word of God it grows the church and brings great honor to God.

Paul said that his speech or his preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom but in the demonstration of the Spirit and Power. If any serve me, let him follow me, and where I am, there shall also my servant be; if any man serve me, him will my father honor. Jh. 12:26 The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility. Proverbs [15:33] Again preachers should make the best preparations they can; then enter the pulpit feeling as though they can't by themselves but with the help of God, they can. After you have studied and prepared, let your preaching be that which God has produced by the Holy Spirit.

Don't become a strict commentary preacher. I have my own commentaries, but all of the books in the world can't do what God can. When I make this statement, I am speaking to myself also.

Paul said that he wasn't trying to impress people with his own ambitions, but he spoke as the Spirit gave him utterance. The proof of what God produced was without question, People were convicted with the gospel and they saw their need of being saved and were saved by great numbers. We need to promote Jesus, Christ and not ourselves, The power is in God's Son . It is not in us , and it never will be. Paul said in (Rom. 1-16) "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. This word power comes from a (Gr word) and that word is (doo-nam-is) this is miraculous power. This is where we get our word dynamite, and when Jesus is preached, it is a power that will break old stony hearts to pieces. Sinners need, no they must hear preaching of this sort if they are going to be saved. Our churches desptely needs this kind of power in them today.

You know there is really no reason why we should doubt the God of our salvation because this same God that made the worlds, made us. He saved us and He is the same God today. If we really want access to the power of God , we must get in touch with Jesus Christ and preach Him without any reservations

Jesus has great power and He earned it because he willingly went to the cross of Calvary, He died for our sin's and rose again the third day. (REV. 1:18) "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and death."

The power of the gospel is greater than our feeble minds can fathom. Paul the apostle made this statement in (Heb. 4:12) "For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and the intents of the heart.

In conclusion, we need earnestly to pray for each other always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. Brothers we are Christain soilders who are engaged in spiritual battles for the Lord and we need constant contact with our leader, and that is accomplished by prayer.

This is to be done with all prayer and all supplication; we need closet prayer, we need family prayer, we need prayer before, during, and after our worship service. WE must be in earnest when we are talking to our great captain for ourselves and for others.

All these prayers and supplications must be made by the aid of the Holy Spirit and our hearts should be in our prayer. I think we should always be watching for opportunity to pray and be alert for anything that would hinder prayer.

Then Paul the apostle said this: And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.

At this time Paul was a prisoner at Rome, and he desperately needed the prayers of God's people to aid him in all of his afflictions. He said pray that utterance may be given unto me, that even during his being in prison that he could continue preaching the gospel. He ask for prayer while suffering all these afflictions that he would be bold enough to open his mouth and preach with boldness. Paul felt that the most important thing was to get the gospel preached even if it cost him his life .

My brothers, we have the awesome task of presenting Jesus to this world, both saved and lost. Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power (Rom. 1:4) . Barns Notes tells us that Jesus was known as the son of God by might and by the Holy Spirit, who rose from the house of the dead. Jesus was telling us Mathews gospel that if the temple was torn down that he would raise it back up in three days. He said I have the power to lay my life down and I have the power to take it up again. He was telling this people, if you take my life from me, I will take it up again in three days.

Paul made this statement in (Romans 1:16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation; to the Jew first and also to the Greek. This word power comes from our original Gr. word (doo-nam-is) and this is where that we get the English word dynamite. There must be something to break up these hard stony hearts of humankind and the gospel of Jesus Christ is capable of doing to our stony hearts what dynamite does to a large mountain, it is capable of breaking them into small pieces. Ezekiel made this statement in the thirty sixth chapter and the twenty sixth verse: "Anew heart, also will give you, and a new spirit will I also put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Dynamite is very explosive and the gospel preached in power is capable of doing to the soul of man what dynamite does to large mountains. The worship service of God should be so powerful that people both saved and lost would crumble under its power, but we have put so much faith in our worldly possessions that God is left out, and when God is left out , the power is left out.

Let me give you a few examples of God's power: When darkness was upon the face of the deep, He spoke and the earth appeared. He took nothing and created something. He spoke the worlds into existence just because His voice ordered it . He took the clay of the earth and made a man.

My brothers, why don't we see more of the power of God manifested in our worship services and in our lives? God has not closed the door to His power, we can have access to His almighty power. Prayer and study and total submission will bring us to the door of Gods power. We then must preach Jesus, the death of Jesus, the burial and the resurrection. Brothers we cannot convict sinners, but God can and He does through the power of His word being preached