

Acceptable Worship

Preaching

(II Ti 4:2)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on what “Acceptable Worship” really is.
 - a. Last week we examined how we are to acceptably worship in our “Giving.”
 - i. **I Co 16:2** “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.”¹
 - b. This week we are going to look at how we are to acceptably worship in our “Preaching.”
 - i. **II Ti 4:2** “preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”
3. Preaching has always been an intricate part in God’s plan for getting His Word out to His creation.
 - a. In the N.T. alone the word for preach (II Ti 4:2) is found 61 times.
 - b. Notice how often the word preach is used in the Bible.
 - i. ESV 84
 - ii. NKJV 136
 - iii. KJV 138
 - iv. ASV 104
4. Though preaching has been an intricate part, there are many preachers that do not understand or simply ignore what God deems as acceptable preaching.
 - a. In Christianity Today Magazine.
 - i. “In Richardson, Texas, they’re still talking about the worldly ways of First Unitarian Church. On a recent Sunday, Pastor William Nichols invited Diana King, a Unitarian from Fort Worth, to take part in the service. She did, and when she was through, Miss King—an exotic dancer at a Dallas nightspot—was wearing only a G-string. The congregation of 200 adults and children watched in fascinated silence as she shed her clothes in time with recorded music. Nichols said the dance fit “very well into our service” and nobody complained. He also said he didn’t think anyone was aroused, “but I don’t consider the erotic aspect of the dance wrong. After all, that’s the way we were conceived.” Miss King said it was something she wanted to do for a long time, and she would like to conduct classes for women church members. “I would like to do a sermon using the exotic dance, and members of the congregation could join me if they liked,” she commented.” (Tan, P. L. (1996). Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times. Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc.)
 - b. As shocking as this is what many preachers are doing with God’s Word is not much different, it is just less noticeable.
5. With this in mind let’s look at what God considers being acceptable worship in “Preaching.”

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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I. What God Expects From His Preachers

- A. Preaching is to be with authority
 - 1. **Ti 2:15** “Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.”
- B. Preaching is to be of necessity
 - 1. **I Co 9:16** “For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!”
 - 2. **Je 20:9** “If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.”
- C. Preaching is to be founded in Scripture
 - 1. **Ac 20:27** “for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.”
 - 2. **II Ti 2:15** “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”
 - 3. **I Ti 4:16** “Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.”
- D. Preaching is to be consistent
 - 1. **II Ti 4:2** “preach the word; be ready in season and out of season...”
- E. Preaching is to be bold
 - 1. **Ac 9:27-28** “But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.”
 - 2. **I Co 1:23** “but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles”
- F. Preaching is to be more negative than positive
 - 1. **II Ti 4:2** “...reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”

II. What Congregations Should Do To Help The Preacher Be Acceptable

- A. Listen but do not blindly accept
 - 1. Preachers “can” make mistakes.
 - i. Listen and hear what is preached.
 - a. **Ja 1:19** “...let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger”
 - ii. Do not simply just assume what is preached is right.
 - a. **Ac 17:11** “Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”
 - 2. Therefore hear what is preached and study to make sure it is so.
- B. Encourage but do not puff him up
 - 1. Preachers can get puffed up.
 - i. Preachers need their heads on straight.
 - a. It isn’t easy being an acceptable gospel preacher.

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- ii. With that being said, encouragement is sorely needed by gospel preachers.
 - a. **II Co 7:4** “I have the highest confidence in you, and I take great pride in you. You have greatly encouraged me and made me happy despite all our troubles.” (NLT)
2. Therefore encourage with all your might until it looks like it is going to his head, then reprove and rebuke.
- C. Recommend needed lessons but do not shrink away when lesson is given
 1. Gospel preachers are not afraid of preaching the truth.
 - i. They will stand up and preach in season & out of season.
 2. Gospel preachers are nervous when preaching certain sermons though.
 - i. This happens when they are not sure of the reaction they will get.
 - a. **II Ti 4:16** “At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them!”
 3. Therefore when you ask for a needed sermon stand behind the lesson, as long as it is scriptural.
- D. Love but do not have impossible expectations
 1. Gospel preachers will try to kill themselves.
 - i. They will try and be all things to all people.
 - a. Remember there is one of them and many in a congregation.
 - ii. Love means knowing what the preacher needs when he needs it.
 - a. Far too many expect the preacher to love them and thus know everything about them but they do not take the time to really know the preacher.
 2. Therefore love the preacher (having his best spiritual interests at heart) but do not expect more from him than you do yourself.

CONCLUSION

1. Brethren I’m reminded of what one man stated, “The backslider likes the preaching that wouldn't hit the side of a house, while the real disciple is delighted when the truth brings him to his knees.” (<http://goo.gl/AdWVh5>)
 - a. Preachers have a responsibility to be acceptable to God and no other.
2. Question: Are your expectations of what an acceptable sermon is compatible with what God deems as an acceptable sermon?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?

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3. Invitation

- a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**