
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES
ITEM Conference on Ministry and Preaching
Dr. Steve Van Horn

THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING

Preaching Lecture #1

Introduction: God has a purpose for every life and for every church. He has a purpose for every family. He has a purpose for the world and therefore He has a purpose for preaching. So we want to look at God's purpose for preaching because without a clear purpose preaching is a misuse of the Bible. Preaching is a waste of time to the people unless the preaching is done with a purpose. If our purpose is not God's purpose then we are working against God. To understand God's purpose for preaching we must understand God's purpose for man.

I. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MAN IS TO BECOME LIKE JESUS (ROM 8:29)

- A. God made man in His image (Gen 1:26).
- B. When man sinned God had a plan for our salvation.
 - 1. But from the start it was God's plan that man be like Him.
 - 2. He wants us to be godly like Him (2 Cor. 3:18).
- C. To be Christlike is to think, act, and live like Christ.
 - 1. When we think like Christ we think about others like He did.
 - 2. When we feel like Christ we treat others with compassion and humility.
 - 3. When we act like Christ we treat everyone like Christ treated people.
- D. Since God's purpose for each person is that we think, feel, and act like Christ then PREACHING must have the goal of helping people think, feel, and act like Christ.
 - 1. The purpose of preaching is to change lives.
 - 2. If we haven't been used to change lives then we have failed as a preacher.
 - 3. Preaching is to help the followers of Christ to develop Christlike convictions, Christlike character, and Christlike conduct.

E. God uses two things to make us more like Jesus.

1. Circumstances: The situations, the problems, the difficulties, the things that happen around our lives. God uses those to mold us and make us like Christ. (Rom 8:28-29; James 1:2-4, Rom. 5:3-4, 1 Peter 1:6-7).
2. Application of the Word of God to our lives (2 Cor 3:18; James 1:24-25).
 - a. The Word of God is like a mirror (2 Cor 3:18; James 1:24-25).
 - b. When we look into the Word of God we see Christ's glory. And the more I do that the more I am changed and become more like Him.
 - c. When we get people to look at, remember, and DO God's Word then they are changed.

F. The problem is not the people. The problem is in the pulpit.

G. If our preaching is not effecting the culture then there is something wrong with our preaching.

II. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE BIBLE

- If you understand the purpose of the Bible it will determine how you preach.
 - A. 2 Timothy 3:16 is very important for preaching.
 1. All Scripture is inspired. The word "inspired" actually means "breathed out by God" or "is the breath of God."
 2. It is helpful or profitable for four things.
 - a. It is helpful or profitable for teaching (or doctrine).
 - b. It is helpful or profitable for rebuking.
 - c. It is helpful or profitable for correcting.
 - d. It is helpful or profitable for training in righteousness
 3. The result is a complete or perfect man who is equipped for every good work.
- Note: There are not four purposes of Scripture. There is just one. Verse 17 says "so that the man of God will be perfect and equipped for every good work." Perfection and good works are the two purposes of Scripture.