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**INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES**  
**Conference on Ministry and Preaching**  
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**THE PRIORITY OF BIBLICAL PREACHING**  
Preaching Lecture #3

**Introduction:** After the Pentecost sermon by Peter, three thousand were saved and were baptized and devoted themselves to the apostles teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread (communion and worship), and prayer (Acts 2:42).

Teaching was mentioned first in the list and shows the primary importance of teaching the Scriptures. The early church experienced spiritual health because priority was given to biblical teaching.

**I. THE APOSTLE’S TEACHING WAS MOST IMPORTANT**

- A. The word “teaching” in Acts 2:42 is actually a noun and means “doctrine.”
  - 1. What the apostles learned from Jesus is what they taught the people.
  - 2. The people were expected to follow the instructions they received from the apostles. (A biblical lifestyle follows biblical preaching and teaching.)
  - 3. Everything the early church did followed the instructions of the apostles which came directly from the Scriptures.
  
- B. Jesus Himself Was an Example of One Who Taught the People
  - 1. Jesus spent three years teaching His disciples.
  - 2. His disciples called him “teacher (John 13:13).”
  - 3. He called them His “disciple” (Matt 10:24-25) which means “learner.”
  - 4. When Jesus started His ministry the Bible says, “He came preaching the gospel (Mark 1:14).”
  - 5. Preaching was a primary part of His entire ministry (Luke 4:18; Mark 1:38).
  - 6. When the people came to Him He taught them (Matt 5:2).
  - 7. The night before He was crucified he gathered His disciples and taught them (John 13-16).

8. After the resurrection while on the road to Emmaus He explained the Scripture to two of the disciples (Luke 24:27).
  9. Preaching and teaching was a primary part of the ministry of Jesus and the apostles were only doing what they had seen Jesus do.
- C. Teaching New Believers to Obey Christ is Part of the Great Commission (Matt 28:19)
1. Jesus first instructed His disciples (obedient learners).
  2. The disciples (learners) were to make disciples (obedient learners) of others.
  3. Teaching Was Practiced in the Early Church (Acts 2:42)
    - a. Preaching and teaching are mentioned more often than anything else the apostles did in their ministry (Acts 2:42; 3:11-26; 4:1-2, 8-12, 19-20, 31, 33; 5:20-21, 29-32, 42; 6:2, 4, 7-10; 7:1-53).
    - b. No matter where the apostles were, they were preaching.
      - i. At Solomon's temple (3:11-26)
      - ii. In public (4:2, 33)
      - iii. When in the presence of the Sanhedrin (4:8-12)
      - iv. From house to house (5:42)
    - c. When confronted with the challenge of widows who were not being taken care of, they did not neglect their ministry of teaching the Word (Acts 6:2, 4) and the Word of God kept spreading Acts 6:7).
    - d. The first disciples filled all of Jerusalem with their teaching (doctrine) (Acts 5:28).
- D. The Principle of Teaching is Reinforced in 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus
1. Instructions to Timothy.
    - a. Timothy was to instruct the church about proper doctrine (1 Tim 1:3).
    - b. Timothy was to be nourished on the words of faith and sound doctrine (1 Tim 4:6).
    - c. Timothy was to preach and teach the words of faith and sound doctrine (1 Tim 4:6, 11)

- d. He was to read, teach, and apply the Word (1 Tim 4:13).
  - e. Timothy was to guard the Word (2 Tim 1:14) and entrust it to others (2 Tim 2:2).
  - f. Timothy was to handle the Word of God accurately (2 Tim 2:15) and be able to teach (2 Tim 2:24).
2. Instructions to Titus
- a. Paul encouraged Titus to exhort in sound doctrine and oppose those who contradict the truth (Titus 1:9).
  - b. Paul also told Titus to speak correct doctrine (Titus 2:1).

## **II. THE CONTENT OF THE APOSTLES' TEACHING**

- A. Scripture was always at the center of their teaching.
- 1. Peter's sermon at Pentecost was filled with biblical references. (In Acts 2:14-36 he quoted Joel 2:28-32; Psalms 16:8-11; 110:1.)
  - 2. Peter quoted the Bible when he spoke to the religious leaders. (In Acts 4:6-10 He quoted Psalm 18:22; Isa 28:16.)
  - 3. When the believers prayed after Peter's sermon at Pentecost they quoted Scripture (In Acts 4:24-31 they quoted Exo 20:11 and Psalms 2:1-2; 146:6.)
  - 4. When Stephen spoke to the religious leaders in Acts 7:2-53 he quoted verses from Genesis 12:1, 7; 15:13; 17:8, Exo 1:8; 2:14-15; 3:1-10 plus verses from Deuteronomy, Amos, and Isaiah.
  - 5. When Philip met the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts he explained Isaiah 53:7-8 (Acts 8:25-35).
- B. The content of the Apostles' teaching was often centered on Jesus Christ.
- 1. People who heard the apostles could tell they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).
  - 2. Their teaching came out of the time they spent with Jesus and they spoke of His life, His teaching, His promises, His resurrection, and more.
  - 3. Peter's sermon at Pentecost (Acts 2:14-36) presented the life and miracles (v. 22), His death (v. 23), His resurrection (v. 24-32), and His exaltation (vv. 33-36).

- C. The teaching of the Apostles clarified and explained the truth revealed in the Scriptures.
1. The word “teaching” is used to describe what they were saying or the actual content.
  2. “The teaching” refers to what was being taught, the message itself, the instructions, the explanations, and the instructions.
  3. The teaching of the apostles included historical truth about the life of Christ, practical truth about how to live, truth about who God is and what He is like, truth about the Holy Spirit, the devil, demons and more.
  4. If people are to be truly saved and brought to maturity then pastors must teach a full, complete biblical message that find all its content in the Old and New Testaments.

### **III. THE APOSTLES’ TEACHING WAS ENTIRELY FROM GOD AND NOT FROM THEIR OWN IDEAS**

- A. What the apostles taught was called “God’s truth.”
1. The word “apostle” means messenger.
  2. An apostle was a messenger sent on a mission with the full authority of the one who sent him.
  3. In the New Testament the word referred mainly to the twelve and they spoke with God’s authority because they never left the specific Words from God. What God revealed and what was written is what they spoke; nothing more or less.
  4. An apostle had to be an eyewitness of Christ’s resurrection (Acts 1:21-22).
  5. An apostle had to be one appointed to the office by Christ Himself.
  6. The church was built upon the teaching of the apostles and prophets (Eph 2:20).
  7. Churches today must also be established on this same teaching (truth) of the apostles.

- B. What the apostles taught was shown to be from God by signs and wonders (miracles - Acts 2:43; 5:2-16; Matt 10:1; 2 Cor 12:12). Their associates had the same confirming signs (Acts 6:8).
1. These signs and wonders validated their message and set them aside as God's true messengers.
  2. These signs and wonders ceased at the end of the first century when the Written Word of God was completed.
- C. The content of the teaching came entirely out of God's Word.
1. By the end of the first century the apostles teaching was written down in the 27 books we call the New Testament.
  2. The writings of the apostles are still the highest authority for doctrine and truth in the church today.
  3. Jesus Christ, the living Word, rules His church today through the written Word, the Scriptures.
- D. The Scriptures are to be spoken and preached with authority (Titus 2:15)
1. The preacher is not speaking his opinions or suggestions.
  2. The preacher is supposed to be speaking the very words of God from the inspired Word of God. When he sticks to what the Scriptures say he is speaking with God's authority.

#### **IV. THE APOSTLES' TEACHING WAS RECEIVED WITH OPEN HEARTS (ACTS 2:42)**

- A. The believers were devoted to the apostles teaching (Acts 2:42).
- B. They were like newborn babies who desire their mother's milk. In this case they strongly desired to be fed spiritually from the Word of God (1 Pet 2:2).
- C. The teaching of the Word of God to believers also resulted in many giving their lives to Christ (Acts 2:47).

#### **V. TOO MANY PASTORS TODAY ARE GIVING PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT, WHICH IS TO HAVE THEIR EARS TICKLED (2 TIM 4:3-4), RATHER THAN SOLID FOOD FROM THE WORD (2 TIM 4:1-2)**

## **VI. THE APOSTLES' TEACHING PRODUCED SIX IMPORTANT RESULTS (ACTS 2:42).**

- A. The teaching of the apostles caused the believers to grow spiritually but it also increased the true fellowship .
- B. The teaching of the apostles also increased the worship as they learned more and more about God (Notice Col 3:16 – letting the Word of Christ dwell in you leads one to be involved in worship).
- C. The teaching of the apostles also led to effective prayers.
  - 1. Christ taught his followers to be faithful and to keep praying (Matt 7:7-11).
  - 2. Christ taught his followers to not give up in their praying (Luke 11:5-13; Luke 18:1-8).
  - 3. Undoubtedly the apostles taught the believers what Jesus had taught them about prayer.
- D. The teaching of the apostles led to service for the Lord as they sold their property to help people in need (Act 2:44-45).
  - 1. Jesus taught His disciples to share their possessions with those in need (Matt 5:42).
  - 2. Jesus taught His disciples that they could not serve God and their possessions (Matt 6:19-34).
  - 3. The apostles taught these same things to the believers.
- E. The teaching of the apostles led to widespread joy (Acts 2:46).
  - 1. When the Word of God is received by faith, the result is joy (compare John 15:11)
  - 2. A Word-filled church is a joy-filled church.
- F. The teaching of the apostles led to effective evangelism (Acts 2:47).
  - 1. When the Word fills the life of a believer it brings a confidence in witnessing.
  - 2. A Word-filled church leads to a witnessing church.

**Conclusion:** In the first church, fellowship, worship, prayer, service, joy, and evangelism were strengthened by the apostles' teaching and it needs to be the same today. When the Word of God is taught in the power of the Holy Spirit it will produce a supernatural effect. So teaching was listed first in the ministry activities of the first church.