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**INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES**  
**ITEM Conference on Ministry and Preaching**  
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**FIFTEEN NEGATIVE RESULTS OF TRADITIONAL PREACHING**

Preaching Lecture #9

**Introduction:** When we talk about traditional preaching we are talking about a sermon that is prepared on Friday or Saturday night when the preacher starts looking through the Bible until he finds a verse or two that catch his attention. He then starts thinking about what he can say after reading those verses. There is no attempt to explain the meaning in context or apply the principles that are found in the verses.

**I. IT REMOVES THE AUTHORITY OF GOD OVER THE SOUL**

- A. Who has the right to preach to the church? The preacher or God?
- B. God's authority is recorded in the Bible. When the Bible is not taught in the sermon the listener is under the authority of the preacher who is preaching what he thinks and believes.

**II. IT REMOVES THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST FROM HIS CHURCH**

- A. Christ is the head of the church and the New Testament in the Bible contains His instructions to His church.
- B. When preachers are not teaching and preaching from the Bible and mainly the New Testament, then they are not telling the people what Christ, the head of the church, wants them to be and do.

**III. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS HINDERED**

- A. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to save sinners (1 Peter 1:23) and sanctify believers (John 17:17).
- B. When the preachers is not teaching and preaching directly from the Bible then he is not working with the Spirit of God who uses the Word of God to save and sanctify.

**IV. IT PLACES THE FOCUS ON THE PREACHER NOT GOD AND NOT THE BIBLE**

- A. If the preacher knows the Word of God and refuses to teach it carefully it might be because he wants people to hear from him and not God.

- B. It might also indicate that the preacher is avoiding the Word because he does not want to obey it.
- C. It might also mean that the pastor does not know that his true calling is mainly to preach and teach the Bible and bring the believers to maturity (Col 1:28).

**V. IT DISCONNECTS THE PREACHER PERSONALLY FROM THE SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE SCRIPTURES**

- A. When a preacher takes the time that is necessary to prepare a good biblical sermon he is spending hours studying the Bible and the Word of God is active in his own life.
- B. When the preacher is studying the Bible in preparation for preaching it, he should grow spiritually because the Word of God will be dwelling within him.

**VI. IT KEEPS BELIEVERS FROM GETTING TO KNOW THE TRUE GOD OF THE BIBLE AND THAT HINDERS TRUE WORSHIP. YOU CAN'T WORSHIP WHAT OR WHO YOU DON'T KNOW.**

- A. For a person to worship the true, righteous, holy, exalted God of the Bible they need to know what God is truly like and that comes from hearing what the Bible says about God.
- B. Without teaching what God is like in the Bible the worshipper is worshipping the god or gods of their tradition or God as described by the preacher not the Bible.

**VII. IT PREVENTS THE PREACHER FROM FULLY DEVELOPING THE MIND OF CHRIST.**

- A. If the preacher does not constantly study and apply and teach Scripture he will begin to think like the world and that will be heard in his sermons.
- B. Preachers are to know the mind of Christ and that comes only from reading and studying His Word, the Bible.

**VIII. IT REMOVES THE VALUE OF PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY**

- A. If the preacher is not studying the Bible then why should people in the church try to study it?
- B. Since Bible study is important for all believers then the preacher needs to set the example and demonstrate in his sermons that he has been studying the Bible when he was preparing his sermon.

**IX. IT PREVENTS THE PREACHER FROM BEING THE VOICE OF GOD ON EVERY ISSUE HIS CHURCH OR HIS VILLAGE OR TOWN IS DEALING WITH.**

- A. The people in the church need to know God's message on every topic not the preacher's opinion.
- B. That happens when the preacher is teaching the "whole counsel of God" as Paul did in Ephesus (Acts 20:20, 27).

**X. IT CREATES A CONGREGATION THAT IS WEAK AND INDIFFERENT TO THE GLORY OF GOD.**

- A. Christians are to glorify the true God at all times.
- B. The glory of God is revealed and explained in the Scriptures. If the preacher is not teaching what the Bible teaches about God and His glory then the church will be uncaring about His glory.

**XI. IT ROBBS PEOPLE OF THEIR ONLY TRUE SOURCE OF HELP**

- A. People have needs and they need to hear from God. They need to hear what God says about solving their problems.
- B. People need stories but the stories need to come after the Scripture is read, explained. Then the stories are used to apply the truth taught in the Scriptures.

**XII. IT ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO BECOME INDIFFERENT TO THE WORD OF GOD AND DIVINE AUTHORITY**

- A. In a church where the Bible is not being taught systematically it will be impossible to get people to submit to the authority of Scripture.
- B. If the preacher is going to try to deal with sin in the church to keep the church pure, he must be preaching the Word systematically so people understand the message of the whole Bible clearly and know when they are not obeying what God has put in His Word.

**XIII. IT KEEPS PEOPLE FROM KNOWING WHAT THEY REALLY NEED.**

- A. In Jeremiah 8:11, God condemns the prophets who treated people's injuries casually not seriously. This is an illustration of pastors who do not help believers by teaching them the Word of God.

- B. When preachers are not telling people from the Scriptures what they really need then they are like the prophets in Jeremiah who were lying to the people about what they needed.

#### **XIV. IT KEEPS SPIRITUAL POWER OUT OF THE PULPIT**

- A. The true power in preaching comes from the preaching and teaching of the Word of God, which is sharper than any two-edged sword (Heb 4:12).
- B. The preacher has no authority and preaches with no power unless the Bible is open and he is telling the people in the church what God says verse by verse. That is when he is preaching with power, the power of the Word of God.
- C. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God in the lives of people to transform them into the image of Christ.

#### **XV. WHEN THE BIBLE IS NOT BEING PREACHED, IT PUTS THE RESPONSIBILITY ON THE PREACHER TO TRY TO CHANGE LIVES WITH HIS CLEVERNESS.**

- A. If the goal of the preacher is to see lives transformed by his preaching, he can rely on the Word of God and preach it carefully and systematically or he can rely on his own cleverness without the Holy Spirit's.
- B. But the truth is that the preacher does not have the ability on his own to transform lives no matter how clever he is and therefore lives will not be changed.

**Conclusion:** Preachers need to preach the Word (2 Tim 4:2). That is the only way his ministry will be fruitful. God promises that His Word will always accomplish what He sent it to accomplish (Isa 55:11).