

## PREACHING CHRIST I COR. 2:1-5

The problem that a preacher has from week to week is deciding on a topic to preach on. Unlike the apostles, we today are not inspired, therefore, we must choose our subjects from the material we have in the written word of God. God does not “lay something on your heart” to preach each week. The subjects need to be those that the people need to hear and not necessarily what they want to hear.

It is a great joy to be a proclaimer of God’s word; yet it is also a compelling urgency (I Cor. 9:16; Jer. 20:9). It is not only the means of saving others, it is also the means of saving self (I Tim. 4:16).

Preaching today has fallen on hard times. Neither the message or those who proclaim it are esteemed as they once were. A few years ago the following statement was made in firm Foundation Magazine, *“Nothing about our church work seems more ineffective than preaching today. A look at the lives of church members will prove it. Name any sin in the catalogue and the percentage of church members engaged in it does not differ much from that of the world.”*

Much of our preaching today is not distinctive and true to the word. It would fit in most any civic club or denomination as well as it fits in some of our pulpits. There is a trend today in the church toward doctrinal weakness, a trend in the direction of refusing to stand for anything definite, of refusing to speak out against sin in a plain, positive manner. In much of our preaching today, very little Bible is presented. The power needs to be put back into preaching and the only way to do that is to base it on God’s word.

### I. The Apostles Preached Christ and Him Crucified.

#### A. Acts 2:22-38. . . Peter’s preaching.

1. Acts 2:22-24
  - a. Jesus crucified and slain.
  - b. God raised him up.
2. Then offered proof from David (2:25-28).
3. God hath made this same Jesus. . . (v.36)
4. Then told them what to do to be saved

#### B. Paul preached Christ and Him crucified (I Cor. 2:1-5).

1. He did not use excellency of speech (Lofty words-RSV) or enticing words of man’s wisdom. He did not make a worldly wise approach to his hearers.
2. He did not resort to the arts, tricks, and devices of orators and philosophers.
3. No attempt was made to overpower them with eloquence.
4. He depended on the power of God’s revelation to reach men’s hearts.
5. He preached Christ and Him crucified. That was his deliberate purpose.
  - a. He did not intend to allow anything to swerve him from the one great object in preaching.
  - b. Worldly honors would not make him forget the honor due his Lord.
6. He isn’t saying that every sermon was a description of the crucifixion of our Lord, but that all his teaching and preaching related to the atonement wrought by Christ upon the cross.
7. He did not omit the cross even though he knew that it was a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to Gentiles (I Cor. 1:18, 23).
8. Paul wanted to impress people with what he was preaching, and not with his style of preaching. He wanted them to think of what he said instead of how he said it.
9. Had Paul been a preacher of worldly wisdom, he would not have spoken about the cross, but his preaching would then have lost its power (1:17).

#### C. When the gospel is preached, it is certain that some will cry “liberalism” and others scream “legalism,” but it will be recalled that it turned the world “upside down” when preached in the 1<sup>st</sup> century (Acts 17:6). . .

#### D. Peter, Paul, Philip, they all preached Christ and Him crucified.

1. This was the basis for everything they preached.
2. They preached on salvation, events of the time, problems that arose in the church, etc. . . all with the goal of preaching Christ.

#### E. This should be the resolution of every gospel preacher today.

1. This is his business.

2. Christ and Him crucified should be the grand object of his attention.
  3. The preaching of Christ and Him crucified is the only kind of preaching that will be attended with real success.
- II. How can we preach Christ today?
- A. To preach Christ one must preach that man is lost in his sin.
    1. Isaiah 59:1,2
    2. Romans 3:23
    3. Romans 6:23
    4. Any man saying that he has not sinned is a liar and the truth is not in him (I John 1:5-10)
  - B. To preach Christ is to preach that baptism is for remission of sins.
    1. Romans 6:3,4
    2. Acts 2:38
    3. Acts 8:35-39
      - a. The eunuch could have known nothing of baptism except that which he was taught as Philip preached “Jesus” (Acts 8:35).
    4. We put on Christ when we are baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27).
    5. Many today minimize the divine plan of human redemption as “legalism” and stress putting emphasis on “the man and not the plan,” . . . but God’s word knows nothing of Christ apart from the plan of obedience revealed in his word.
  - C. To preach Christ is to preach the church.
    1. Christ is indeed a person, and a king unsurpassed.
    2. But the church he purchased with his blood (Acts 20:28), is the body of Christ (Eph.1:22).
    3. . . . of which he is the head (Col. 1:18).
    4. . . .and it is “the fulness of him that filleth all in all” (Eph.1:23).
    5. To be saved from sin through Christ is to be added to the church (Acts 2:47).
    6. . . . and there is but one body (I Cor. 12:13, 20, 27; Eph. 4:4).
    7. One cannot be a part of Christ w/o being in the church of which he is the head.
    8. It is:
      - a. The body of Christ—Eph. 1:22,23
      - b. The bride of Christ—Eph. 5:22ff
      - c. The family of God—I Tim. 3:15
    9. The Bible teaches that it is impossible for one to “cross the line” into salvation without “crossing the line” into Christ—and—it is impossible for one to “cross the line” into Christ without “crossing the line” into the church.
  - D. To preach Christ is to preach that we are debtors to teach and save others (Rom. 1:14).
    1. There seem but little doubt that the church during this generation is failing to grasp the full significance of it’s responsibility.
    2. As a result, we are not winning souls as we should.
    3. We must always realize as we strive to motivate people to be greater soul winners that we must “preach Christ and Him crucified.”
    4. We will not gain anything if we get more people to teach others, but they fail to heed to sound doctrine.
    5. I Tim. 6:20,21
  - E. Preaching Christ crucified means to preaching anything and everything that is involved in the salvation Christ offers.

Con: Preach Christ and Him crucified. That should always be our goal. When we do that, we will be leading souls to Christ as he desired us to do. There will not be a problem of compromising God’s word. That is the message the apostles preached and that is the message we should preach. Salvation can be obtained by those who desire it. Results of such preaching: Acts 2:36-38; 8:35-39.