

Preaching Christ

(Acts 8:1-25)

- Introduction:
1. The book of Acts is not so much a book of doctrine, but examples of doctrine being practiced.
 2. I think that examples help us to understand directives.
 3. I've often heard people who were unwilling to "test" their doctrines say something like, "We need to quit arguing about our beliefs and just preach Jesus."
 4. I absolutely agree that "preaching Jesus" is what we should do, but what does it mean to preach Jesus?
 5. I also believe that the Bible is its own best interpreter, so let's allow the Bible, itself, to answer the question, "What does it mean to preach Jesus?"

I. Example #1 - Preaching Christ

- A. (Acts 8:5-12).
- B. Philip preached Christ to them (Acts 8:5).
- C. But what was the content of that preaching?
- D. The content is defined in verse 12.
 1. He preaching things concerning "the kingdom."
 - a. The kingdom is the church (Matthew 16:18-19).
 - b. This would encompass such things as:
 - 1) The uniqueness of the church (Ephesians 4:4).
 - 2) The organization of the church (Philippians 1:1).
 - 3) The worship of the church (John 4:24).
 - 4) The work of the church (Evangelism - 1 Timothy 3:15; Benevolence - James 1:27; Edification - Romans 14:19).
 2. "The name of Christ"
 - a. The phrase "the name of" means the "authority of."
 - b. In other words, Philip preached the authority that Jesus should have over our lives.
 - c. (Matthew 28:18).
 - d. (Colossians 3:17).
 3. "Men and women were baptized."
 - a. How would they have known to be baptized if baptism wasn't a part of "preaching Christ?"
 - b. Teaching people how to respond to Jesus is apparently a part of "preaching Christ" to them.

II. Example #2 - Preaching Jesus

- A. (Acts 8:35-37).
- B. Philip "preached Jesus" to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:35).
- C. But notice what happened when they came to water.
- D. The eunuch asked to be baptized.
- E. Why would the eunuch ask to be baptized if Philip "preached Jesus" to him?
- F. The answer is simple, teaching people how to respond to the gospel of Jesus is a part of preaching Jesus.

- Conclusion:
1. When we preach to Jesus about the church, the authority of Christ, and the need to be baptized, we are "preaching Jesus" to them.
 2. And I believe everyone agrees that we need to "preach Jesus."
 3. So let's make sure that when we claim to be "preaching Jesus," we're really "preaching Jesus!"