

# If It's The Truth, We Must Be Sharing It

(Amos 3:7-8)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. of job interview when I got out of college.
  2. I consider this the first test of my loyalty as a gospel preacher.
  3. Through the years, I have experienced many other tests of my loyalty, many of which fed my pride or offered great financial blessings.
  4. I teach the preaching students and tell them that if they are unwilling to lose a job, hurt someone's feelings, or tell people they love deeply things they don't want to hear, they need to find another line of work.
    - a. Being a preacher requires that we speak the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11).
    - b. We need to have the courage to speak the truth without fear or favor as did our Lord (Mark 12:15).
  5. To fulfill our ministry, here are some things we must do (2 Timothy 4:5).

## I. Don't Just Preach The Truth, Preach The Whole Truth

- A. There is a difference!
- B. This situation is exemplified in many churches today.
  1. It's not that they teach error.
  2. They just won't teach the whole truth.
- C. How many preachers refuse to preach on controversial issues?
  1. Why is the doctrine of church discipline dubbed the "Great Omission" (1 Corinthians 5; 2 Thessalonians 3:10)?
    - a. How many churches do not practice it?
    - b. How many Christians are unfamiliar or unaware of this doctrine?
    - c. Where's the outcry from faithful preachers?
  2. Or what about these matters? When is the last time you heard sermons about:
    - a. Denominationalism.
    - b. Mechanical instruments of music in Christian worship?
    - c. Social drinking?
    - d. Immodesty?
    - e. Dancing?
- D. (Acts 20:20, 26-27; Ezekiel 33:1-6) Preach the whole counsel of God.

## II. Preach The Whole Truth With Urgency

- A. Ills. of man who attended services for the first time.
- B. We preach as dying men to dying people, and the urgency of that truth must never be lost.
- C. Every sermon I preach may be the last I preach and the last you hear.
- D. Penn Jillette – "He was kind, and nice, and sane, and looked me in the eye, and talked to me, and then gave me this Bible. I've always said I don't respect people

who don't proselytize. I don't respect that at all. If you believe there is a heaven and hell, and people could be going to hell or not getting eternal life or whatever, and you think it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward, how much to you have to sate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate someone to believe everlasting life is possible and not tell them that? If I believed, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that a truck was coming at you, and you didn't believe it, there's a certain point that I tackle you, and this is more important than that. This guy was a really good guy. He was polite, honest, and sane, and he cared enough about me to proselytize and give me a Bible."

- E. Can you hear the urgency in the prophets?
  1. (Jeremiah 8:20) Summer is over and we are not saved.
  2. (Amos 3:7-8) God has spoken, who can but prophesy?
  3. (1 Corinthians 9:6) Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.
- F. Can I challenge you to quit wasting time on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media outlets?
  1. Stop deceiving yourself into thinking that squabbles about the Bible or the activities of another brother are doing the Lord's work.
  2. Our times is limited; our message is urgent – Get focused!

### III. Preach The Who Truth, Urgently And With Tenderness

- A. (Acts 20:19,31) Paul preached with many tears.
- B. We don't want to be "hirelings," or "professional pulpiteeres."
- C. We need to develop a heart that is broken by sin (Lamentations 1:12).
- D. We need to learn to abhor sin (Romans 12:9).
- E. You will find your preaching is most effective with tempered with tenderness and tears.
- F. Ills. of James Meadows.
- G. (Ephesians 4:15) Speak the truth in love.

- Conclusion:
1. I believe, therefore I speak (2 Corinthians 4:13).
  2. With all the courage, conviction, urgency, and tenderness we can muster, let us preach the word... (2 Timothy 4:1-5).
  3. 1911, William Pierson Merrill – "Rise Up Oh Men of God, be through with lesser things; give heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of Kings.