

Preach the Word

(Nehemiah 8:4-8)

- Introduction:
1. I feel that there is not any more important challenge today than to have preaching from the pulpit that pleases God.
 2. Preachers and churches need to be reminded of what preaching looks like.
 3. As a general truth – “As the pulpit goes, so goes the congregation.”
 4. Let’s consider a passage containing a model for preaching.

I. An Open Book

- A. (Nehemiah 8:4-5).
- B. The Bible has been closed in many pulpits across our land.
- C. Philosophy, psychology, social concerns have replaced book, chapter, and verse preaching.
- D. (2 Kings 22:8) The book of the law was lost in the house of the Lord.
- E. (1 Samuel 3:1) The word of the Lord was precious (rare) in those days.
- F. (Deuteronomy 17:17-18) Kings were required to write a copy of the law.
- G. There is irony in the fact that so many are biblically illiterate in a day and age when we have a proliferation of Bibles.

II. Preaching That Produces Respect for God

- A. (Nehemiah 8:5-6).
- B. Read the book of Psalms and note the reverence and respect for God.
- C. (Hebrews 12:28) Serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.
- D. (Isaiah 6:1-5) Isaiah’s vision of heavenly presence.

III. Preaching That Can Be Understood

- A. (Nehemiah 8:7-8,12).
- B. (1 Corinthians 1:21) The aim of preaching is the salvation of souls.
- C. (2 Corinthians 3:12) Paul spoke with great boldness (plainness) of speech.
- D. Someone has said that “Deep preachers are really deep; they just muddy the water so that you can’t see the bottom.”

IV. Preaching That Makes Application to Present Needs

- A. (Nehemiah 8:13-14).
- B. (Acts 20:20, 26-27) Paul’s preaching at Ephesus.
- C. Preaching needs to be direct and applicable to the church’s situation.
- D. Examine the book of 1 Corinthians.

- Conclusion:
1. Let’s put aside our human preferences and our false notions about what preaching should be and demand the kind of preaching that pleases God.
 2. We don’t need smooth words, we need truth spoken in love.