

The Kind of Preaching We Need¹

Nehemiah 8:4-8

INTRODUCTION:

1. There is not any more important challenge today than to have preaching from the pulpit that pleases God.
2. Yet, in many places, preaching has become something that God did not intend for it to become.
3. I have often heard the phrase, "As the pulpit goes, so goes the congregation," and I have found that to be generally true.
4. In this lesson, I would like to address some needs of the pulpit.

DISCUSSION: We need...

I. Preaching that is from an open book.

- A. Cf. Nehemiah 8:4, 5
 1. The Bible has been closed in many pulpits across our land.
 2. Philosophy, psychology, and story-telling have replaced book, chapter, and verse preaching.
- B. In 2 Kings 22:8, we note that the book of the law was lost in the house of the Lord. Much of the same is today.
- C. In 1 Samuel 3:1, we see that the word of the Lord was precious (rare) in those days. The same is true today.
- D. In Deuteronomy 17:17, 18, we note that the kings were required to write a copy of the law. It is ironic that so many are Biblically illiterate in a day and age of so many Bibles.

II. Preaching that produces respect for God.

- A. Cf. Nehemiah 8:5, 6.
- B. Read the book of Psalms and note the reverence and respect for God.
- C. We are to serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear (Heb. 12:28).

III. Preaching that can be understood.

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

¹ Robert Stapleton, "Fulfilling the Ministry," Faculty and Student Newsletter of the Brown Trail School of Preaching, July 2012, No. 81, p. 3.

IV. Preaching that makes application to present needs.

- A. Cf. Nehemiah 8:13, 14.
- B. Cf. Acts 20:20, 26, 27.
- C. Preaching needs to be direct and applicable to the church's situation.

CONCLUSION:

1. Let's put aside human preferences and false notions about what preaching should be.
2. Let us demand the kind of preaching that pleases God.