

A Pastor's Mandate

2 Timothy 4:1 - 5

INTRO:

George Barna; Evangelical Polster

Out of 5,137 adults polled: **September, 2016**

73% Identified themselves as Christian

33% said going to church ***at least 1 time/month*** was integral to their faith

54% said there was ***no obligation*** to personally share their faith with others

55% believed if a person is ***generally good***, or does good enough things for others, they will go to heaven.

“Pastors and churches, in our hectic times are harassed by the temptation to seek size at any cost, and to secure by inflation that which they can not attain by legitimate growth. The mixed multitude cries for quantity and will not forgive a minister who insists upon solid value and permanence....these children play in the market places and cannot overlook the affront we do them by our refusal to dance when they whistle, or to weep when they, out of caprice, play a sad tune. They are greedy for thrills, and since they dare no longer seek them in the theatre, they demand to have them brought into the church”.

A. W. Tozer 1887 - 1963

In his classic work, ***“Preaching and Preachers”*** Martin Lloyd-Jones wrote, “The most urgent need in the Christian Church today is true preaching; and as it is the greatest and most urgent need in the church, it is obviously the greatest need in the world also”.

“The true idea of preaching is that the preacher should become a mouthpiece for his text, opening it up and applying as a word from God to his hearers, talking only in order that the text may speak itself and be heard, making each point from his text in such a manner that the hearers may discern how God teaches from it thence”.

J. I. Packer, “God Has Spoken”

A Pastor's Mandate

Preaching God's Word:

I. Is a Solemn Responsibility (vs. 1a)

A. Because of the Audience

“...before God and Christ Jesus...”

B. Because of the Accountability (vs. 1b)

“...Who will judge the living and the dead...”

“The Church has to rediscover who God is, come to know Him, to fellowship with Him. The avenue for that has always been Bible exposition and teaching. There’s no shortcut”

James Montgomery Boice

Reformed theologian, 10th Presbyterian church, 1968-2000

A Pastor's Mandate

Preaching God's Word:

I. Is a Solemn Responsibility (Vs. 1c)

C. Because of the Authority

“...by His appearing and His Kingdom”

II. Is a Specific Responsibility (vs. 2a)

A. Due to the Message

“...Preach the Word”

A Pastor's Mandate

Preaching God's Word:

II. Is a Specific Responsibility (vs. 2)

B. Due to the Demands on the Preacher

“...persist in it whether convenient or not”.

C. Because of the content

“...rebuke, correct, and encourage with great patience and teaching”.

“Sermons should have real teaching in them, and their doctrine should be solid, substantial and abundant. We do not enter the pulpit to talk for talks’ sake; we have instructions to convey, important to the last decree, and we cannot afford to utter pretty nothings. Our range of subjects is all but boundless, and we cannot, therefore, be excused if our discourses are threadbare and devoid of substance... The true minister of Christ knows that the true value of a sermon lies, not in its fashion and manner, but in the truth which it contains. Nothing can compensate for the absence of teaching; all rhetoric in the world is but chaff to the wheat in contrast to the Gospel of our salvation”. ***Charles H. Spurgeon, 1881***

A Pastor's Mandate

Preaching God's Word:

II. Is a Specific Responsibility (vs. 2)

D. In Spite of Popular Trends (vs. 3-4)

Felt needs vs Spiritual needs

“Biblical preaching is demanding work. He must recognize the adversary’s subtle temptations to neglect the study, water down the message, and appeal to the desires of unregenerate people. He faces a constant warfare, both in the pulpit and out. He will be stretched, challenged, criticized and attacked, while at the same time loved and appreciated by those who love and hunger for the truth. He must live in constant dependence upon the power of the Holy Spirit to enable him to, “Preach the word, in season and out”.

Dr. Phil Newton