

Sanctifying Jehovah in Worship - The Preaching of God's Word

We come to a very important element in the Worship of God that is the preaching of God's Word. This is the chief means of grace to the believer and as such ought to take up the largest part in the worship service.

Preaching as the Chief Means of Grace

Preaching is the chief or the most important means of grace. God is pleased to use means to be a blessing to His people. How is preaching the means of grace? It is through preaching and by the work of the Holy Spirit that the elect is delivered from sin and corruption and a new life is breathed unto Him. And God bestows upon the child of God all His favours, all spiritual blessings and virtues. Thus, the implication is that we must attend to the preaching of God's Word regularly.

When one approaches the sanctuary of the church, a worshipper is immediately struck that the pulpit is placed at the centre and not at the side. The pulpit's place in a church tells us of the important place it plays in the worship of God. Much time is also given to the reading of God's Word. Typically, sermons are about 45 minutes long if not longer compared to the whole worship service that last for 90 minutes.

The Minister of God Preaches

The pastor has been called to preach the Word of God and woe is he if he does not preach the gospel. Preaching is his main and fundamental calling though there are other pastoral labourers that he needs to perform. He spends much time in the study of God's Word and preparing to preach the whole week long in order to preach to God's flock the unsearchable riches of grace of God. To preach the Word of God is to preach Christ crucified and all the glories of salvation that is achieved by this meritorious death (I Cor. 2.2). In preaching the cross, he preaches the comfort of the gospel, where he calls sinners to repent of their sins and calls them to believe in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. With the gospel he comforts God's saints that God will forgive their sins for the sake of Jesus Christ and grants them precious promises of continued grace and wisdom. Furthermore, they are assured of God's continued favour in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Preaching as the Authority and Power of God

Preaching as the Power of God is Christ speaking through the minister of God so that we do not hear the voice of man, but the very voice of Christ. Now, we do not hear about Christ, but we hear Christ himself speaking to us (Rom. 10.14). He says to us, "come unto me and rest".

Preaching as the power of God is the savour of life and the savour of death. To one, preaching is life because he receives and believes the gospel and walks in the ways of the Lord. To another, preaching is the savour of death where the heart of man resists God's Word and is hardened. And if he continues in that way, he shows himself unbelieving and reprobates.

May the preaching of God's Word a means of grace to our souls. Amen.

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