

❧ I. INTRODUCTION ❧

Welcome to this course. I pray that God may use this course to help you develop the ministry to which he has called you. The word of God is a great treasure and to share the word of God is a great privilege.

To preach the word powerfully we need to be called by God and anointed by the Holy Spirit. It is only Jesus who can shape us into ministers of the word. This happens as we spend time at his feet. He is the Master Teacher:

- ❑ Act 4:13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were **unschooled**, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that **these men had been with Jesus**.

All preaching must be done out of an overflow of a walk with God. However, preaching also involves the skill of homiletics:

*The term **homiletics** comes from the word **homily**, which basically means “a sermon.” Homiletics is the art of preparing sermons and preaching. Those who study homiletics seek to improve their skill at communicating the gospel and other biblical topics. The discipline of homiletics falls under the umbrella of pastoral or practical theology.*

This is a skill that can be developed. Everyone whom God calls is required to do their best to share the word of God clearly and effectively. Developing this skill does not undermine the work of the Holy Spirit as the real Teacher and Expositor of God’s word. Instead as we develop our skills we can become more effective at sharing biblical messages:

- ❑ 2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
- ❑ 2 Timothy 2:15 Study** earnestly to present yourself approved to God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. YLT

** to use speed, that is, to make effort, be prompt or earnest, be diligent, endeavour, labour, **study**.

It is plain to see that even though we have been called and gifted in certain areas, our gifts must be developed in order for us to bear more fruit for god's Kingdom. For example, even though one may be talented and be gifted for worship, whether singing or playing an instrument, no one would argue that proper training and practice would not improve that ministry:

- ❑ 1 Chron. 25:6 All these men were under the supervision of their fathers for the music of the temple of the LORD, with cymbals, lyres and harps, for the ministry at the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman were under the supervision of the king. 1 Chron. 25:7 Along with their relatives—all of them **trained and skilled in music for the LORD**—they numbered 288.

Compare:

- ❑ 1 Kings 5:6 "So give orders that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. My men will work with yours, and I will pay you for your men whatever wages you set. You know that we have no one so **skilled** in felling timber as the Sidonians."
- ❑ 2 Chronicles 2:7 "Send me, therefore, a man **skilled** to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, and in purple, crimson and blue yarn, and **experienced in the art** of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem with **my skilled craftsmen**, whom my father David provided.

✠ A. THE PRIVILEGE OF PREACHING ✠

To be given the opportunity to share the word of God must be counted as a privilege:

- ❑ 1 Cor. 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. 2Co 2:15 For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. 2Co 2:16 To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. **And who is equal to such a task?**
- ❑ Col. 4:3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may **proclaim the mystery of Christ**, for which I am in chains.

There are a great many men and women of God whom God has used throughout history. Men Like Ezra the reformer and the zealous apostle Paul are Biblical examples. Three men in history that are renowned preachers are the following:

The “Prince of Preachers”, Charles Haden Spurgeon

There are few arguments that this man, Charles Haden Spurgeon, is the preacher among preachers outside of the Bible and he was called the Prince of Preachers. Testimony to that are the more than 300 million copies of his sermons and his influence in the formation of over 200 other churches. He preached to some ten million people worldwide and in the church, the Metropolitan Tabernacle, it was always jam packed with five thousand people with an overflow of another one thousand. He tirelessly proclaimed the gospel even though he suffered greatly from depression and physical ailments which neither slowed him down nor stopped him from giving his messages. He was clearly one of the greatest of all time.

John Wesley

Whatever this man had, he gave every ounce of his fibre to it. Under his direction, the Methodist church, the real founder of it, made the gospel a social one where Christians were expected to be salt and light and getting the salt out of the shaker and the light out from under the basket, being the chief advocate for as an abolitionist while fighting slavery when it was not popular to do so. This great man of God preached over 40,000 sermons, gave away more than 30,000 pounds (today, that is around 100 thousand dollars), and rode over a quarter of a million miles on horseback. He once bemoaned about growing old and sorrowed over sleeping in until 5 AM!

George Whitfield, Labourer of the Word

George Whitfield's preaching drove and helped to sustain the Great Awakening, at the time the greatest revival that the world had ever seen since Jonah preached to Nineveh and the whole city-state repented. This man preached over 40 hours a week! Martin-Lloyd Jones, himself one of the greatest preachers of all time, says that George Whitfield was the greatest preachers that England ever produced. Of course, this was prior to Charles Haden Spurgeon.

More recently the names of Billy Graham, Chuck Swindoll and the T.D. Jakes have been offered as the great preachers of today. Jakes and Graham are the only two evangelists who could pack out the Georgia Dome, which seats 79,000, people in a poll said. Other can cite people like Martin Luther King Jnr's "I have a dream" speech as nation-transforming:

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification; one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

..... And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

- 28 August 1963

While we are indebted to the high profile preachers for setting the bar, we appreciate the definition submitted by Daniel Crawford of Worland, Wyoming as to who the best preachers are:

"The best preacher is the pastor of a small church who in season and out of season preaches the Word of God with conviction, passion, and determination, who relishes the challenge of interpreting difficult texts, who exposes his/her congregation to the whole of Scripture, not just a few favourite passages, and whose study of and love from the Word is reflected in the way he/she responds to the many situations and circumstances of daily life."

Who's Preaching / Teaching do you enjoy and why?

Preaching Video Clips : write down 2-3 points or statements that stand out for you:

Evangelist Billy Graham Crusade 1957

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Prophet Brian Carn ministers at Pastor Rod Parsley's church in Ohio

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

✠ B. MINISTERING THE WORD OF GOD, NOT 'PREACHING' ✠

"Preaching" is a biblical ministry:

- ❑ Ezra 6:14 So the elders of the Jews continued to build and prosper under the preaching of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah, a descendant of Iddo. They finished building the temple according to the command of the God of Israel and the decrees of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia.
- ❑ Mat. 3:1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea
- ❑ Mat. 4:23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

However, the Biblical idea of preaching is very different to our idea of preaching today. For us, preaching may be a pastor or Christian leader standing behind a pulpit or on a stage delivering a message. This is biblical too, but unfortunately we have restricted preaching to Sunday mornings or other Christian gatherings, and this limits us in what we believe that we are called to do.

Perhaps one way to think about "preaching" is that it is one way in which we "minister the word of God". There are other equally important and biblical ideas of 'preaching'. Paul said that he and the apostles had been called to the ministry of the Word:

- ❑ Act 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to **the ministry of the Word**.
- ❑ Acts 13:42-49; 16:32; 19:9-10; 20:1-3, 19ff.

He taught that "preaching" was more than delivering a sermon on a Sunday morning:

- ❑ 2Ti 4:1 Therefore I solemnly witness before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who is going to judge *the* living and *the* dead according to His appearance and His kingdom, 2Ti 4:2 **preach the Word**, be instant in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. NKJV

He exhorted Timothy to do the work of an evangelist:

- ❑ 2Ti 4:5 But you watch in all things, endure afflictions, **do the work of an evangelist, fully carry out your ministry**.

Look at the following Scriptures and comment on what you believe "preaching" meant to the apostle Paul and others in the book of Acts:

NOTES:

- ❑ Act 13:42 As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to **speak further about these things** on the next Sabbath. Act 13:43 When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, **who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God**. Act 13:44 On the next Sabbath almost the **whole city** gathered to hear the word of the Lord. Act 13:45 When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying. Act 13:46 Then

- ❑ Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to **speak the word of God** to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to **the Gentiles**. Act 13:47 For this is what the Lord has commanded us: **"I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."** Act 13:48 When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and **honored the word of the Lord**; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. Act 13:49 **The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.**

- ❑ Acts 16:32 They spoke the Lord's word to the jailer and everyone **in his home.**

- ❑ Act 19:9 But when some people became stubborn, refused to believe, and had nothing good to say in front of the crowd about the way of Christ, he left them. He took his disciples and **held daily discussions in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. Act 19:10 This continued for two years so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.**

- ❑ Act 20:2 He went **through that region** and **spoke many words of encouragement to the people. Then he went to Greece** Act 20:3 and stayed there **for three months.** Act 20:20 You know that I have not hesitated to **preach** anything that would be helpful to you but have **taught you publicly and from house to house.** ... Act 20:25 "Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about **preaching the kingdom** will ever see me again. Act 20:26 Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. Act 20:27 For I have not hesitated to **proclaim to you the whole will of God.** Act 20:28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. Act 20:29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Act 20:30 Even from your own number men will arise and **distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.** Act 20:31 So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped **warning** each of you **night and day with tears.** Act 20:32 "Now I commit you to God and **to the word of his grace**, which can **build you up** and **give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.**

- ❑ 2Ti 4:1 Therefore I solemnly witness before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who is going to judge *the* living and *the* dead according to His appearance and His kingdom, 2Ti 4:2 **preach the Word**, be instant in season and out of season, **reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine**. NKJV

- ❑ 2Ti 4:2 **Preach the Word**; be prepared in season and out of season; **correct, rebuke and encourage**—with great patience and careful instruction.

- ❑ 2Ti 4:5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

- ❑ Malachi 2:7 "For the lips of a priest ought to **preserve knowledge**, and from **his mouth men should seek instruction**—because **he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty**.

- ❑ Isaiah 50:4 The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.