

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

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The Preaching of Paul

Anyone who proclaims the gospel of Christ would greatly benefit by simply imitating the preaching of the apostle Paul. With that thought in mind, let's take a look at some of the notable characteristics concerning the preaching of Paul, beginning with...

Paul Was Consistent In His Preaching.

It has been said, "truth is consistent with truth." However, there are some preachers today who are inconsistent when it comes to the preaching of the truth and this should never be. You see, no matter what the circumstance is, preachers need to be consistent in preaching the truth, and in 1 Corinthians 4:17, Paul, writing to the saints in Corinth, penned, "...I have sent Timothy to you, my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church." Again, Paul was consistent in his preaching, giving all preachers an example that needs to be followed.

Paul Preached The Whole Counsel of God.

In Acts 20:27, Paul, in exhorting the elders at Ephesus, said, "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God." Paul, unlike some preachers today, was not slack in preaching the instructions of God. Unlike some today, he declared the whole counsel of God. Sadly, it seems like there are some preachers today who are afraid to preach the whole counsel of God, and

because of that, some are cowardly sugar-coating God's word. However, Paul was not afraid to proclaim the whole counsel of God, and if any man today is afraid to preach the whole counsel of God, he needs to quit preaching.

Paul Was Not Ashamed To Preach The Gospel of Christ.

Have you noticed that there are some preachers today who act like they are ashamed to preach the gospel of Christ? You see, there are some preachers today, who would rather act like a comedian in the pulpit, and or tickle the ears of men, rather than proclaim the gospel of Christ. However, no preacher should ever be ashamed of the gospel of Christ, and in Romans 1:16, Paul informed, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also the Greek." My friend, the gospel of Christ is still today the power of God unto salvation, therefore may all preachers, like Paul, boldly proclaim the gospel of Christ.

Paul Did Not Preach To Please Men.

Another valuable lesson in which preachers can learn from Paul is, do not preach to please men. You see, Paul did not preach to please men, and in Galatians 1:10, Paul writes, "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ." Sadly, there are many preachers today who would rather preach to please men, rather than preach to please God. However, shame on any man who preaches to please men, rather than God. For all preachers, like Paul, need to refrain from preaching to please men.

Paul Preached With Simplicity.

The apostle Paul, unlike some preachers today, simply preached the gospel of Christ, and in 1 Corinthians 2:4-5, Paul declared, "And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." You see, preaching must not be done of human wisdom, and it must be done in a way that can be understood.

Therefore, may all preachers avoid “muddying the water” and may all preachers, like Paul, just simply proclaim the gospel of Christ, using only God’s powerful word (Hebrews 4:12) as their guide for what they speak (1 Peter 4:11).

Paul Was Humble In His Preaching.

Sadly, there are some very arrogant gospel preachers today. However, Paul was not an arrogant gospel preacher, and in Acts 20:19, Paul said, he served the Lord with all humility. Also in Acts 20:31, Paul in recounting his stay in Ephesus, said, “I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.” You see, humility is an attribute that all preachers need to strive to obtain and maintain. Therefore, just as Paul served the Lord with all humility, may all preachers likewise follow in his example.

Paul Practiced What He Preached.

In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul, in writing to the Corinthians advised, “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.” You see, not only did Paul preach Christ, but he also imitated Christ. Therefore, Paul practiced what he preached, or as some would say, Paul preached what he practiced. You see, in order for ones preaching to be effective, one must practice what he preaches. However, there are many today who do a lot of preaching but little practicing, and again, this should never be. For just as Paul imitated Christ, all preachers need to always strive to do the same.

Once more, the apostle Paul, was a gospel preacher who is worthy of imitation. For, Paul did not look at preaching as just a job, and he did not do it for the money (Philippians 4:15-17), but rather Paul preached the gospel because he truly loved the Lord, and he believed in God with all his heart (Acts 27:25). I hope that all who proclaim the gospel of Christ today will likewise have the same attitude as Paul, and I hope all preachers will likewise strive to preach in like manner as Paul.

✍ Brad Phillips

Whose Orders?

Years ago I read notice of a horrible train wreck in which many people died painfully amid the twisted, burning wreckage. The engineer was killed as well. But as he lay near death he showed those near a paper, saying, "Take this. It will show I was given the wrong orders." And they were the wrong ones. He had been on the wrong track. Yet he was still dying. And many were already dead close by.

Friend, you have an eternal soul, entrusted to you by God to serve Him. What orders are you following? Are they His? or man's idea of religion? Make sure, because sincerity is not enough.

✍ Robert Hines

CAN YOU TELL ME WHY?

Our great grandmother started the Lord’s day morning with the milking, dressed a chicken for dinner, churned the butter, helped her six children get ready for worship, polished her husbands shoes, and rode seven miles in a wagon and got to services on time; and today with every modern convenience, some of us cannot get up and drive a few blocks to worship and get there on time. Can you tell me why?

Author Unknown

Belleville church of Christ

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www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

Brad Phillips..... (765) 720-2816