

Street Preaching Distinctives

Why We Preach

For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. 1 Cor. 9:16, 17 As children of God we desire our motives to be pure. Because of our fallen nature, self analysis and examination is skewed as we are contaminated with sin. Our conscious must be clear but even this is not one hundred percent accurate (*1 Cor. 4:3-5*). Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit we check ourselves, therefore we preach primarily because it glorifies God (*2 Cor. 3:7-13*), out of our love for God (*John 14:21*), and to be obedient to the call (*Mark 16:15*), out of sincerity (*Phil. 1:12-18*). Secondly, to see souls saved. (*Prov. 11:30, Acts 13:48, 1 Tim. 2:4, 2 Pet. 3:9*)

What We Preach

Overview —

For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' **John 4:37** The speaker's presentation on the street is to be different than that of preaching to an assembled audience such as a church, tent, stadium, etc. First of all, the street preacher is not invited to speak to his audience and they may be hostile. In most cases the people move by at a rapid rate. They may hear only between 10 – 30 seconds unless they stop and listen. Our concentration is to tell people why we need salvation and how to be saved. Our street style is primarily proclamation which is "planting seeds". We do not have the luxury of getting long winded on subjects, however important, that are not pertinent to the Gospel message. We look for guidance from the Holy Spirit when sharing personal testimonies, analogies & object lessons. We stay away from politics, personalities, pet peeves, where did dinosaurs come from? Etc.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ —

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence Col 1:18. The person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ is the centrality of eternal life and the Christian faith. Therefore we preach about Him using the following topics; creation, the fall of man, separation from God, the nature and character of God, purpose of the law, eternal punishment, virgin birth, the death, burial, and the bodily resurrection of Christ, repentance and faith toward God, what saving faith is, salvation by grace, hope for the believer, and alike.

Christ Crucified —

For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified 1 Cor. 2:2. Therefore we preach to glorify Jesus Christ by preaching on the cross often – the arrest, trial, condemnation, crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Since the law and the prophets were until John the Baptist (*Luke 16:16*), we aim to preach within the new covenant, using Jesus, Philip the Evangelist, and the apostles as our examples. Although the Old Testament is the inspired Word of God, we do not emulate the Old Testament prophets. For example; Isaiah walked around naked (*Isaiah 20:2-4*), we don't do that. Even though we must preach and teach on the sinfulness of man, judgment and hell, we concentrate on God's grace and forgiveness as we preach the gospel of grace (*Acts 20:24*).

The Message of the Kingdom —

But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized Acts 8:12. Our preaching will also cover the following; You must be born again to enter the kingdom of God (*John 3:1-7*), you must receive and be converted as little children (*Matt 18:3*), the kingdom of God is within you (*Luke 17:21*), The literal kingdom at Christ's second coming (*Isaiah 9:6,7 Daniel 2:44, Matt 25:31-46, Luke 1:32, Rev 20:4-6*).

The Word of God —

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God Romans 10:17 and **God has magnified His Word above His name Psalm 138:2**. Therefore we speak the Word of God either by verse memorization or by reading from the Holy Scriptures themselves. Whenever possible we preach expository from a text that would be fitting for salvation.

How We Preach

Ambassadors for Christ —

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 2 Cor. 5:20 As ambassadors we have the ministry of reconciliation and we represent the King by our lifestyle as well. We are committed to personal holiness and discipleship through the Holy Spirit's sanctifying work in us. We believe in optimizing our effectiveness by preparation through prayer and fasting and also being consumed by God's Word. Jesus Christ should affect the way we carry ourselves out on the street by our humility, demeanor, body language, remembering to have a good countenance. This can only be accomplished through the Holy Spirit. We dress appropriate, not drawing attention to ourselves. Patience and self control are very useful out in the streets.

Methodology —

...it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe 1 Cor. 1:21. We do not believe in the modern method of music, secular entertainment, or gimmicks to bring forth the message of the Gospel. Scripture points us to the spoken word. The Lord Himself, and the apostles, proclaimed the Gospel both in public and personal witness using spoken, forthright, factual communication. We believe and therefore are committed to trusting the Lord for people's salvation as the Holy Spirit works through God's chosen method of preaching for getting out His message. (*Mark 16:20, Acts 8:4, 2 Tim. 2:4, Titus 1:3, 1 Pet. 1:25*)

Tactical Strategy —

But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth." Mark 1:38 We want to be consistent but flexible as to where we go; what city, what section of that city, what corner. Street preaching is best suited for large downtown metropolitan areas. Whenever possible we use electronic amplification to project our voice. When it is not possible, we lift our voice loud enough for people to hear the message. We allow for 2, or at the most 3, people on one street corner. Curiosity seekers are always welcome; after all it is a public venue. We encourage one-on-one witnessing as well.

Conclusion

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. I Cor. 12:4-6

I realize that not everyone agrees with this type of ministry or with my ideas about evangelism. The evangelist is a gift from Christ (*Eph 4:11*) and street preaching is a calling from God, so I can't really teach it. I wrote this paper so that you may see what is distinct about my particular ministry that God has called me to. Perhaps you will prayerfully decide to come and join me. If you disagree, you may find that you are a leader yourself and I would encourage you to step out in faith and see what the Lord would have for you in serving Him; may God bless your work. Amen!

All scripture verses above use the New King James Version®, Copyright © 1982, Thomas Nelson, Inc. All rights reserved! NKJV is a trademark of Thomas Nelson Publishers

(For a complete statement of faith go to: www.lawrencedubois.com/doctrinal-statement.html)