

## Where Are All the Preachers?

### Scripture

"I charge [you] therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, [because] they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn [their] ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." (2 Timothy 4:1-5 NKJV)

### Commentary

Pulpits are full every week with men called to preach the truth. Thankfully, most teach truth, however, it seems that very few preach truth. There is a difference between teaching and preaching. Teaching involves the dissemination of knowledge from one person to another, one head to another. Preaching involves moving people from one spiritual place to another.

The problem in most orthodox churches in America is not knowledge, but passion. People know what they need to do, but they are seldom effectively challenged to do what they need to do. Preachers spend the bulk of their sermon telling people what they already know. They would do far more to move God's people if they would expose sinful attitudes and actions.

For example Peter preached concerning Jesus and the people's sin, "Him [Jesus], being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death" (Acts 2:23 NKJV). Again, Jesus Himself opened the Samaritan woman's mind as He revealed her sinfulness. ". . . Go, call your husband, and come here," He said to her. (John 4:16 NKJV) Oh how the words must have pierced her heart having had five husbands, and now living out of wedlock.

Preachers must expose sin and its deceitfulness. Linger a while preacher. Let hearts be stirred.

God is holy and majestic. Only those who see their sin see their God from the right perspective. Only those preachers who lift God high above the heavens will see God's people humble themselves.

The truth is pastor, the people want preaching. They are starved for preaching. Try spending more time exploring the human condition, and relating the facts to life's situations. You won't be disappointed, and your congregation might actually be moved toward greater practical righteousness.

### Prayer

Father, provide courage to those men who will speak this Lord's Day. Let them not shrink back from fear. Open their minds to see how each passage relates to the struggle with sin. Give us preachers who are not afraid to thunder truth. Not by shouting and screaming, but by applying truth to everyday life, amen.