

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

October 13

2024

The Preaching of Paul

Anyone who proclaims the gospel of Christ would greatly benefit by imitating the preaching of the apostle Paul. With that said, let's take a look at some of the commendable attributes concerning the preaching of Paul that are worthy of imitation today.

Paul Was Consistent In His Preaching.

It has been said, "truth is consistent with truth." Sadly, there are some gospel preachers today who are inconsistent when it comes to the preaching of the truth, and my friends, this should never be. You see, no matter what the circumstance is, gospel preachers need to always be consistent in preaching the truth. 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.*" Once more, Paul was consistent in his preaching, and his example of consistent preaching needs to be followed by all gospel preachers today.

Paul Preached The Whole Counsel of God.

Paul, in exhorting the elders of Ephesus, said, "*For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God*" (Acts 20:27). You see, Paul, unlike some gospel preachers today, was

not slack in preaching the instructions of God, for he declared the whole counsel of God. Sadly, it seems like there are some gospel preachers today who are afraid to preach the whole counsel of God out of fear of men, and because of that, some refuse to preach on difficult topics that could offend or upset someone, and they therefore go about tip-toeing around the whole counsel of God, and seek to cowardly sugar-coat 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 stay out of the pulpit.

Paul Was Not Ashamed To Preach The Gospel of Christ.

Have you noticed that there are some gospel preachers today who act like they are ashamed to preach the gospel of Christ? You see, sadly, some gospel preachers today would rather act like a comedian in the pulpit, or tickle the ears of men, rather than proclaim the gospel of Christ that has the power to convict, and to save. 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 this very day the power of God unto salvation. Therefore may all gospel preachers, like Paul, boldly proclaim the gospel of Christ, and never be ashamed of it (Ref. 2 Timothy 1:8-12).

Paul Did Not Preach To Please Men.

Another valuable lesson in which gospel preachers today 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, and from seeking glory from men (Ref. 1 Thessalonians 2:4-6).

Paul Preached With Simplicity.

The apostle Paul, unlike some gospel preachers today, simply preached the gospel of Christ. 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 easily understood. Therefore, may all gospel preachers avoid “muddying the water” by using words that many may not understand, or by trying to dig too deep into a passage, 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), never forgetting these words of the inspired Psalmist, *“The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple”* (Psalm 119:130).

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. You see, humility is an attribute that all gospel preachers need to strive to obtain and maintain. Therefore, just as Paul served the Lord with all humility, may all gospel preachers today likewise follow in his example.

Paul Practiced What He Preached.

In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul, in writing to the Corinthians penned, *“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”* You see, not only did Paul preach Christ, but he also imitated Christ. There-

fore, 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 worthy of imitation. For, Paul did not look at preaching as just a job, nor did he preach for the money (Ref. 1 Corinthians 9:14-18), but rather Paul preached the gospel because he truly loved the Lord who loved and gave Himself for him (Ref. Galatians 2:20), and he loved the souls of men (Ref. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23). Knowing that, may all gospel preachers today likewise have the same attitude as Paul, and likewise strive to preach in like manner as Paul.

✍️ Brad Phillips

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Website: www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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