

Preaching the Gospel

Sunday, May 12th, 1991

1 Corinthians 9:16

For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

I'm going to be preaching today, from the Book of First Corinthians. The text will be taken from Chapter 9: verse 16. This is the title of the message: "Preaching the Gospel".

Paul wrote in First Corinthians 9:16; *"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of, for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel."* This is speaking of the gospel of God, the gospel of Christ, the gospel of His grace and the gospel of His glory. That is what it is called in the scripture, *"The gospel of the glory of God."*

I know, and I regret this, but I know that most preaching today and most preachers in this day are a far cry from the apostles. They are a far cry from the faithful preachers in the Word of God, in the reformation and in the past. It is not only sad, but it is shocking to listen to many people who call themselves preachers. They are unprepared and untaught in the scriptures. They are self-motivated and have vainglory. It is so sad and so shocking to listen to what is called preaching today.

We have the entertainers and the emotionalists that put on religious shows. The preachers even have extravaganzas. These preachers act like cheerleaders at a ballgame. I see these preachers running up and down the isles acting like cheerleaders. They are trying to get people all built up, and excited. People act like little puppets. They will do just what other preachers tell them to do, and say whatever the preachers tell them to say. They are just entertainers and emotionalists. I can't imagine the apostles Paul, James, Peter or John acting like that. I can't imagine men of the past, Whitfield, Knox, Luther and Spurgeon acting like that.

We have the promoters today, the builders of religious empires and organizations. They are just unembarrassed and unashamed money raisers. They are just money raisers and promoters. If they were in the business world, they would be con men. Most of them would be in prison if they were in the business world. They are misusing funds. That is what we have today, going under the name of "Preacher".

It is no wonder that people are disgusted, shocked and turned off. The majority of people don't even go to church. I don't blame them for not going. We have the debaters, the

denominationalists, the intellectuals, and the professionals. This is a sad, sad day in America.

I watch some of these money raisers and some of these men. I know enough about the scripture; I have been preaching 40 years and have been pastoring the same church for 40 years. I know enough about the Word of God and I know enough about preaching. I know enough about the Spirit of God, and the gospel of Christ to know that these men, the majority of them, are dishonest men. They are dishonest about the scriptures, dishonest with their congregations, and dishonest in every way. They are not glorifying God at all. They are an embarrassment to me.

Let me tell you something. I want you to listen to me; true preachers and true preaching can still be found. That's right! If you will look and listen carefully, you will find that God is never without a witness. God has His preachers today. You will find in the scriptures that God has never left Himself without a witness. There are still called men of God today, which are sent and anointed of God. They are taught of God and are true to the scriptures. They are honest men. They are not misusing people and using people. They are not robbing people. They are not living off the fat of the land.

There are true preachers today, and they are out there, but they are hard to find. They can be found if you are careful and are listening. You have to look and search. You will find one of God's true preachers. In the Word of God, true preaching and true preachers are elevated. That's right! They are really exalted. A true preacher is greatly used of God. God uses men to bless people and to preach the gospel.

God uses men and in the First Chapter of John, it says; "*There was a man sent from God whose name was John.*" When the Ethiopian Eunuch was journeying from Jerusalem from Ethiopia, God sent Phillip. God sent Peter to Cornelius. God sent Ananias to Saul of Tarsus. God will send a preacher, a true preacher and an honest preacher. He will be straightforward preacher and he is God's man. There are a few of them; they are here and there. True preaching is honored in the scripture.

You see; there was Noah. What do you know Noah for? What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think of Noah? Of course, he built an ark. The Bible calls him a preacher, a preacher of righteousness. His greatest work was not building the ark; it was preaching the gospel.

What do you know about Solomon? Solomon was the king of Israel. He was the richest, wisest and most powerful king that Israel ever had. No, first and foremost, he was a preacher. He said that himself. He said in Ecclesiastes One: verse 1 and 2; "*I Solomon,*

the preacher was king over Israel.” He didn’t say; “The king over Israel was a preacher.” He said; “*The preacher was king over Israel.*” His first, foremost calling was to preach the Word of God.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was a preacher. In Mark 1:14, it says; “*Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God.*” He wasn’t preaching like these people are preaching today. He preached the gospel.

In Mark 16, our Lord sent His disciples out to preach. He told them; “*Go into all the world and preach the gospel.*” He didn’t tell them to build great monuments to themselves. Our Lord didn’t tell them to build places to entertain people. He said, “*Go preach the gospel.*” In First Corinthians 1:21, the scripture says; “*God hath chosen by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*” It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching, not the preaching of foolishness, but the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Preaching the cross, preaching substitution and preaching Christ, is called foolishness or sheer nonsense to a lot of people. “*It is the power of God to salvation.*” He said, “*He chose by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*” Listen to Romans 10: “*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*”

The question comes, “*How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? How shall they hear without a preacher? How shall they preach except they be sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel, that bring glad tidings of good things,*” (good news from a far country).

I know that this is referring mainly to our Messiah; how beautiful are his feet. But, “*how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel.*” God has called them and God has sent them. I will tell you this; we may be at very low ebb in this country and we are, for a fact. We are at low ebb as far as preachers and preaching is concerned. They are an embarrassment to everybody. But, I will tell you this; God’s preachers are still with us.

The preachers may be in the hills of West Virginia or on the plains of Kansas. They may be down in Florida or up the hollows of Kentucky. God has His preachers. They are true men and honest men who can say with Paul; “*I preach the Gospel; necessity is laid upon me. Yea, woe is unto me if I don’t preach the gospel.*” Isaiah 61:1 says; “*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me because He hath anointed me to preach good tidings to the meek, to preach good news.*” This is the gospel.

God's true preacher is an ambassador of Christ. He is an ambassador of Jesus Christ. I want you to listen to me. God's true preacher is God's messenger. He is not the messenger of the denomination. He's not the messenger of a School of Theology. He is God's messenger and God's ambassador. He is the bondservant of Jesus Christ. He is not a man pleaser but is the bondservant of the Son of God.

He is not an organizer, or a denominational rubber stamp; He is a prophet. He is a proclaimer. He proclaims liberty to the captive. He proclaims peace to the enemies of God by faith. He proclaims pardon to guilty sinners. He proclaims the grace and mercy of God to sinners. He's a proclaimer, a prophet, and an ambassador of Christ. He is also a bondservant of Jesus Christ, a messenger of God Almighty. He's not for sale and He can't be bought. He cannot be persuaded away from that gospel. You can't offer Him anything in this world that will entice Him not to preach that gospel. That's right! God's true preachers are still around. God has never been without a witness. God's true preacher is a man of one message.

Paul said, "*We preach Christ.*" That is our message. "*We preach Christ and Him crucified.*" Paul talked about going down to Corinth, the city of philosophers, debaters, educators and intellectuals. He said; "*I'm determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified. We preach not ourselves. We preach Christ Jesus the Lord.*"

"*The disciples went forth preaching,*" the scripture says. They preached peace by Jesus Christ. "*He is Lord of all.*" Do you remember when Phillip got up in the chariot beside the Ethiopian Eunuch, as he (the eunuch) was reading Isaiah 53? The scripture says; "*And Phillip began at the same scripture and preached Jesus to him.*" Christ is our message. "*We preach Christ and Him crucified.*" God's true servant is a man of one message and that message is Christ Jesus our Lord.

Turn to Second John; I want you to look at verses 9 and 10. I want you to listen to this; God has his true preachers. They are His messengers. They are His bondservants and His ambassadors. They have one message and that message is Christ. Everything that they preach is related to the Son of God. They come to exalt His name and to magnify His name. They preach His name and proclaim His name. They come preaching that people may rest in His name, believe in His name, rejoice in His name, and understand more about the glories of that name.

In Second John: verses 9 and 10, it says this: "*Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God.*" Now, I want you to think about that a little bit.

“The man who transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ; hath not God.”
Everything is related to Christ. Everything that we have is in Christ.

Read Ephesians One sometime and underline the many times that it is says; “In Christ, by Christ, through Christ, and for Christ.” But, the scripture says; *“Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth, (he that stays and continues in that doctrine of Christ), he hath both the Father and the Son.”* That is God’s true preacher.

God’s preacher is not going to get into healings, tongues, gifts, prophecies, Armageddon, and entertainment. He’s going to abide in the doctrine of Christ. *“For whoso transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. But, whoso abideth in the doctrine of Christ hath both the Father and the Son.”*

Now, listen, *“If there come any unto you, (any preachers) and bring not the doctrine of Christ, receive them not into your home; neither bid them God speed.”* Do not help them; don’t support them. *“They have not God.”* I don’t know how anything could be clearer in the scriptures. *“Any person who does not abide in, (that’s continue in a life-long ministry), He hath not God.”*

He continues in the doctrine of Christ. The doctrine is *“Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”* Jesus Christ is our Lord and Saviour. Everything relates to Him, in Him, of Him, through Him, by Him, and for His glory. If a person does not abide in that, *“He hath not God. For whosoever continueth and abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”*

That is the man that I want to follow. That is the man I want to listen to. That is the man that I want to teach me, the man who has the Father and the Son, the one who continues and abides in the doctrine of Christ. Paul said; *“If it is an angel from heaven and preaches any other gospel, let him be accursed. If there come any unto you and bring not the doctrine of Christ, don’t receive him into your home. Don’t bid him God speed.”* That means to not help them and don’t support them. *“We preach Christ. We are determined to know nothing but Christ.”*

Why? Here are four or five reasons: Why do we preach Christ? Why do we preach Christ and Him crucified? Why is it that our every message zeros in on the person and work of Jesus Christ? Well, first of all, for this reason: Our God, the living God, the Almighty God in Christ, is a reconciled God. In Christ, He has reconciled sinners like you and me. Out of Christ, God is a consuming fire.

You don't want anything to do with an angry God, do you? In Second Corinthians 5:19; *"God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself."* In Romans 5:10: it says; *"When we were enemies we were reconciled."* Do you know what reconciled means? The word reconciled means to make friends again.

Suppose there are two people battling and you go into help them get reconciled. What do you mean reconciled? The answer is to come together in unity, harmony and accord. Quit your fighting and love each other. Try to reconcile. When we were enemies of God, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son. Much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by the life of His Son.

God Almighty out of Christ is an angry God. God said; *"I'll be no means clear the guilty. He that believeth not on the Son, the wrath of God abideth on him."* You see; God's holiness, God's justice and God's truth will not allow Him to accept you in your sins and in your rebellion and evilness. That is why you need a Saviour. That is why I need a Saviour.

You have to have a Substitute and that is why I need a Substitute. I need for someone to take my sins and pay for them and you do too. God can't accept us in the mess that we are in. God sent Christ to be our Saviour. Listen to Colossians 1:19; *"It pleased God that in Christ should all fullness dwell. And having made peace through the blood of His cross by Christ, to reconcile all things to Himself, I say, by Christ, whether they be things in heaven or earth. And you, that were one time enemies, hath Jesus Christ now reconciled."* That is why I preach Christ.

I know the Lord heals whom He pleases to heal. I need for my soul to be healed. I need my sins forgiven. I need to be redeemed. I need to be saved and I need a Substitute and a Saviour. That's the important thing. Our God in Christ is a reconciled God. That is why we must preach Christ. Paul said; *"To preach the same things to you is not tiresome. For you it is safe."*

Secondly: We preach Christ, for in Christ our God is a promising God (in Christ). I hear people talking about the promises of God, the promise of forgiveness, the promise of salvation, the promise of heaven, the promise of healing, and the promise of eternal glory. There are many promises. Peter called them *"Great and precious promises."*

Hold on a minute! Where are the promises of God? Where are they to be found? Do you believe the Word of God? Turn to Second Corinthians 1:20; *"All the promises of*

God in Christ are yes and in Christ are amen to the glory of God.” Where are the promises of God? The promises of God are in Christ.

There is nothing for you outside of Christ. *“He that hath the Son hath eternal life. He that hath not the Son hath not life.”* There are no promises outside of Christ to anybody. *“All things work together for good, to them who love God, to them who are called according to His purpose. For who can lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? Who can condemn us, it is Christ that died? Who can separate us from the love of Christ, the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord? God who spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not in Him, with Him, freely give us all things?”*

Where are the promises? The answer is in Christ! You don’t have a prayer outside of Christ. You don’t have a place to stand outside of Christ. *“All the promises of God are in Christ Jesus; yes, and in Him, amen to the glory of God.”* That is why we preach Christ.

It is not fair for preachers to stand up and beg, bargain and sell trinkets. They con people and promise people that if they will tithe, God will do this and that. They will tell you that if you plant a seed, God will bless you. That is a bunch of fund-raising bologna. You look to Christ and rest in Christ Jesus. Believe on Him. If God ever brings Him to your heart, you will give and it won’t be motivated out of greed, and motivated for gain. You won’t be motivated by reward or motivated because you are afraid of hell. You won’t have to worry because some preacher is going off the air.

You will be motivated because you love Christ Jesus. God loves you in Christ. You’ll have a loving relationship with the Heavenly Father. That is the only basis for any kind of service, worship, preaching or faith. This is all because of Christ. That may be hard, but it is so. It is time that we got straight with people. It is time for people to quit being deceived by these hucksters and merchandisers of souls; that is what they are. These people are interested in gain, and not godliness.

Your hope is in Christ, my friend. Your hope is not in sending me a dollar or keeping me on the air. Your hope is in Christ. If God wants me on the air, I will be on the air next Sunday. If God doesn’t want me on the air, I will go off. I’m a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I want you to know Christ. I want you to know Him and Him alone.

Thirdly: We preach Christ because in Christ our God sits on a throne of grace. Someone said; “God has a three-fold throne.” He’s got a throne of glory. Isaiah saw Him *“High and lifted up and His glory filled the temple.”* You don’t want anything to do with that

throne of glory. I don't either. *"He dwells in a light in which no man can approach."* Our God sits on a throne of justice. You don't want to have to do anything with that throne of justice, either. Our God is a God of justice and I want mercy. I don't want justice.

David said, *"God don't bring me into judgment with Thee."* I don't want to face God that way. No honest man wants anything to do with an absolute God. We want a Saviour. We want a Mediator. But God dwells on a throne of grace, because of Christ, by the sacrifice of Christ. *"Seeing, we have a great High Priest, let us come boldly before a throne of grace."*

What is grace? Grace is mercy, love and kindness to the undeserving and to the ill deserving and the hell deserving. Grace is God giving you what you don't deserve. Mercy is God not giving us what we do deserve. We come to Christ, the throne of grace. His grace, grace, grace, is sovereign grace. There is effectual grace, prevenient grace, convenient grace, restraining grace, keeping grace, and glorifying grace.

Everything that I have is by grace. *"I am what I am by the grace of God through Christ Jesus my Lord. He loved me and gave Himself for me. I love Him because He first loved me."* I seek Him because He sought me. We called on Him because He called on us. To God be the glory, we preach Christ. Everything I have is in Him, because of Him, for His glory, by Him and through Him. You too, if we have anything!

Fourthly: We preach Christ because our God in Christ is identified with us. That's how all of this came about. The angel came down and said to Joseph; *"Call His name Jesus, that Holy thing which is conceived in the womb of Mary is the Son of God. You call His name Jesus because He is going to save His people from their sins."* And this is the fulfillment of what Isaiah the prophet said; *"Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."* This is the mystery of Godliness; God was manifest in human flesh.

This is the gospel message; *"Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief."* He said; *"I come that they might have life. I'm come to seek and to save the lost. He died the just for the unjust to bring us to God. He was made sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."* Have you heard that good news?

Wouldn't you like to hear the preachers of today stop begging, selling and entertaining? Wouldn't you like to hear them preach Christ, so that sinners could have a foundation, hope and comfort?

Is there anyone that can help us?
Who can give a sinner peace?
When his heart is burdened down with pain and woe?
Who can speak a word of pardon?
That affords a sweet release
Whose blood can wash and make us white as snow.

Yes, there is one. There's only one and that is our blessed, blessed Jesus. He's the one.

So, when afflictions press my soul
And waves of trouble roll
When I need a friend to help me
He's the one.

I'm talking about "*Christ and Him crucified.*"