

The Necessity of Preaching Romans 10:14; Nehemiah 8:1-9

How grateful are we that we can hear the word of God? Would we complain if we had to stand while it was read? Do we weep with repentance when we hear it? Is it a joy to hear it? Our very lives depend on not only hearing it but on preaching it as well. We become children of God through the preaching of the word.

Our hearts need to be open and receptive to the preaching of God's word, it is key. God will reach down to us as we reach up to Him, if we really hunger and thirst for Him **Matt. 5:6**. We have learned the importance of how to go in and come out of God's presence. The coming out is not just for our benefit, it to be able to reach out to others, to share God's truths with them. Once we have received the gospel for ourselves we are responsible to share it with everyone we come in contact with. There is no other way to be born again but through the preaching of God's word. It is the seed and needs to be received into hearts. Jesus' command to go and preach the gospel is for us as His disciples **Mark 16:15**.

2 Tim. 3:16 God's word will accomplish all these things as we allow. Do you sometimes find preaching a little long? What if you were to stand for it, outside in the weather (Ezra) Or listen all night? (Paul) what if you were to listen to the same thing for 120 years? Noah was called a preacher of righteousness, **2 Peter 2:5**. Ezra preached the law and there was great sorrow over the inability to keep all the commands. Noah's preaching brought no one to repentance. What was the difference? The seed itself was a significant factor. Ezra was preaching from the word of God whereas Noah was relating something God had warned him about. What made the ultimate difference was the heart condition of the hearers. Do we look forward to the preaching of God's word with anticipation? When the word convicts us of sin are we happy to find out about it in order to change? How much more joyful should we be to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news and the promises that are given to us? How many people have you shared the gospel with who have laughed it off? Pray that God will have mercy on them.

Titus 1:2,3 preaching does not negate our personal devotions. God's word represents His will for us, and His expectations of us. Are we living up to them? God's ultimate purpose in reaching us through preaching is to bring about change in our hearts. As our hearts change, our lives change. **Heb. 4:12**. Are we kicking against what God is trying to do in our lives? If we hear and receive the word of God we will bear fruit in our lives, we will become more like Jesus. **Eph. 4:13**.

Rom. 10:8,9 we are to preach these words. People need to know that Jesus is alive. They need to know what it means to be saved. **Rom. 10:13,14**. We are that preacher. Regardless of our age, God expects us to share the knowledge of Jesus Christ with others **1 Cor. 1:21**. it is God's will that we are born again **James 1:18**, and it is by God's Spirit **John 3:5**, and through the preaching of God's word **1 Peter 1:23**, that it happens. The word is the seed that comes from our heavenly Father so that we might be born again. Just as a seed is needed from an earthly father in order to be born in the natural. **Phil. 2:16** we need to hold out the word to others. **Ps. 126:6** Does it seem likely you could be a

preacher? What about Jonah, or Peter, or Saul? What about Tex Watson or the former Son of Sam? What about a former local drug dealer? All turned to preach the word of God. Do you still feel unlikely?

Regardless of the reaction to or the results of our preaching we are commanded to preach the word. **2 Tim. 4:2** make sure people know who you are an ambassador for. Make sure His name is spoken and honoured and praised. Not a denomination, not a church, not a preacher, just Jesus. The only name by which we must be saved.