

The how & why of PREACHING

Discuss while waiting to begin

What are we doing when we listen to the preaching of God's Word?

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| (1) Preaching;
(2) Gathered worship;
(3) Church membership;
(4) Pastoral care. | } How does it happen at Immanuel?
Why does it happen like that? |
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Highly recommended: "Expository Preaching", by David Strain

1. What do we preach? = The Bible

2 Timothy 3:16

→ inerrant, authoritative, sufficient, clear, Christ-centred

Q: Why must we be reminded of the need to preach the Bible?

2. Why preach the Bible? = In faithful preaching we hear Christ

Ephesians 2:17 – WHO came and preached in Ephesus?!

1 Peter 4:11, "if anyone speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God."

All through the Bible we see Scripture being preached

When we hear Christ's voice →

- A direct encounter with the Lord: "preaching is worship and it evokes worship" (Strain)
- God's primary means of evangelism: "an effectual means of enlightening, convincing and humbling sinners... driving them out of themselves, and drawing them unto Christ..." WLC Q155
- Principle means of discipleship

3. What kind of preaching? = Expository preaching

= The shape and the emphasis of a sermon should reflect the shape and the emphasis of the Bible passage in front of us.

The advantages of expository preaching?

- respects way God has ordered Bible.
- preserves the congregation from the hobby horses or personal obsessions of a preacher
- subjects our lives/needs/concerns to Scripture, for *God's* healing and perspective.
- teaches the congregation how to study Bible for themselves.
- does the "heavy lifting" of building up a church.

Important caveat: the Bible says we must do systematic theology / church confessions / catechisms / creeds

- 2 Timothy 1:13

Q: There are many voices that compete for our attention. In what ways does it reassure us to see how a sermon clearly arises from the text of Holy Scripture?

4. Getting the most out of expository preaching

Westminster Longer Catechism Q.160

"It is required of those that hear the Word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; examine what they hear by the Scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, & readiness of mind, as the Word of God; meditate, and confer of it [i.e. talk about it with others]; hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives."

Q: How can we do each of these things?

And help one another? And help the preacher?