

Preaching Jesus Means Preaching On Issues

TEXT: Acts 15:1-2; 5:42

INTRODUCTION:

- A. SOME INSIST THAT WE JUST PREACH JESUS – THE MAN, NOT THE PLAN.
 - 1. Doctrinal preaching is divisive and confrontational.
 - 2. We are too “issue oriented.”
- B. IN **Acts 15** THE CONTROVERSY WAS JUST BEGINNING.
 - 1. The controversy arose within the church.
 - 2. 7 Epistles have this “issue” as their main subject. All of them address issues.
- C. WE NEED TO SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE ORIENTED PREACHING.
- D. AND HOW CONTROVERSY WAS HANDLED IN PREACHING JESUS.

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE ORIENTED PREACHING.

- A. WARNINGS AGAINST THE ONSLAUGHT ERROR (**Acts 20:29-30**).
 - 1. Typical attitudes reflected (**Isa. 30:9-11; Jer. 5:30-31**).
 - 2. The real danger
 - a. Anathema (**Gal. 1:6-9; 2 John 9**).
 - b. Drawn away from God (**Heb. 13:9; Acts 20:29-30**).
 - c. The real cause of religious division (**1 Cor. 4:6; Rom. 16:17**).
- B. WHAT DO WE DO?
 - 1. We must speak out (**Isa. 58:1; Titus 1:9; 2 Tim 4:2**).
 - 2. Discipline of the church (**Rom. 16:17-18; Titus 3:10; 2 Thess. 3:14**).
 - 3. Personal digression must be used (**2 John 9-11**).
 - 4. We must defend the Truth (**Phil. 1:16; Jude 3; 2 Tim. 1:13-14**).
- C. AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION ...
 - 1. These warning came before trouble began
 - a. Watch ye ... I ceased not to admonish (**Acts 20:29-31**).
 - b. To write these things is safe (**Phil. 3:1-3**)
 - c. In season, out of season (**2 Tim. 4:1-2; Acts 20:20, 26-27**).
- D. MODERN EXAMPLES OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PREACHING ON ISSUES.
 - 1. Lost River and A. D. 70.
 - 2. Annulment. We don't have that here.

II. PREACHING CHRIST MEANT PREACHING ON THE ISSUES.

- A. FALSE TEACHERS FROM JERUSALEM (**Acts 15:1-2**).
 - 1. Challenged by Paul and Barnabas –A debate proposed (**vs. 2**)
 - 2. Widespread controversy (**vs. 5**). The **ISSUE** defined!
- B. HOW WAS THE QUESTION SETTLED?
 - 1. An appeal to Divine Direction – **COMMANDS** (**vs. 7-11**).
 - 2. A recounting of Apostolic Experience – **EXAMPLES** (**vs. 12** ie. **Acts 13:46-47**)
 - 3. Reasoning from the Scriptures – **INFERENCES** (**15:13-19**).
 - 4. Deference given to those weak in the faith (**15:20; 1 Cor. 8:7, 9, 13**).
- C. SOME OBSERVATIONS:
 - 1. In each case, an appeal was made to what God had shown them.
 - 2. There was recognition of Apostolic Authority (**Matt. 18:18**).

3. And submission to God's will, whether thru commands, examples, or inferences.
4. **THE ISSUE WASN'T AVOIDED UNTIL IT COULDN'T BE ANY LONGER!**

III. PREACHING CHRIST MEANS THE SAME THING TODAY.

A. ISSUES ARE DECIDED ON THE BASIS DIVINE AUTHORITY

(**Matt. 21:23-25; 2 John 9**).

B. HOW IS DIVINE AUTHORITY ESTABLISHED?

1. By considering Commands, Examples, and Inferences, JUST LIKE THEY DID.
2. We find what we need in the Bible (**2 Tim. 3:16-16; 1 Cor. 4:6**).

IV. SOMETHING MUST BE SAID ABOUT ATTITUDE.

A. IN DEALING WITH ISSUES, WE MUST HAVE A COMMON GOAL

1. Our efforts should be directed toward correcting the error (**2 Tim. 2:25-26**).
2. This goal will be reflected in our approach (**vs. 24-25**).

B. IS THERE EVER A PLACE FOR A STERN TONE? (1 Tim. 1:18; 1 Cor. 4:21**).**

1. Preaching includes "rebuke" (**2 Tim. 4:2**).
2. It includes contending (**Jude 3**).
3. "With all authority" (**Titus 2:15**). If it is from God's word, don't apologize.
4. DON'T BE INTIMIDATED (**Titus 2:15; Phil. 1:16**)

C. THERE IS NO ROOM FOR A COMPROMISER IN THE PULPIT OR KINGDOM

(**Prov. 23:23**)

CONCLUSION: PREACHING ON ISSUES IS NOT MERELY
"SOUTHERN STYLE." IT IS PREACHING JESUS NEW
TESTAMENT STYLE.