

Preaching the Word of God

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 1:22-25

INTRODUCTION.

I. THE WORD OF GOD ENDURES FOREVER.

- A. The Word of God existed before time began, before the foundations of the earth were laid.
 - 1. The Word was present in the beginning. (John 1:1-5, 14)
 - 2. God's will for man existed before the foundation of the world.
 - a. Jesus was "*foreordained before the foundation of the world.*" (1 Peter 1:20-21; John 17:5, 24)
 - b. Paul said that God "*chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.*" (Ephesians 1:4)
 - c. Paul said that God "*saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus **before time began,***" (2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 1:2)
 - d. God promised eternal life "***before time began.***" (Titus 1:2)
- B. The Word of God formed all of creation.
 - 1. In Genesis 1, we see the power of God speaking.
 - a. Day One - "*Then God said, 'Let there be light...'*" (vs 3-5)
 - b. Day Two - "*Then God said, 'Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters...'*" (vs 6-8)
 - c. Day Three - "*Then God said, 'Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together...'*" (vs 9-10)

- d. Day Three - *"Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth grass,...'"* (vs 11-13)
 - e. Day Four - *"Then God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament...'"* (vs 14-19)
 - f. Day Five:
 - 1) *"Then God said, 'Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures...'"* (vs 20-21)
 - 2) *"Then God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply,...'"* (vs 22-23)
 - g. Day Six:
 - 1) *"Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth the living creatures according to its kind...'"* (vs 24-25)
 - 2) *"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image...'"* (vs 26-27)
 - 3) *"God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply...'"* (vs 28)
 - 4) *"And God said, 'See, I have given you every herb that yields seed...; to you it shall be for food.'" (vs 29-30)*
2. God spoke creation into existence.
- a. The psalmist wrote, *"6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth . . . 9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast."* (Psalms 33:6-9)
 - b. As Hebrews says, *"By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."* (Hebrews 11:3)
- C. The Word of God pronounced blessings and judgments.
- 1. Consider a few examples...
 - a. God's promises to Abraham, which included the coming salvation through Jesus Christ.
 - b. God's warnings and judgments.

- 1) Examples: Sodom and Gomorrah, Nineveh (Assyria), Israel, Judah, Babylon, Tyre, Sidon, Egypt, etc.
2. Hebrews reads, "Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation..." (Hebrews 2:1-3)
- D. Everything God speaks comes to pass. God's Word never fails.
 1. The Word of God lives and abides forever. (1 Peter 1:23)
 2. Jesus said, *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."* (Matthew 24:35)

II. THIS IS THE WORD THAT WE PREACH.

- A. The very same Word that spoke stars into existence and brought down ancient empires is the exact same Word that we preach today.
 1. Peter said, *"...But the word of the Lord endures forever.' Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you."* (1 Peter 1:22-25)
- B. It is our charge to preach the Word.
 1. Paul told Timothy to preach the Word. (2 Timothy 4:1-5)
 2. We are to handle the Word correctly. (2 Timothy 2:14-18)
 - a. Knowing what to listen to and to understand. (vs 15)
 - b. Knowing what to turn away from, to avoid. (vs 16; cf. 2 Peter 2:1-3)
- C. We preach the Word so people can be saved.
 1. We preach the gospel of salvation.
 - a. The gospel leads people to be *"born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God."* This "is the word" by which the gospel is preached. (1 Peter 1:22-25)
 - b. The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation. (Romans 1:16-17)
 - c. The gospel leads people to trust in Christ. (Ephesians 1:11-14)

2. We preach the message of repentance.
 - a. This message was preached on Pentecost. (Acts 2:36-39)
 - b. Paul preached this same message.
 - 1) Paul told the Ephesian elders that he had testified *"to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Acts 20:21)
 - 2) Paul told King Agrippa that he was *"not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance."* (Acts 26:19-20)
3. We preach Christ and Him crucified.
 - a. This was the message preached on Pentecost. (Acts 2:32-39)
 - b. It may seem foolish to the world, but Christ crucified comes from the wisdom of God. (1 Corinthians 1:21-25)
- D. We preach the Word so Christians will grow.
 1. Peter said, *"...desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby..."* (1 Peter 2:1-3)
 2. There is to be a growth to spiritual maturity. (Hebrews 5:12-14; Ephesians 4:11-14)
 3. This growth guards against departing from the faith. (1 Timothy 4:1-11; cf. Hebrews 12:12-17)

CONCLUSION.

- A. *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* (Hebrews 4:12)
- B. God's Word endures forever.
- C. God's Word shows a lost world how to be saved.
- D. God's Word shows the saved how to live faithfully before Him.

- E. Let us live our lives with God's Word at the center of our minds, directing our every thought and step.

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by John M. Duvall – May 17, 2026 – File #: 133, The Word

Preached at the Seminole Pointe church of Christ in Edmond, Oklahoma