

## "YOU PREACH FIRST"

### INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Th. 5:12-22**. From Roy H. Enoch (5-16-93).
- B. Some think of only the speaker delivering a sermon.
  - 1. But the most impressive sermons are delivered before the preacher gets to the pulpit.
  - 2. The things most remember the longest about the service were the things said and done by those they met and observed.
  - 3. It is not a matter of whether we make an impression on others, but what impressions do we make.
- C. It is easy to criticize a someone else's "sermon."
  - 1. We can point out things that we do not like, as well as those not right or poorly done.
    - a. Especially the things that we do not like.
    - b. More people seem to be self indulgent than ever.
  - 2. We each need to look at our own "preaching" and especially the example we show our children.
- D. Paul gave an excellent guideline for Xian conduct in our text (1Th. 5:12-22).
  - 1. In our lesson today we want to look at some of the "sermons" our examples are preaching, and those we should be giving.
  - 2. If we will each examine ourselves, we will be better prepared for the judgment of X.

### I. WE HAVE ALREADY PREACHED MANY SERMONS TODAY.

- A. Some have preached lessons of good cheer with friendly greetings in the parking lot/building.
  - 1. A pleasant greeting is uplifting to all.
  - 2. Expressions of concern and care are great encouragements.
  - 3. In like manner, ignoring those we meet or a curt answer can discourage and spoil the fellowship with each other and God.
  - 4. A smile with your "hello," and "welcome" is a message of love and interest as you greet visitors and other members.
- B. Those who come early to greet and visit say that they care.
  - 1. Occasionally there are problems that need attention. There has been water in basement, heat or A/C may not have been turned on, etc.
  - 2. Visitors are sometimes waiting in the parking lot wondering when services will start.
  - 3. Coming early shows that this is important to you and sets a good example for others.
    - a. The habit of arriving at the last minute or late shows the opposite.
    - b. Those who attend only occasionally vote to close the doors.
  - 4. How we dress also shows how we feel about our worship.
    - a. God required the best from Israel.
    - b. We wear our best for occasions that are important to us.
    - c. It is especially important for those who lead in the worship to dress in a way that they show respect for God's worship and His work. (Our "best" is good enough, but do we save our "best" for other occasions?)
- C. Our behavior at Bible classes preach clear sermons about our attitude toward God's word.
  - 1. The more we study the lesson during the week, the more love we show for God's word.
  - 2. Active participation in class with comments and questions show interest also.
  - 3. Faithful attendance encourages others.
  - 4. Negligence and inattention reflect our attitude toward God.
  - 5. Irregular attendance or regular absence encourage neglect in others.
- D. Our behavior during the worship shows our attitude toward the Lord and His church.
  - 1. You preach the message "welcome, we want you to join us" when move to the center of the pew rather than block and require others to climb over you.

2. You preach the message of hope and joy when you sing w/enthusiasm.
  3. You preach a strong message on the power of prayer when you humbly bow and fervently follow in spirit the one leading.
  4. You preach a message of faith when you give generously.
    - a. God says we are thieves when we do not give to Him as we ought (Mal. 3:8-10).
    - b. We are ungrateful when we do not give generously w/love willingly.
  5. You preach a message of respect for God's word when you listen attentively, look up passages and take notes.
  6. You preach about the importance of the Scriptures when you bring your Bible.
  7. If you leave early or as soon as the service is over you may be heard as "unfriendly."
    - a. Also, the practice of going out during the service for a drink of water or the bathroom is sometimes necessary for those w/a medical problem.
    - b. But for the young and healthy, it may rather show a spiritual weakness and lack of respect for the worship.
  8. Whispering, writing notes and elbowing during worship shows you disrespect for God and rudeness to others trying to worship.
- E. Give thought before you come to the sermon you will be preaching to all who attend.

## II. PAUL TEACHES THE KIND OF SERMON WE SHOULD BE PREACHING.

- A. See 1Th. 5:12-22.
- B. "Recognize those who labor among you": who "are over you" and "who admonish you" (5:12).
  1. "esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake." 13
  2. The greatest esteem is submission and encouragement.
  3. We need to express our appreciation to the elders and teachers who do many things for our benefit.
- C. "Be at peace among yourselves" (5:13).
  1. Paul told the Corinthians that their divisions and strife was because they were fleshly or carnal (1Cor. 3:1-3).
- D. "Now we exhort you, brethren," Exhortation is a message of warning or encouragement, designed to motivate persons to action. The apostle Paul often exhorted his fellow Xians to live out their calling as ministers of the Lord Jesus (Rom. 12:8; 2Cor. 8:17).
  1. "comfort the fainthearted," small soul (Strong), timid (NIV), feebleminded (KJV).
  2. "uphold the weak,"
  3. "be patient w/all" (5:14).
  4. "See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone,"
  5. "But always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all" (5:15).
  6. "Rejoice always," (5:16), Philipians, "Book of Joy".
  7. "pray w/o ceasing," (5:17).
  8. "in everything give thanks;" be grateful and express it. "for this is the will of God in X Jesus for you."
  9. "Do not quench the Spirit" hindering the work of the HS (5:19).
  10. "Do not despise prophecies." inspiration of the HS (5:20).
  11. "Test all things: hold fast what is good" (5:21).
  12. "Abstain from every form of evil." (5:22) "all appearance of evil" (KJV).

## III. ONLY YOUR PREACHING BY EXAMPLE CAN MAKE MINE EFFECTIVE.

- A. When the members of a congregation demonstrate the principles of Xian doctrine taught from the pulpit, it makes great impact.

1. Devotion to the study of the Scriptures is evident by:
    - a. Regular attendance of all Bible classes and services.
    - b. Preparations for all Bible lessons.
    - c. Active participation in all classes.
    - d. Encouragements are given to others.
  2. Interest and care for each other is shown by:
    - a. Having interest in others' problems and welfare.
    - b. Helping in some way.
    - c. Visiting when sick (those who do not visit usually are the ones who expect visits.)
    - d. Encouraging each other to faithfulness, and inquiring when others miss services.
- B. The "spiritual fruit" of 2Pet. 1:5-11 focus on these qualities. Add to faith virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love.

### **CONCLUSION.**

- A. The effective of the religion we profess is the faithfulness w/which we live it.
- B. Let us each strive to teach by example the doctrine of X that we claim to believe.
- C. If our example has been contradictory to that doctrine, we have an opportunity now to acknowledge that and repent.