



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299
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How Do You Hear A Sermon?

What is preaching and what good does a sermon do?

The first question can be answered by definition. The second depends.

The word *preach* means primarily “to deliver a sermon.” This is what women are not permitted to do in mixed assemblies of men and women: note the word *teach*, Greek *didasko*, “to deliver didactic discourses.” “*And do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.*” (I Timothy 2:12) The word *sermon* comes from a Latin term meaning “a stab or a thrust,” as in the heart or mind of the listener. (Acts 2:37) This is the purpose of a sermon. It is not a discourse intended to satisfy “itching ears.” (II Timothy 4:3)

There are three outstanding elements in preaching: the preacher, the message and the hearer.

Christianity requires these three things: a sower, good seed or the pure Gospel, and an honest (good) hearer.

What Goes Into A Sermon?

Lots of study, research, reading, memorizing, organization and prayer.

None of these ingredients guarantees a perfect product. A preacher can only do his best and that is a human variable.

The average sermon contains 5,000 words. Most preachers deliver ninety sermons in one place each year. This totals about 450,000 words per year. A full-length novel has about 50,000 words. A preacher, therefore, produces the equivalent of nine novels a year.

This should help answer the question, “What does the preacher do?”

How do Some Hear A Sermon? There are those who never get offended at any pointed truth (even from those preachers who still offer pointed truths). They hear what is said, but never make a personal application.

They are sure that others need it, and they certainly know how to apply it to their neighbors, but it hardly occurs to them to look inward.

There are others who feel that some sermons are a planned, personal attack on them. They may strike back at the perceived affront, but not at the preacher personally; always to others, in a close circle of friends, or against his wife/or children.

There are some that simply refuse to hear and learn. They are glad to let the preacher have

his say on what is for them an already decided issue. Nothing that he says (or the Bible says) is going to change their mind.

The wrong kind of hearer is inattentive, immature, inactive, indifferent and has “itching ears.” (Matthew 13:15; Acts 7:57; II Timothy 4:3-4; James 1:22-25)

How should you hear a Sermon? Listen to have your eyes opened, heart pricked and senses awakened. (Matthew 13:15-16)

Take the points of the sermon and work to improve yourself in that regard. The preacher should do the same for himself.

The right kind of hearer is sincere, serious, swift, steadfast and submissive. (Matthew 5:6; Mark 4:24; James 1:19)

A good listener is half of a good sermon!

*Dennis Gullede
Via The Chapman Challenger*

Special Prayers for Paul and Janet Kee of Cameroon requested by Barbara Kee, this is her son and daughter-in-law. They are missionaries in Cameroon. They are having civil unrest, riots, etc. there. They are supposed to be evacuated if a convoy becomes available and their situation permits. Barbara Kee is to be the speaker for Dover’s Ladies’ Day.

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

"If anyone would tell you the shortest, surest way to happiness and all perfection, he must tell you to make it a rule – to thank and praise God for everything that happens to you. For it is certain that whatever seeming calamity happens to you, if you thank and praise God for it, you turn it into a blessing."
William Law

Are Christians exempt from trials and troubles? After changing from a sinful life, and being baptized into Christ, are we promised a good joyful life? We aren't, are we? Rather the opposite. Adversity makes us grow. Problems in this life make us have a better understanding of others. We understand weakness.

"I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
(John 16:33 NIV)

Was Jesus speaking to unbelievers here? No, He was speaking to His disciples, believers. They would have trouble in this world. We will have trouble in this world. And the good of this is that Jesus offers us peace. He wanted the disciples to know that they were not alone in their afflictions they would soon encounter.

I like what Mr. Law said about thanking and praising God for whatever calamity happens to us. I've never thought about thanking God for my problems. Like most, my thanks have been limited for the good He has brought in my life. It would be hard to give thanks for the trouble we have, most of the time. We have no problem giving thanks after it is over and we see the good that came from it. At the initial time it would be very hard to give thanks for a tragedy. Good could possibly come later, but we wouldn't recognize it at the time. God realizes our suffering and sympathizes with us. He is a caring God.

"For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows." (II Corinthians 1:5)

Continued, same page, third column -

Remember Our Sick

Yvonne Adkisson – home, on dialysis.

A. G. Barton – hospitalized with serious health problems.

Bob Bennett – had pace-maker surgery, home recovering.

Lois Boley – home recovering.

Bill Brunner – Bonnie Vinson's friend, surgery pending.

Troy Curtis – in St. Vincent's Hospital, L R, surgery complications.

Tim Green – serious health problems, Bonnie Vinson's friend.

Sue Griffin - ICU at St. Mary's.

Marion Helton – eye surgery rescheduled for April 22.

Leota Hickey – cataract surgery February 27th, very successful.

Eddie and Mark – sons of Pat Holloway, serious health problems.

Annette Hull – test results not conclusive, follow-up Mar. 13th.

Cleon Johnson – home from UAMS.

Ray King – serious health problems.

Pat McAlister – lower back surgery scheduled March 12th.

Annie Robinson – undergoing cancer treatments again.

Margie Ratchford – Larry Mahan's sister, diagnosed with cancer.

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: Bernice Brown
Evelyn Burton
Robert Lee

Russellville Nursing & Rehab Center:

Evelyn Driver
Melba Hodges

Stella Manor: Pauline Dale
Louise Killer
Mae Vanzandt

Towbin Health Care, LR:

Charles Hickey

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Amie Barkley, Carolyn Bennett, Lloyd Boley, Wm and Susie Boley, Jeff Davis, Barbara Dawson, Charles Ensey, Hoyt and Sarah Ensey, Paul Griffin, Dorothy King, Jim Lackey, Rose Lee, Liliya McDaniel, Julie Moss, Charles Proctor, Don Sheeran, Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith, J. D. Whiteside, Tom Williams and Judy Will.

Special Children: Elysia Lee, Emmy May, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

Our Military: Greg Davis, Cole Wetzel and Rudy Will.

Expectant Mothers: Kelly Chance, Amy Johnson, and Kristen Nordin

MYSELF

**One day I looked at myself.
At the self that Christ can see;
I saw the person I am today,
And the one I ought to be.**

**I saw how little I really pray.
How little I really do;
I saw the influence of my life –
How little of it was true.**

**I saw the bundle of faults and fears
I ought to lay on the shelf;
I had given a little bit to God,
But I hadn't given myself.**

**I came from seeing myself,
With the mind made up to be
The sort of person that Christ can use
With a heart He may always see.**

*Author Unknown
Via The Voice
Russellville, Arkansas*

Brittany (4) had an earache and wanted a painkiller. She tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her Mom explained it was a childproof cap and she'd open it for her. Shocked, the little girl asked, "How does it know it's me?"

(Joan (77) I know the feeling.

Lines for Ladies continued from Column 1, same page -

The peace and comfort that Jesus has promised us is usually enough to get us through. Some troubles take much longer than others to overcome. And some people handle trouble much better than others do.

Through all of this we must remember that . . . "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)

Events

Dover Church of Christ Children's Church

Every Sunday
11:15 - 12:00 Noon

Ages 4 thru 8
Bible Story and
Activities

Ages 1 thru 3
Nursery Class

Lads/Leaderettes Leaders

Dover Church of Christ
Meet every Sunday, 5PM

Song leading
Bible Reading
Advanced Bible Reading

Lads to Leaders' Leaderettes Convention

March 20 thru 23
Nashville, Tennessee

Dover Ladies' Night

(4th) Thursday 7:00 PM
March 27th

Hostess: Diane Walters

Mark Your Calendars

AREA WIDE YOUTH DEVOTIONAL

3rd Sunday, 6:00 PM
March 16, 2008
Clarksville Church
of Christ
2211 West Main
Clarksville, AR
Please RSVP:
479-754-3360
Speaker: Llano Robinson
Chili Supper following
Services

GOSPEL MEETING

March 16th thru 19th
Clarksville Church of Christ
2211 West Main
Clarksville, AR
Speaker: Llano Robinson
Midway Church of Christ
Newport, AR
Sun.: 10:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Mon. thru Wed.: 7:00 PM

Dover Church of Christ
Ladies Day
Saturday, April 26th
Theme: "He is the Potter,
We are the clay."
(Isaiah 64: 8)
Speaker: Barbara Kee
Wichita Falls, Texas

March Birthdays

02 Kelly Williams
03 Bryan Bates
Keaton Creel
Rick Hollis
07 Harold Turner
Colton Williams
12 Carl Lawley
13 Matthew Moss
17 Jim Killer
18 Ryan Whiteside
21 William Boley
22 Alan Herron
25 Blake Brown
26 Mike Creel
Shelby Statler
27 Wilma Johnson
28 Kaeli Miller

If we missed your birthday,
please let us know so it won't
happen again.

OOPS!! We missed Austin
Myers' birthday. So Sorry! It
was March 5, 2008.

"In Search of the Lord's Way"

Now 24/7

The Search Program can now be
accessed any time website:
www.searchtv.org

Mack Lyon's weekly lesson can
be heard and seen on KARK,
Channel 4, Sunday, 7:30 AM.

THOSE TO SERVE

March 16, 2008

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

William Boley
Tommy Oakes

Communion

Podium: Earl Whitted
Serve: Chris Besterfeldt
Chris Loper
Chris Moss
Jeff Myers

Scripture Reading

Dennis Whiteside

**Sunday P.M.
Prayers**

Steve Pennington
Sid Womack

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.
Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.
Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Chris and Amanda Besterfeldt

Communion to Shut-Ins

Chris Ramirez
Dennis Whiteside

Greeters

Allen and Marilyn Veasman

Wednesday Night Devotional

March 19, 2008

Chris Moss

Meeting Times

Sunday Morning Bible Classes
9:45 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship
10:45 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship
6:00 P.M.
Ladies Tuesday Bible Class
10:00 A.M.
Wednesday Bible Classes
7:00 P.M.

Minister: Micah Williams
Church Office: 479-331-3428
Or Cell: 479-264-9244

Elders:

William Boley 858-7131
Jim Killer 331-2802
Allen Veasman 331-2156
Sid Womack 967-2367

Deacons:

Chris Besterfeldt
Donny Forehand
Brent Hottinger
Chris Loper
Rex McDaniel
Joe Miller
Chris Moss

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: JoAnn Killer
Sunday Church: Pat McAlister
Kaeli Miller

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Dover Church of Christ
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