

LOOSING OUR ABILITY TO PREACH?

(II Tim. 4:2)

12 Preach the word; be urgent in season, and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching,” One of the last commands given to Timothy, in the writings from Paul; is, **“Preach the word,”** II Tim. 4:2. There is such a thing as, **“Preaching a perverted gospel,”** Gal. 1:7, *“7 which is not another gospel: only there are some that trouble you, and pervert the gospel of Christ.”* The only thing accepted by God is for one to preach, *“The whole counsel of God,”* Acts 20:27. Nothing **less**; nor, nothing **more**” than the whole counsel of God, will do.

It is the Gospel that is God’s **power** to salvation, *“16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek,”* Rom. 1:16. This is the **only** power that God has to convert men to Christ. Jesus said, *“17 Sanctify them in the truth, my word is truth,”* Jno. 17:17. The word is truth; but, the word is the power of God to salvation; so, the truth is the power of God to salvation. When we are told to preach the word, we are told to preach the truth. This truth will save our souls: *“32 and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free,”* Jno. 8:32. When we are admonished to preach the word, we are admonished to preach the truth, this will **make one free!**

Rom. 10:17, *“17 So belief cometh of hearing and hearing by the word of Christ”* Faith and believe are used **interchangeably** in the New Testament: *“6 and without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that seek him,”* Heb. 11:6. In this passage we learn that faith and believe are interchangeable; so, *“faith comes from hearing,”* that is what the KJV says! Without the hearing of God’s word, there can be no faith! This is the reason for the command, **“preach the word,”** II Tim. 4:2.

This **word will go** to the inner recesses of a man’s heart: *“12 For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart,”* Heb. 4:12. Also, it is stated in Jno. 6:63, *“63 It is the spirit that giveth life; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I have spoken unto you are spirit and are life.”* So, we see something that gets on the **inside** of man and is life – it works for the conversion of the person who accepts it, note the good soil and the word of the parable of, *“the seed and the sower,”* Lk. 8:11. God works from the **inside out**.

Through the preaching of the word and a person listening to that preaching, there is faith established in his heart; thus, we have people of faith: Heb. 11. When one denies the preaching of the word, he denies such a thing as faith. When a person denies such a thing as faith, he denies salvation by faith. It is **not** a salvation by faith only, James says: *“24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only,”* Jas. 2:24, (KJV). Of all the statements made by men that salvation is by “faith only” that passage in Jas. 2:24 is still there and needs some consideration. James teaches, *“19 the demons also believe, and shudder?”* Jas. 2:19. If faith is the **only** thing needed to be saved, the demons will be saved! But you see that is the doctrine of men and not the doctrine of God!

I would to the Lord we had more people say, *“All I want is the Word of God!”* We would have more people being saved. *“Preach the Word,”* II Tim. 4:2.

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