

Loyal Heart Ministries

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Theology of Preaching

We Must Preach Because God
Has Spoken

- “Preaching is Characteristic of Christianity”
John Broadus
- “Preaching is the communication of truth by man to men. It has in it two essential elements, truth and personality.” Philip Brooks

Aristotle's 3 Means of Persuasion

- Ethos: the character of the speaker; making him worthy of belief.
- Pathos: the emotion of the audience toward the subject matter.
- Logos: the content of the message.
- Example: I Thess. 1:5
 - Logos: “not come to you in word only”
 - Pathos: “in power . . . in much assurance”
 - Ethos: “kind of men we were among you”

“Preaching is theology coming through a man who is on fire.” Martin Lloyd-Jones, *Preaching and Preachers*, 1971.

“Preaching is a God called speaker delivering a Christ-centered message from a portion of the Bible, and, in reliance on the Holy Spirit, bringing that message to bear upon his listeners with the goal of calling them to trust God.” Stephen Rummage

Dr. Albert Mohler's Trinitarian Theology of Preaching

- The God Who Speaks
 - We Preach Because God Has Spoken
 - In the OT the phrases, “the Lord said,” “the Lord Spoke,” and “the word of the Lord came” appear at least 3,808 times.
 - The reformation formula – where Scripture speaks, God speaks
 - “The Word goes out of the mouth of God in such a manner that it likewise goes out of the mouth of men; for God does not speak openly from heaven but employs men as His instruments.” John Calvin

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- The Son Who Saves
 - Hebrews 1:1-2
 - All Christian Preaching is Christ-centered.
 - Christian preaching points to the incarnation of Christ as the core of the Christian confession
 - II Cor. 5:19 – Preaching is an act of grace.

- All preaching is to be rooted in the incarnation
 - John 1:14
 - The incarnation allows us to speak of God in terms He has set for Himself in the identity of Jesus Christ.
 - “The sermon takes its thrust when it begins: The Word became flesh . . . Once and for all, and when account of this is taken in every thought.” Karl Barth

- All preaching is resurrection preaching
 - A theology of the cross (I Cor. 1:18)
 - A theology of glory: the glory belongs to God alone (I Cor. 2:4-5).

Dr. Albert Mohler's Trinitarian Theology of Preaching

- The Spirit Who Illuminates
 - The preacher is the external minister of the Word, but the Holy Spirit is the internal Minister of the Word.
 - “You might as well expect to raise the dead by whispering in their ears, as hope to save souls by preaching to them, if it were not for the agency of the Holy Spirit.” Charles Spurgeon

- **The Spirit's Work**

- Inspiration, Indwelling, Regeneration, Sanctification,
- Illumination

- It is the Spirit's ministry of illumination that allows the Word to go forth.
- Both preacher and hearer dependent upon the Spirit for any understanding of the text. Matt. 13:13, 16.
- “No one should hesitate to confess that he is able to understand God's mysteries only in so far as he is illumined by God's grace. He who attributes any more understanding to himself is all the more blind because he does not recognize his own blindness.” John Calvin

- To preach “in the Spirit” is to preach with the acknowledgement that the human instrument has no control over the Word as it is set forth within the congregation. (1 John 5:6)
- This principle does not negate the role and responsibility of the preacher (Rom. 10:14).