



Spickard... on the ... Preaching of the Gospel..

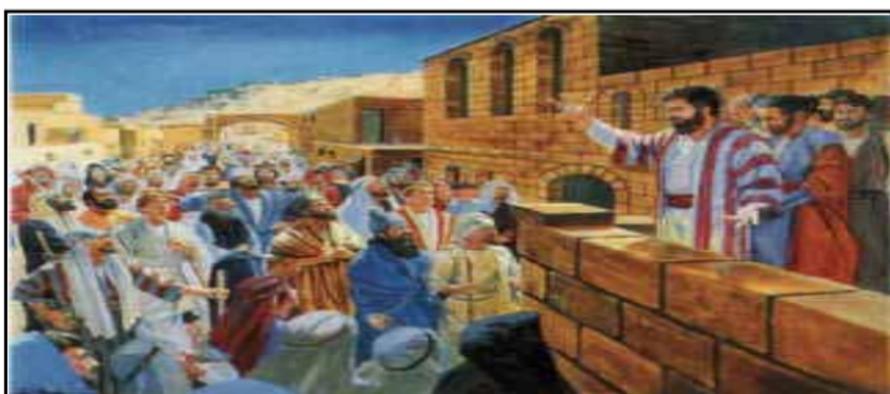
***"What is..."Real Preaching?" How
Can We Know What it is? "***

***"For unto us was the gospel preached,...but
the word preached did not profit them, not
being **mixed** with faith in them that heard
it." - Hebrews 4:2, 1769 King James Version.***

***" It is the Spirit that Quickens, makes alive,
the Flesh, the human element, is of no profit.
The words that I speak..they are spirit, and
they are life." - John 6 : 63, paraphrase, ibid.***

***" ..made us sufficient ministers of the New
Testament; not of the letter...for the letter
kills, but the Spirit resurrects the hearer." "***
- 2 Corinthians 3:6, paraphrase, ibid.

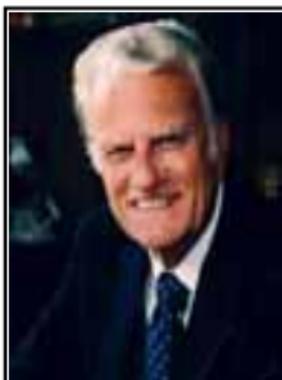
***" For the Word of God is Resurrection Life,
and powerful, keener, sharper than any
double-edged sword, piercing into the divi-
sion of man's very identity, exposing him
as vulnerable to God's converting and
transforming Spirit." - Hebrews 4:12, para-
phrase, ibid.***



***^ PREACHING THE GOSPEL, as spoken by the
Apostle Peter on the Day of Pentecost, stopped
traffic ! The hearers were transfixed as Divine
Utterance and Power effused from Peter's lips.
Many had never heard "anointed Preaching." That
was changed, as 3,000 hearers were baptized.***

What is Real Preaching ?

Every Sunday in Gentile churches there is a worship service. Much of it is based on formal or ritual worship. But nearly all worship, no matter in what context, is accompanied by "preaching" in some manner. "Preaching" is defined in the dictionary as "speaking publicly on a religious subject or scripture text." "Preaching" defined as in the Bible is something else. Biblical Preaching is the proclaiming of the "inspired" Word of God. Paul told Timothy that preaching was *"to Preach the Word...Reprove, Rebuke, and Exhort with all Patience and accompanying Teaching"* (2 Timothy 4:2, paraphrase). Reproof and Rebuke seems to represent a sizable portion of preaching. Reproof means to kindly instruct or correct in a fairly direct manner. Rebuke implies a severe or cogent warning. Exhortation is to encourage and offer support to the hearers in matters of faith. In our present day, there are many preachers. Some of which are said to be among the best ever. Yet, the results of such preaching of these "celebrity" preachers does not stem the tide of the moral degradation and defilement affecting the great mass of society. Nor does such "effectual" preaching increase attendance in the popular Church. Indeed, over the last 16 years, attendance has sizably decreased. In the time period of 1991-2004, the number of unchurched adults in the U.S. doubled ! In 2005 alone, nearly 12,000 Southern Baptist churches



< BILLY GRAHAM is considered to be one of the greatest preachers of the Church Age. Yet, only 2% of the people "converted" by his preaching are said to remain so! Compare this to Charles Finney who had a 70% rate of conversion or D.L. Moody who had a 30% rate. Peter had 100% conversions

on the Day of Pentecost ! According to Dr. Julius Fast, a behavioral scientist, who wrote the book , "Body Language," states that Graham's "talks" are not genuine ! His body language and choreographed body movements depict sophisticated showmanship... not sincere beliefs !

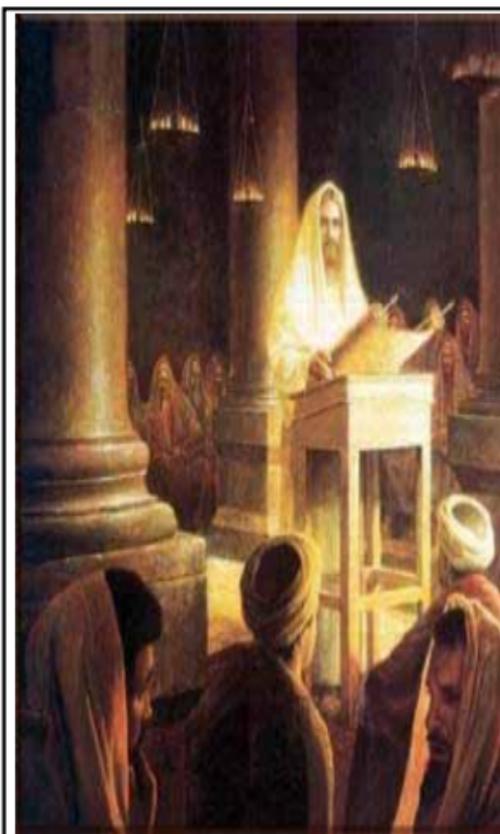
reported zero or one baptism...55% of Southern Baptist churches reported no youth baptisms (12-17) in the previous year ! Yet, Southern Baptists claim to have the greatest preacher of all time, Billy Graham, at their disposal. Indeed, over the last few years, 73% of Southern Baptist churches admit stagnant or declining growth. What is wrong then with modern preaching despite the skills and shrills of televangelists claiming there are great ongoing Revivals ?

Real Preaching in the Bible

Jewish culture, at the time of Christ, extolled the institution of preaching in lofty terms. A Preacher did not require any systemic training or formal disciplines to be qualified to preach. All that was effectively needed was the mental and moral faculties to know his scriptures well and his conduct in accordance with such. Early on, Jesus was considered to be a "*powerful preacher,*" and as such, a celebrity of sorts (Mark 1:28; Matthew 4:23-4). In fact, when Jesus preached in the synagogues of Galilee at the beginning of His ministry, he was *applauded !* (Luke 4:14-15, *The Original New Testament*). The Hebrew equivalent of "***Bravo,***" was used by a congregation at the end of a good preacher's discourse. Thus, when Jesus was applauded, it also included calls and cries of the exclamation of "***Bravo***" (*Ibid*, footnote, p. 140).

When have you ever heard "***bravos***" for the preaching in modern-day Christendom ???

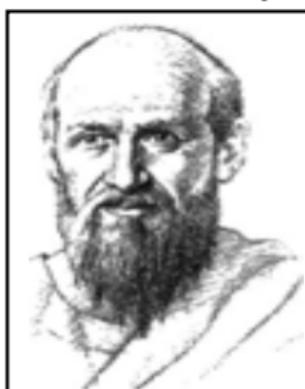
Preachers who possessed outstanding ability to preach attracted disciples rather easily, as Preaching was considered to be the highest calling and worthy of fame ! This is why that Christ was able to draw disciples almost immediately to Him. The reason that Christ had such great power to preach, however, was



< CONFRONTATION:
In the Synagogue at Capernaum, Jesus was challenged by a Demoniac. Quickly, Jesus cast out the unclean spirit to the amazement of those in attendance. Such a display of authority and power gave added impetus and notoriety to Christ's preaching. Where are the Demoniacs today? They are not in the congregation.. Are they standing,... behind the pulpit ???

was not due to natural ability. He was empowered by the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist said that Christ had been given the Spirit *"without measure"* (John 3:34). Jesus had also been ***full of the Holy Spirit*** (Luke 4:1) from His 40-day Fast in the Jordan Wilderness. In addition, the 40-day "prophetic" Fast prepared Jesus to receive His Ministry, as He said in the synagogue at Nazareth, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon ME, because He hath **anointed** me to preach the Gospel..."* (Luke 4:18). This was also confirmed by Peter's address to Cornelius' house in Acts 10:38 which Peter said, *"God **anointed** Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power : who went about doing good, healing all that were oppressed of the Devil ; for God was with Him."* Paul said the *same* of his preaching and that *"my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power"* (1 Cor. 2:4). Hence, it is seen that real preaching of the Word of God requires not only a working knowledge of the Scriptures, but also supernatural help of doing so through the power and infilling of the Holy Spirit. Preaching is not dependent on natural ability, but spiritual graces and gifts. Anything less.... is not preaching. Examples

of this are recorded in the Book of Acts: Peter, being filled with the Spirit when he preached on the Day of Pentecost; Stephen, full of the Spirit before the Sanhedrin, in which his face shone with the Glory of God (Acts 6:15); Paul, was full of the Holy Spirit when confronting Elymas



< THE APOSTLE PAUL tells in his letters that when he arrived in the city of Corinth, that he was not dependent upon self-confidence, self-assertiveness, or personal "tour-de-force," but in demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, Paul said that "able ministers of the New Testament... were not sufficient of

themselves to think anything of themselves... as having ability or talent...but their sufficiency was of God ! Yet not of the letter...but of the Spirit : for the letter works death but the Spirit gives life to the hearers" ... that life generates one virtue, consistently, and that is faith !

the Sorcerer, at Paphos in Cyprus.

In these instances, these men delivered their messages as the Holy Spirit energized them and directed them. The Holy Spirit had been given to them when they first believed, and they had been baptized or infilled with the Holy Spirit, empowering them to be witnesses as promised by Christ. And they had been filled with the Spirit on many occasions afterwards.

In Acts 4, Peter and John were brought before the High Priests in Jerusalem for their role in preaching Christ. There Peter, ***filled*** (vs. 8) with the Holy Spirit spoke to them. The High Priests and their company saw that Peter and John were remarkably bold and authoritative. They took note that *"they had been with Jesus"* (Acts 4:13). The ***"Anointing"*** of the Holy Spirit enabled these men to be transformed before their audience as inspired. It is seen by the examples in the Bible that ***"Anointed Preaching"*** is real preaching as described by Peter that *"...preaching (is) with the Holy Spirit sent down from Heaven, which things the Angels desire to look into"* (1 Peter 1:12; Acts 6:15).

Real Preaching Exemplified by Faith....

Lastly, "real" or anointed preaching always is illustrated, or exemplified by faith. In Acts 6:5, the deacon Stephen, is described as a *"man full of faith and the Holy Ghost,"* and three verses later, he again is described as *"full of faith and power, and did great wonders and miracles among the people."* Stephen carried this fullness of faith and the witness of the Holy Spirit into his testimony before the Sanhedrin (Acts 6:15). In Acts 11:24, Barnabas is said to be *"full of the Holy Spirit, and...faith (in his preaching) ...as many people who heard him were added unto the Lord."* Barnabas became an Apostle, and later ministered with Paul on Paul's first missionary trip.

Today, so-called preaching is not done by the fullness of faith, or the leading of the Holy Spirit, or by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The lack of faith in God's Word today is because the "hirelings" preaching it have no real or genuine faith in it, as Hebrews 4:2 implies. Indeed, this should be of no surprise, as Jesus himself predicted in Luke 18:8b, that faith would be a scarce commodity in the Last Days. It is no more scarce than behind the pulpits of popular Christendom ! Yet, God will not be without a witness in these Last Days and will cause a great supernatural Revival with no help from the false ministers of the Church System. It is as prophesied by the Prophet Joel to be no less than the "Latter-Day Outpouring," or Revival. ***"Real Preaching"*** will be heard once again !

***For a demonstration
of "Real Preaching"...
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< Today's church membership is lulled to sleep because there is *no* real faith being mixed with God's Word to *quicken* or make alive the hearers ! Preaching God's Word without genuine faith makes it powerless and brings in unbelief, spiritual slumber, apathy & death.