

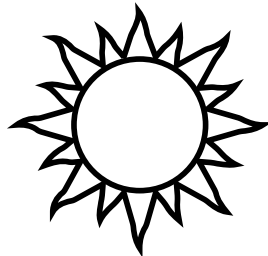


# EXPOSITORY PREACHING

A GFC DISTINCTIVE



**“EXPOSITORY PREACHING” REFERS TO PREACHING THAT EXPLAINS THE BIBLE IN ITS OWN WORDS. BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE TO BE THE WORD OF GOD, THIS DISTINCTIVE IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US, AND WE PRACTICE IT EACH SUNDAY FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:**



## **1. IT FOLLOWS JESUS' COMMAND**

In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus commanded us to, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you."

It probably goes without saying that we cannot teach people to observe all that Jesus commanded, if we do not teach all that Jesus commanded. In other words, we cannot follow this command from Him if we only teach a few things that He said. We have to teach all of it. Therefore, the best way to preach is to go verse-by-verse through the Bible. The best way to make disciples, is to regularly teach them the Word of God through the means of expository preaching.

Preachers are not to preach the newspaper. They are not to announce the latest event in sports, politics, and world news. They can mention them. They can make reference to them but they are not to proclaim them. They are to proclaim the Word of God. They are to teach people to observe all that Jesus commanded, and that is one reason we do this here at Grace Fellowship Chilliwack. We want to make disciples the way Jesus told us to.

## **2. IT FOLLOWS JESUS' EXAMPLE**

Not only did Jesus command that we teach people the Bible, but He also did it Himself. He was an expository preacher as Luke 4:16-17 shows: "And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and [explained it to the people] . . ."

Jesus read a prophecy from Isaiah and explained it to the people of Nazareth. He expounded the Word of God to them. As the Word made flesh, Jesus could have told the people anything He wanted to but He did not do that. He taught them Scripture.

We could add to this that He was not alone. There are other examples in the Bible of preachers who explained the Word of God to the people. A short list would include Ezra (Nehemiah 8:1-8), Peter (Acts 2:17-21), Stephen (Acts 7), and the Apostle Paul (Acts 13:33-47). Several biblical authors did it in their writings such as Matthew (Matthew 13:35), Mark (Mark 15:28), James (James 2:9-13), and Jude (Jude 17-23). It is no small thing to walk in the footsteps of men like this, but that is what we are called to do. The church is called to proclaim the Word of God.

## **3. IT UPHOLDS THE BIBLE'S INERRANCY**

Inerrancy is the doctrine that the Bible is without error in any of its words or doctrine. As the Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit of God, the Bible is accurate in all that it says. It has no mistakes in it, and the best way to uphold that is to teach the Bible verse-by-verse. If every Word is inspired, then every word should be taught. Jesus Himself said in Matthew 5:18 that: "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law." The Apostle Paul said in Second Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching."

The Bible is the tool that God has given to the church. The Lord could have given us anything, but He gave us a book, and we need to take it seriously. The Bible is upright, well-tryed, and sweeter than honey. It is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword. It is truth, it is a lamp, and it is our light. We have nothing else to guide us like this which why we do expository preaching at our church.

## **4. IT HELPS PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE**

Most people do not read their Bible out of order. In other words, when they sit down to read the Scriptures, they do not start off with Genesis and read a few verses there and then jump over to Matthew. They read it one verse at a time, one book at a time.

So the best way to preach, is to do the same thing. Preachers need to go through the Bible the way people read it: one verse at a time. They need to start in Genesis 1 and go all the way through Genesis 50. Then they need to do it again with the next book of the Bible, so the people can follow along for themselves. The audience needs to observe how the minister deals with difficult passages, how the content of a passage affects the meaning, how the language affects the interpretation, and so forth and so on. In other words, we do expository preaching because it helps people to understand their Bibles. It allows them to imitate at home what they see the minister doing in the pulpit.

## **CONCLUSION**

While there are many helpful ways to preach the Scriptures, there is one method that should never be ignored, and that is the expository method. It follows Jesus' commands. It follows Jesus' example. It upholds the inerrancy of the Bible, and it helps people to understand their Bible better, which is why it is a distinctive of our church. As Martin Luther said: "The pulpit is the throne of the Word of God", and we believe that here at Grace Fellowship Chilliwack. It is our passion to see God's Word lived out, and displayed in the life of the local church.

If you would like to learn more about expository preaching or anything else in this pamphlet, we would love to hear from you.



## **CONTACT US**

**Join us Sundays @ 9:30 AM**

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