

God's Word and Being the Church

“What is preaching?”

“It is theology on fire....

Preaching is theology coming through a man who is on fire.”

(Martyn Lloyd-Jones)

Theology:

Theos (God) + *logia/logos* (word, speech, discourse)

= what we can say about God

“Theology is the careful study of statements about God.” (*Steve Lawson*)

A biblical theology is a believer's knowledge of God and His ways derived from a careful study of Scripture.

1. Theology concerns the **local church's** study of God and His ways.
2. Our theological understanding of God comes from **Scripture**, God's Self-authored book about Himself and His ways.
3. The Bible reveals God to us **most completely** in God's Son, Jesus Christ.
4. The entire Bible centers on the **person and work of Jesus**, revealing Him as Sin Conqueror, Savior, and Lord over all creation.

We are concerned to connect **sound doctrine** with **sanctified living** (holiness).

Theology matters because:

1. As God's people, we can speak the truth in love because we know, believe, and love God's truth.
2. We are people who care about holy living, about being like Jesus.
3. It helps us know how to navigate life God's way, to God's glory, to our personal good, and to the good of others.

What does it look like **for us** to **be the church** for John and Sarah in this season of life and need?

How does **our** theology, **our** doctrine, **our** family life, and **their** need all **come together** in this time of their **weakness**?

Be certain of this **counter-reality**:

- John and Sarah **want** answers and relief.
- The world **has** answers and relief for John and Sarah.
- The world's answers are **attractive, compelling**, and immediately **practical**.
- The world stands **eagerly ready** to fill any void or lack stemming from the church family's apathy, unpreparedness, or unfaithfulness to address these matters in the grace and wisdom of Jesus Christ.

Ask yourself:

- 1. How am I being the church** for others in my church family, who are fellow sinners, saints, and strugglers, in navigating the issues of life?
- 2. How am I being an active and faithful part** of the efforts my church family is making to prepare ourselves for serving others and pointing them to Christ?
- 3. What investment am I making** in the process of helping others fight sin and become more like Jesus Christ in their daily life?

We connect following Jesus with three vital ways of ministering God's Word and ways in our church family. Here are ways we can support God's Word and which help us understand how theology and doing life together **bring us together** to face the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

“And Jesus came up to and spoke [to His disciples], saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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 keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’” (Matt. 28:18-20)

I. The **public** ministry of God's Word (emphasis = saints collectively)

- 2 Timothy 4:1-2
- 2 Timothy 2:15
- James 1:21-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

II. The **personal** ministry of God's Word (emphasis = self individually)

- Acts 20:18-19
- 1 Timothy 4:6-8, 15-16

III. The **private** ministry of God's Word (emphasis = sinners/sufferers)

- Acts 20:20, 27
- Galatians 6:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 1 Corinthians 10:13;
2 Timothy 3:16; Ephesians 4:15

*“And Jesus came up to and spoke [to His disciples], saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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 keep all that I commanded you**; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’” (Matt. 28:18-20)*

Our emphasis in discipleship is
speaking Jesus' truth in love
to grow in the grace and knowledge of Him
and to become more like Him.

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