

The Wednesday Word, July 27, 2016: Able Ministers of the New Covenant

*“...who also has made us able ministers of the New Covenant ..”
(2 Corinthians 3:6).*

In Colossians 3:16 we find an encouragement to let the Word of Christ dwell richly in us. But, what is the Word of Christ? It is the Gospel. In other words, the Gospel should be the very centre of our thinking and affections.

As able ministers of the New Covenant, we should be, first and foremost, gospel preachers. I didn't say that we should all be evangelists. That would be a grave error. What I mean is, regardless of our ministry gifting, we should all be Gospel preachers.

Some years ago I attended a function and met an old friend. He asked me how I was. I replied, “Wonderful, my sins are all forgiven. They have all been done away with. On top of that, I have a High Priest who is ever living for me. How can I improve on that?” My friend, a professing Christian, said, “Please, please tell me more, I desperately need to hear that, but I never hear anything like that at our church.” His is not an isolated case. God's people are being starved for the gospel as they exist on a believer centred, moralistic diet.

However, from the lips of the able minister of the New Covenant should fall precious gospel truths. Their themes should be Justification and acquittal; the truths of the shed blood, the purging of sins, the free and righteous grace of God, reconciliation, the cross, the cleansed conscience, the Law/Grace distinction, propitiation and the doing away of wrath. But most of all, the able minister of the New Covenant preaches Christ Himself. Paul rejoiced that in spite of the enemies of the Gospel, Christ was being preached (Philippians 1:18).

We are to preach Christ Himself. He is the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form (Colossians 2:9). Preach Him.

In Him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:3). Preach Him.

He is our Prophet (Hebrews 1:1-2). Preach Him.

He is our Priest (Hebrews 2:17). Preach Him.

He is our King (1 Timothy 6:15). Preach Him.

The able minister of the New Covenant does not preach Himself (2 Corinthians 4:5). Nor does he preach his speculations (1 Timothy 4:7). He preaches Christ, the Alpha and Omega the beginning and the end. He preaches Christ the one who was given (John 3:16) and Christ the one who gave Himself (Galatians 1:4). He preaches Christ the Mighty God (Isaiah 9:6) and Christ, the servant of Yahweh (Isaiah 52:13). He preaches Christ, the victor not Christ the Victim. He preaches Christ the sinless one.

He preaches Christ the perfect one, the one who is perfect in holiness, perfect in power, perfect in love, perfect in His words and perfect in His deeds.

When a New Covenant Minister is in love with the Master, he is careful to magnify the name of Jesus, for that name is above all other names. The name of Jesus resounds with the Gospel. The name of Jesus bursts forth with torrential Good News. The name of Jesus announces Him as our rescuer, deliverer and saviour.

The able minister of the New Covenant preaches Christ in His doing.

The able minister of the New Covenant preaches Christ in His dying

The able minister of the New Covenant preaches Christ in His burial
The able minister of the New Covenant preaches Christ in His rising again.
The able minister of the New Covenant preaches Christ in His ascension.
The able minister of the New Covenant preaches Christ in His Intercession.
The able minister of the New Covenant preaches Christ in His Second Coming.

Gospel preaching will produce a people who are madly, passionately in love with Jesus. That will bring an awakening and a revival.

And that's the Gospel Truth!