

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XII

October 5, 2003

No. 40

## BENEFITS OF EXPOSITORY PREACHING

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**P**aul, with all of the authority of the Lord behind him, exhorts Timothy to “*preach the word*” (2 Timothy 4:2). This word is the mind of God revealed, the power of God to save and the sound doctrine of absolute truth to teach. (1 Corinthians 2:1-13, Romans 1:16, James 1:21, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, John 17:17). Preaching the word is therefore mandatory in order to please God, and keep hearers spiritually healthy.

One of the purest forms of preaching “the word” is “expository” preaching. The English word “expository” comes from the Latin “*exponere*” which means “to set forth”. Such method of preaching therefore involves the work of “explaining” or “setting forth” the meaning of a text as it is revealed.

One obvious benefit from this type of preaching is that the very words of the inspired text will be defined and explained. More importantly, they will be defined and explained in the context in which they appear. For example, after the servant of God has explained the meaning of the “*gates of Hell shall not prevail*

*against it*” (Matthew 16:18), a hearer is going to understand Jesus’ teaching regarding the church is how physical death, the departing into the hadean world, will not prevail or impede the establishment of the Lord’s church, instead of thinking Jesus is speaking that Gehenna (Hell), the place of final eternal punishment and source of all evil influence will not prevail. Again, defining “*faith*” in its context in Romans 14:23, the expositor will communicate the truth to his hearers that one acting contradictorily to “*faith*”, one’s inward belief and conviction, is the sin under consideration, not disobeying “*the faith*”, which is the objective gospel of Christ (cf. Romans 14:2, 22, Galatians 1:6,23, 1 Jn. 3:4).

Hearers of expository preaching will not only grow in the understanding of what a text means, they will grow deeper in their knowledge. They will be grasping the distinction that exists between terms as they appear in given text. For example, the expository preacher in setting forth the meaning of the works of the flesh will make clear the distinction between “*jealousies*” and “*envyings*” as he preaches from Galatians 5:19-21. The hearer of

the expositor will learn the difference between “*kindness*” and “*goodness*” as the fruit of the Spirit is expounded upon in Galatians 5:22.

Expository preaching differs from textual preaching in that the text in its context is allowed to determine the direction of thought one is to take, instead of coming to a text and taking it in a direction of one’s choosing. The very points God reveals become the points of the sermon. Therefore, the points have the direct authority of the Lord behind them. One seeing how a passage fits in a given context, will also be less likely to use the passage contradictorily to its original context, and be more equipped to identify false doctrine which so often violates this important principle of interpreting God’s word.

This week we have the opportunity to gain a better knowledge of the book of James. Let us enthusiastically listen to the expository preaching provided, and learn what God emphasizes, and be strengthened by His authoritative words.