

GLAD TIDINGS

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

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Preacher, Preach To Me!

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The late Luke Miller, a black man and an excellent gospel preacher used to say during his tent meetings, which were generously attended by both black and white, “*I preach to my race of people, but sometimes when I shoot at a black man, it backfires and hits a white man!*” the gospel has a way of doing that to each of us regardless of our color. None of those acquainted with the gospel need to be told that the gospel is “color blind.” It speaks to all alike. It has not economic boundaries or geographic limits.

“of course, preaching to people is the purpose of preaching.”

However, among those assembled to hear the gospel being preached, there is a tendency on the part of some to feel that the preacher zeros in on them a good part of the time. And not infrequently is the preacher faced with a sort of half-hearted complaint that he is “preaching just to me!” Of course, preaching to people is the purpose of preaching. If there were none to be addressed; none who needed “reproving, rebuking

and exhorting” (2 Tim. 4:2), then preaching would be utterly useless. The fact that preaching is being done at all is a strong implication that there is a need for it, not just for some, but for all!

“He is teaching them individually if he is teaching them at all.”

The fact is, when a group of people are assembled and the preacher delivers his message, he is not teaching them collectively but individually. He is preaching to each one present. If there is nothing to be said to them individually, then he could well save his effort. He is teaching them individually if he is teaching them at all. This is why some learn and others do not; why some profit from the lesson, and it is wasted on others. It is an individual matter. What is said to a group may have personal application to each one in the group, but it is still personal and individual and not collective teaching and what a group of individuals learn in their individual capacity may, however, be executed collectively, but they did not learn it collectively even though they may all have been together when they learned it.

Learning is an individual matter, and God judges us the same way in the last day.

“He demonstrates that he is able to weigh the evidence presented and properly evaluate and apply it to himself.”

When one feels that the preaching “is just to me,” he actually is admitting that he needs it and that he feels guilty in some degree. In one sense, he is complimenting himself. He demonstrates that he is able to weigh the evidence presented and properly evaluate and apply it to himself. He shows that he is not so self-centered that he feels above reproof, nor so puffed-up that he cannot see his own weaknesses and keenly feel the Lord’s displeasure when scripture is cited. This is an asset. This is the one who can profit from preaching and very likely will do so if he keeps his attitude right. If the preacher is “preaching just to you,” be glad and take heart for, whatever it is worth, it indicates that the preacher believes that you have the kind of character that can be strengthened, edified, and made better. So, “PREACHER, PREACH TO ME!”