

NEWSLETTER 2022-5

To: My Fellow Saints

Date October 24, 2022

Re: **URGENT APPEAL: The Importance of Detailed Bible Study**

Beloved Saints and Fellow Laborers-in-the-Lord!! Greetings to you once more in the wonderful and precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. **I am urging you to read this and all newsletters as well as accessing the website (livingwaterstudies.com), with much prayer.**

The area of emphasis in this newsletter has been referred to before and is hereby repeated (in more details) because of the necessity to place some emphasis on understanding **“Expository Preaching/Teaching.”** While this is a brief presentation on such a very important subject, there will be helpful information that will be of benefit.

It must be emphasized that the Word of God is not for **“Leisure Reading.”** Some very important comments were made in our study on Psalm 1 from which I will make two quotes. You are encouraged to access the website: livingwaterstudies.com, go to studies, access THE PSALMS and go to **“Psalm 1 Part A ... The Righteous** (this covers Psalm 1 verses 1-3).

1. **First quote . . .** see page five in the lesson for Psalm 1:1-3 (This is a quote taken from “The Preacher’s Outline Study Bible):
“The Holy Spirit is central to all worship. God has revealed Himself, His glorious plan of salvation, and His will to every one of us in His inspired Word. Only if we have chosen the path of righteousness can we have an audience with Him. Only if we meditate on His Word can we fully understand the ways of God and worship Him in truth. Anyone can be inspired and comforted by reading the psalms, but we can only experience intimate relationship with Him if we love Him and obey His life-giving instruction (John 14:21; 15:10, 14). Such a relationship gives us liberty to bear our hearts out to God.” (Emphasis mine)

2. **Second quote . . .** see page 7
Leisure reading also known as **recreational reading, pleasure reading, free voluntary reading and independent reading**, is independent reading, self-select reading of a continuous text for a wide range of personal and social purposes. It can take place in and out of school, at any time.
Leisure reading has its values and must not be discouraged. **However, the Word of God needs more than leisure reading; it is the inspired Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16), given to us to guide us in living according to His will (Psa. 119; etc.).**

NB.: Note also the paragraph after the quote note above in our lesson on Psalm 1:1-3 on Page 7.

3. One of the major setbacks that we all face today is that we want everything done instantly. We do not want to go through the process of doing what is required and that includes spending quality time in God's presence, with His Word, etc. In our lesson mentioned above (Psalm 1 Part A . . . verses 1-3), please note also Pages 14-24. I am encouraging you to carefully note Pages 14-18 . . . emphasis here is the righteous: "Delights in The Things of God" (Psa. 1:1-2) . . . go through these notes carefully and prayerfully.

I am somewhat overtime and can only quote some references, trusting you will be able to see what message they are communicating (check the context in which they are used if you need further clarification): 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16; Hosea 4:6; James 1:19-27; Matt. 7:24-27; Luke 10:38-42; John 7, NB Vv. 60-71, highlight Vv. 66-71; etc.) Beloved, there is a **GREAT and URGENT need to return to the ways of God Jer. 6, NB. Vv. 16-30, highlight Vv. 16-17.**

Psalm 119:9-12 NKJV

"How can a young man cleans his ways? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes."

Beloved! Too many, far too many have time for everything else but ONLY limited or no time for God!! Hours watching TV! Hours on the phone! Hours with various sources of social media! Hours running here and there! Etc.; **and yet how much quality time with God and the things of God!!**

William D. Longstall's hymn: "**Take Time to Be Holy**" . . . Partial quote:

Verse 1

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord,

Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word.

Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,

Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

Verse 2

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;

Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.

By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be,

Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

RATIO OF EXPOSITORY (EXPOSITIONAL) TO TOPICAL PREACHING/TEACHING

1. Opinion On Textual Preaching

(I will use "**Preaching**" in my presentation in reference to both: **preaching/teaching**").

The Biblical basis for preaching including expository preaching can be found in many places in the Bible. It should be noted that 2 Timothy 3:16 is perhaps one of the most

important references, for it states that Scripture is breathed out by God, which means that the Bible is actually God's Words—it is God's Word to mankind.

Interpretation is technical (*methodical*, well organized) and grammatical exposition; this involves careful drawing out of the text the exact meaning of a passage in its original context. Exposition is a verb informative teaching that can be generally applied to any subject and even more importantly to the Word of God.

Expository preaching is traditionally associated with the manner adopted from Jewish teachers of God's Word. In essence, expository preaching differs from topical preaching because topical preaching focuses solely on a specific topic and whatever reference are used are all relevant to the topic, while expository preaching focuses on the text and discusses various topics within the text, bringing out the intended meaning of the text.

It is imperative for a minister to resist the desire to present his own ideas, motivated by sheer externalism and man glory, etc. but instead he is to remain focused on **"Thus says the LORD!"** If he is going to be effectively do so then he has to expound the Word of God. and as we say in years gone by we must "break down the Word" so that the people will understand, accept, and apply what God is communicating. To do so the minister has to **exposit** (demonstrate clearly) and **exegete** ("exegete": expound, interpret, translate, etc.) and **explain** what is within the Word of God (these three outstanding words are similar to some extent but important to be noted). It is not for the preacher to take away, add to nor be influenced by public opinion, popularity, tradition or by what people think. God had given instructions to Jeremiah in regards to his assignment and people's reaction (Jer. 1:1-8). Note also that God touched Jeremiah's mouth (Jer. 1:9) because he needed help as the LORD'S messenger (see also Isa. 6:7). Herein, we see that God gave Jeremiah (Isaiah) a message to deliver and should be done God's way to the benefit of the people and to the glory of God. We the servants of God ought to present what message God desires to communicate to the people. **Expository preaching is an effective and powerful means of delivering God's message as He desires.**

Expository preaching requires time, effort, focused attention and the power of God to lead and direct God's way! The minister is not there to present his own creative idea or put on display human ingenuity. Expository preaching/teaching takes time, the preacher must labor with the Word of God, listening to God and yielding to the leading of the Holy Spirit, our Teacher (Luke 12:12; John 14:26; 1 John 2:27). What the preacher receives from God those hours of labor and submission to God in his preparation that is what he must share with the people to their benefit and to the glory of God. Unfortunately, many want to hear what they want to hear, what delights them and too many have been thus spoiled by preachers with itching ears and who speak in the flesh. We are all aware of the fact that the Word of God to many is offensive, especially when the truth is not desired, but it is our responsibility to say **"Thus says the LORD"** and do it with sincere love. Paul for example, was persecuted and regarded as being

offensive as a result he was persecuted, imprisoned, etc. and he likewise advised Timothy “watch thou in all things, endure afflictions” (2 Tim. 24:5); and he was also given the charge to faithfully minister the Word of God (2 Tim. 4:1-8). **The truth of God’s Word must be as He wants it because we are His ambassadors, “Expository Preaching/Teaching is the most effective way to do so!!”**

2. **Opinion on Topical Preaching**

Topical sermons are based on a specific subject, as one chosen by the preacher, the message presented is solely focused on that topic and whatever Scriptures are used. The preacher will choose his subject and select scriptures to support the chosen topic, this is somewhat more like working on a research paper.

There are those who believe that topical preaching gives the preacher flexibility in his preaching/teaching. He for example might choose a topic on some current situation and he will use Scripture to support his topic. Topical preaching has become a popular way of preaching and is noticeable among television preachers and certain churches.

Traditionally, topical preaching was not a norm and is not accepted by traditional clergy. It has been stated that topical sermons give too much freedom for a preacher to manipulate Scripture solely to fit the message of their own likings, instead of focusing on God’s Words under the leading of the Holy Spirit. Another negative issue is, despite the acts that a preacher sticks closely to the Bible, there are only so many topics that he can cover, which makes topical preaching limited over a long term.

If topical method is the only method used, the preacher can easily get trapped in the rut of only preaching on those topics that are interest to him or those which are easily developed in a message. Likewise, the audience can become accustomed to “comfortable” or “exciting” messages, turning away from teaching that doesn’t model topical preaching. A strict adherence to topical preaching will result in a stunted (*small, undersized, etc.*) understanding of the whole counsel of God, even though certain subjects will be well understood. In some cases, a speaker may be tempted to think more of his own ideas rather than **“rightly dividing the truth” (2 Tim. 2:15)**.

3. **Rating Expository to Topical Preaching/Teaching**

The results of expository preaching far outweigh topical preaching. We have witnessed far greater accomplishments where emphasis was placed on expository preaching/teaching. We have seen stronger, more dedicated, tenacious, actively involved, wholeheartedly commitment, etc. believers who were exposed to in-depth study of the Word of God.

I have frequently referred to Matthew 13:1-23 where we have the various types of hearers; the productive hearers were those hearts were receptive to the Word of God which resulted in them becoming fruitful! How can people understand the Word of God

unless it is thoroughly shared with them (Acts 8:26-39, NB v. 31). Jesus Christ, Himself, was an exemplary expositor and we have seen the results (Matthew chapters 5-7; etc.). The apostles themselves were expositors and God used them to turn the then known world upside down (Acts 17:6).

Someone wrote the following in his observation about modern day preaching:

“Preaching is being replaced with performance, exposition with performance, exposition with entertainment; doctrine with drama; theology with theatrics.”

The purpose of Scripture is to teach true doctrine, correct false doctrine, reprove immorality and instruct a life a righteousness

2 Tim. 3:16 NKJV

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness

Mark 1:22 NKJV

“And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.”

WEBSITE UPDATE

In September (2022) we added the special presentation on John 14:1-4 that was promised as a follow-up to our newsletter that was focused on that reference (August Newsletter).

Currently, there are three other lessons in process and God enabling they will be added to the website sometime in November: Psalm 21; Psalm 22, Parts A and B. There will be a complimentary newsletter in regards to Thanksgiving as God enables. Finally Psalm 22 Part C will most likely be added to the website in December (you will be informed).

Beloved, much is to be done, the challenges are many but it is not by human ability but the enabling of the True and Living God (Zech. 4:6). Your earnest and fervent prayers are needed and highly appreciated.

Definitely you are loved!! God richly bless you and your wonderful family!!

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