



CONFIDENCE IN PREACHING

Sermon Preparation

Romans 3:4

Baptist Ministers of Houston and Vicinity

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A preacher without confidence in his message is an ill-prepared preacher. The attempt to cover up a lack of “spiritual power” (*i.e. innate confidence granted by the sheer authority of who your words really belong to*), pulpiteers often resort to gimmicks: new sound systems, mysticism, super illustrations, fanciful sayings, philosophies of men all kinds of antics.

A preacher is a herald of the King (God). The singular responsibility of the preacher is to repeat what the King has said. Here is the disposition of the winning preacher: “...*let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.*” (Romans 3:4).

The single most important phrase in the whole Bible is “Thus sayeth the Lord.” The cradle of the faithful preacher is “Thus sayeth the Lord.” The unyielding rock in which the confident preacher stands on is “Thus sayeth the Lord.”

-Your purpose is in God said it.

-Your power is in God said it.

-Your peace is in God said it.

Our confidence is based in knowing God has said what we are saying, based on the biblical record. The word of God is described as the sword of the Spirit. If you don't know your Bible, there is no possible way you are preaching in the Spirit. Biblical truth fosters confidence in our presentation apart from personality.

Biblical truth fosters confidence because of the one who said it...

Truth is always critical (life or death)... it always fosters a crisis (a point of decision)... because truth is always a look into the face of Christ (is He smiling or frowning on you.)

Now let me get away from preaching and talk about just plain old speaking. In speaking the salesman, politicians, inspirational speakers, a con-artist, pimp, soothsayer.... Half the battle is won by confidence...

Here's the good news... preachers we don't need projection, caricature, and not too much personality... We don't need prefabricated confidence... and some fellows they have all that... (and I'm not knocking style, charisma, and personality...) but if that is all you have, that is nothing but pretense; an open showmanship

HERE ARE THE ENEMIES OF CONFIDENT PREACHING IN OUR PULPITS TODAY

-SUBJECTIVIST EPISTEMOLOGY - that belittles propositional revelation

-LINGUISTIC THEORY - that cultivates an exegetical atmosphere of ambiguity

-CULTURAL RELATIVISM - that enables people to flippantly deny biblical teaching.
(Especially that which makes them uncomfortable)

THE ONLY SUCCESSFUL PREACHER IS HE THAT HAS SAID WHAT GOD HAS SAID IN THE BIBLE.

THINK YOURSELF EMPTY, READ YOURSELF FULL, WRITE YOURSELF CLEAR, PRAY YOURSELF HOT AND GO PREACH JESUS