



PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

August 13, 2017

Plain Preaching

by Frank Himmel

Jesus charged the apostles, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15). They did just that, and the message they preached was unmistakably clear.

Jesus is God's Son. "And immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God'" (Acts 9:20).

Jesus is Lord and Christ. "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:36).

A judgment is coming. "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, because he has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness..." (Acts 17:30-31).



Jesus is the judge. "And He ordered us to preach to the people that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead" (Acts 10:40).

We are not saved by law-keeping. "And through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses" (Acts 13:39).

Ignorance will not excuse us. "And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also... Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away..." (Acts 3:17-19).

Salvation is only in Jesus. "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

We are saved by grace. "But we believe that we are saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they are also" (Acts 15:11).

We are saved by faith in Jesus. "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins" (Acts 10:43).

We must repent and be baptized. "Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins..." (Acts 2:38).

The gospel invitation is open to all. "Opening his mouth, Peter said: 'I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every ▶

nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him” (Acts 10:34-35).

The church is the saved. “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28).

A Christian’s life is not always easy. “... They returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, saying, ‘Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God’” (Acts 14:21-22).

Conclusion

Not everyone was convinced by what the apostles said. “Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe” (Acts 28:24). One thing is certain: whatever the causes of rejection were, lack of clarity in the preaching was not one of them! ■

A Searching Question

by Frank Himmel



Paul was in prison at Rome when he wrote Philippians. The brethren at Philippi had sent some financial support to him. They had also sent Epaphroditus to stay with Paul and be his personal attendant. One reason for the letter was to thank them for these kindnesses.

Paul wished to learn more about the brethren at Philippi. He wanted someone from Rome to go there as his envoy, but no one was available whom he could count on. That led the Apostle to sadly say, “For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. For they all seek after their own interests, and not those of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:20-21).

Let’s each ask ourselves this challenging question: What if I were living in Rome at the time; would Paul’s summary have included me?

That question is answered by the answers to several others. Do we make *sacrifices* for the cause of Christ, or are our contributions (of time, money, or service) limited to what is left over after all other priorities have been met? Are we willing to serve only when and where conditions are ideal? Can others depend on us to fulfill our commitments? Can they depend on us for something as basic as attending worship? When making decisions, how much do we weigh the potential effects on our work for the Lord or on other Christians? Is that ever the deciding factor? When a disagreement at church arises, are we determined to peacefully pursue what is right, or are we more focused on getting our way or aligning with our closest friends?

Paul could count on Timothy; he promised to send him as soon as he could (v. 19). Could Paul have counted on you or me? ■

Service Leaders for the Week			
	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Josh Baucom	Chris Brooks	Bruce Williams
SONG LEADER	Gary Hagler	Bruce Williams	Ian Brown
OPENING PRAYER	Jason Chandler	Mark Clifton	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Bruce Hollander	Bruce Hollander	
CUP	Albert Lee Harrison	Albert Lee Harrison	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Ian Brown		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel	Jason Chandler
CLOSING PRAYER	David Gray	J B Williams	Albert Harrison Sr