

THE POWER OF THE WORD



Sermon Notes
Sunday 8th February 2015

A STARTING POINT

QUESTIONS

- What is it that's brought you here to church today?
- What do you expect to happen in the next 30 to 40 minutes?
- Why do we have sermons anyway? Whose idea are they?

2 Timothy 1:11-13

¹¹ And of this gospel I was appointed a herald (a preacher) and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

¹³ What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

NOTES

- Paul hands over his **preaching** ministry to Timothy (but he can't hand over his apostleship).

2 Timothy 2:1-2

¹ You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

NOTES

- Paul hands over his **preaching** ministry to Timothy with the instruction that Timothy is to hand it on to other reliable and qualified men.

THE BIBLICAL PROCESSION OF PREACHING

O.T. PROPHETS - - - JESUS - - - APOSTLES (PAUL) - - - US (TIMOTHY)

Deut 32
Joshua 24

Mark 1:38
Luke 4:43

John 14:25-26
Acts 2:14-41

2 Tim 1:11-2:2
Titus 1:9

NOTES

- God's normative way of speaking to his people is through a duly qualified and authorised man who speaks publicly before his people. (eg Moses, Joshua, Isaiah, minor prophets, Jesus, Peter, Paul, Timothy, current local church pastors... **BUT** don't forget, God can also speak through a donkey if he so chooses!)
-

#1 GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD

2 Timothy 3:16 - 4:2

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

¹ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.

NOTES

- Scripture is God-**breathed**, meaning the Bible is the mouthpiece of God. The words of the Bible are God's very own words through which he speaks (communicates) directly and personally with us.
-

Hebrews 1:6-8 (see also 1:10, 2:12-13, 3:7...)

⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,
"Let all God's angels worship him." (Deut 32:43)

⁷ In speaking of the angels he says,
"He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire." (Psalms 104:4)

⁸ But about the Son he says,
"Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. (Psalms 45:6)

NOTES

- God's word is spoken and then it **stays** spoken. It's living and active. ('He **says**' not just 'he **said**.')

1 Thessalonians 2:13

¹³ And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

NOTES

- In preaching the Bible the Thessalonians heard Paul's voice, but the words were God's.
-

QUESTIONS

- Do you think of the Bible as God's words being spoken to you?
 - Do you come to church expecting to hear God speak as we open his living and active word?
-

#2 GOD ACTS THROUGH HIS WORD

Genesis 1:3,6,9...

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water."

⁹ And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so.

NOTES

- From the very beginning God acts through his word in powerful ways.
-

Isaiah 55:10-11

¹⁰ As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

NOTES

- God's word acts without fail.
 - God achieves his will through his word.
-

Ezekiel 37:1-10

¹ The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "O Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!' ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.' "

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.' " ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet – a vast army.

NOTES

- God acts to bring life through his word; he speaks life into dried up dead bodies.
- God instructs Ezekiel to say to the dry bones "**Hear the word** of the **LORD**" (verse 4). These aren't Ezekiel's words being spoken; he is merely the instrument through which God's words are coming out.
- Ezekiel prophesies (which doesn't mean to tell fortunes, but is to **preach** God's word) and as he does life is brought to bare bones.

2 Timothy 3:14-15

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

NOTES

- The Bible is powerful to make us wise for salvation through faith in Jesus.
-

1 Peter 1:23-25

²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

NOTES

- God's eternal and enduring word is powerful to speak eternal and enduring life into our withering bodies, and this is the word that is preached to us.
-

QUESTIONS

- Have you considered that's what's going on as the Bible is preached each Sunday?
 - Will you bring your unsaved family and friends to church any Sunday of the year expecting God to powerfully act to bring life to their dead souls?
 - Will you bring **yourself** to church every Sunday of the year rain, hail or shine believing that it's through the preaching of his word that God grants us new life, saving and sanctifying us?
-

#3 GOD IS ENCOUNTERED IN HIS WORD

NOTES

- Think of Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush, and Elijah's encounter with God on Horeb after the wind, earthquake and fire. (Exodus 3:1-4 and I Kings 19:9-13).
- The physical elements are markers for the presence of God, but it's his voice that brings meaning and substance to the meeting.
- Meeting with God is meeting with his spoken word.

Habakkuk 2:18

¹⁸ "Of what value is an idol, since a man has carved it?
Or an image that teaches lies?
For he who makes it trusts in his own creation;
he makes idols that cannot speak."

NOTES

- God is the one true God who cannot be seen but who *speaks* – idols are false gods who are made with hands to be seen, but they're *mute*.
- God is real; he's a personal being who we encounter through his word.

John 17:6-8

⁶ "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them."

NOTES

- We encounter God in the words of Jesus as recorded on the pages of our Bibles.

John 7:45-46

⁴⁵ Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him in?"

⁴⁶ "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards declared.

Luke 4:22

²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

John 5:24

²⁴ "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

NOTES

- When Jesus opened his mouth to speak, his listeners encountered **God himself**, as proven by the power of Jesus' words to save.

QUESTIONS

- Do you realise that during our sermons we are (together) spending time with God himself?

CLOSING WORDS

As we open the Bible and hear it preached in a sermon each and every Sunday, we are to do so believing that:

#1 GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD

#2 GOD ACTS THROUGH HIS WORD

#3 GOD IS ENCOUNTERED IN HIS WORD

All Scriptures:
New International Version (NIV)
Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, by Biblica, Inc.®
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

PASTOR'S CONTACT:

Luke Jenkin

Mobile: 0451 966 464

Email: luke@grangebaptist.org.au



GRANGE BAPTIST CHURCH

Cnr Wilston Rd & Carberry St, Grange, Brisbane

Phone: (07) 3356 8110, **Email:** info@grange-baptist.org