

THE

# HARVESTER

*"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)*

February 1990

No. 050

## REAL PREACHING

"Now, that is what I call a sermon ... That's real preaching." This statement was made by a woman after a preacher had finished his sermon.

Real preaching is what every preacher wants to accomplish. Sometimes he feels he has hit the target, and at other times he knows he has missed the mark. The quest for real preaching never ends as the preacher handles his trust as an earthen vessel. Tell the Good News as effectively as possible is his goal.

Having a clear definition of real preaching provides a framework for relevant preaching. As a preacher, I have come up with a list of qualities that help me keep my sermons on target.

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Real preaching exalts Christ. Jesus said, *"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me"* (John 12:32 KJV). In our day this is done through preaching. *"We preach Christ crucified"* (1 Corinthians 1:23).

Real preaching has a distinct ring. The Word of God is distinctive from the word of man. *"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God"* (1 Peter 4:11).

Real preaching has specific power. The Word of God is the power. *"The word of God is ... sharper than any two-edged sword"* (Hebrews 4:12).

Real preaching is simple and direct. These characteristics marked Jesus' style of preaching. *"He taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes"* (Mark 1:22).

Real preaching is clear and understandable. When people heard John the Baptist preach, they followed Jesus. Why? They understood his message. Stephen was stoned because his message was understood.

Real preaching is God's channel of grace. Paul asked, *"How shall they hear without a preacher?"* (Romans 10:14). The gospel is committed to earthen vessels so the glory might be given to God (2 Corinthians 4:7).

Real preaching challenges people to think and change. After the people of Berea heard a sermon, they searched the Scriptures to see if it was true (Acts 17:11). Preaching must engage the listener's mind and cause him to think.

Real preaching reminds people. Peter wrote, *"Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though*

*ye know them, and be established in the present truth"* (2 Peter 1:12).

Real preaching speaks the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Upon hearing a sermon about hell, a man once remarked, "When you tell me I'm going to hell, please have a tear in your eye."

Real preaching centers in the whole counsel of God. Paul told the Ephesian elders, "*I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God*" (Acts 20:27), which occurs through preaching the Word (2 Timothy 4:1-5).

Real preaching is "*instant in season, out of season,*" and one who preaches should "*reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine*" (2 Timothy 4:2).

Real preaching offers solutions. On the Day of Pentecost, when the people asked for help, Peter gave them a positive answer. He said, "*Repent, and be baptized*" (Acts 2:38). Preachers always should try to meet people's needs with scriptural, practical solutions.

Real preaching is enthusiastic. Zeal for the lost and heart of compassion for the hurting will give real enthusiasm to a preacher's delivery. "Lifeless sermons can't give life," a preacher once said.

Real preaching is courageous preaching. Paul exemplified courage as he confronted the philosophers on Mars Hill with the truth (Acts 17:22-34). First century preachers were bold (Acts 4:11-13).

<p>The Lord sometimes takes us into troubled waters NOT to drown us, but to cleanse us.</p>
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THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, and all correspondence to:

Ray McManus  
305 W. Air Depot Rd. Apt. 7-J  
Gadsden, AL 35903  
Ph. (205) 494-9556

Real preaching is done by a man who wants to preach.

### Why I Preach

The world is lost in sin,  
That's why I preach.  
The Gospel must be preached,  
That's why I preach.  
The Lord commanded preaching,  
That's why I preach.  
There is power for change in preaching,  
That's why I preach.  
The Son of God was a preacher,  
That's why I preach.  
The church needs preachers,  
That's why I preach.  
The preacher has beautiful feet,  
That's why I preach.  
The Lord has given me talent,  
That's why I preach.  
The laborer is worthy of his hire,  
That's why I preach.  
The results of preaching last eternally,  
That's why I preach.  
The Lord rewards faithful preaching,  
That's why I preach.  
There's nothing else that satisfies my soul,  
That's why I preach.  
There is no greater challenge,  
That's why I preach.

Real preaching is biblical preaching. May God help us preachers give ourselves fully to this noble task.

J.J. TURNER

"Gospel Advocate"

December 3, 1987

(Submitted by Buster Boyd)

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES!

1. For what two royal officials did Joseph interpret dreams while in jail?
2. Where was the school of Tyrannus, in which Paul spoke?
3. In what two places did God say He would put His law?
4. To whom does Proverbs advise that strong drink be given?
5. As David turned Israel over to Solomon, whose head did he not want to go to the grave in peace?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH ...

and remember last month's questions?

1. Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, was from what city? CORINTH (Acts 18:8)
2. According to Isaiah, what would the Messiah eat when He was old enough to know right from wrong? BUTTER AND HONEY (Isa. 7:15)
3. How much of his possessions did Zacchaeus say he would give to the poor? HALF (Luke 19:8)
4. What is wealth good for in the day of wrath? NOTHING (Prov. 11:4)
5. How many Psalms contain the word "amen"? FOUR (Psa. 41, 72, 89, 106)

## A CHAPTER OF BEGINNINGS

When we talk of "The Beginning", we immediately think of Genesis chapter one. It gives the account of the Creation, the beginning of Time as we know it. In fact the very first word in the Bible, the Hebrew word 'bereshith', translates to mean "in <the> beginning".

However, Genesis chapter three is also a chapter of significant "beginnings". In this chapter we read of the beginning of Sin when Eve, then Adam, ate of the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:1-6). This was the first time man had ever disobeyed God's law and thus, this constituted man's first sin. *"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."* (1 John 3:4)

As a result of this sin, Death entered into the world. *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* (Rom. 6:23) Thus, Genesis 3 also contains the beginning or origin of death. Death is a separation and this chapter tells us how God had to expel Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden because of their disobedience, *"lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever"* (Gen. 3:22).

At this stage, God saw the need for redemption of mankind. Something had to be offered to buy back man's salvation. That sacrificial lamb could only be God's own Son. *"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors*

for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (2 Cor. 5:18-21) Therefore, this is where we can read the beginning of the Gospel or "Good News" in Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." This is the first mention of a promised Savior.

Perhaps the significance of the "beginnings" in the third chapter of Genesis can best be summed up by the apostle Paul. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned ... Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." (Rom. 5:12,18-19) Are you ready for a new "beginning" in life? Have you submitted yourself in obedience to the only One who can save you from your sins and from eternal death? Believe? Confess? Repent? Baptized? Faithful Living? What better time to start than now!

RAY

Is your congregation having a Gospel Meeting? To have it announced through this paper, please send all information to me at least two months in advance ... Have you missed an issue of The HAR-VESTER? Or would you like an extra copy? Just let me know and I will gladly send it as soon as possible. (The editor)

## GOSPEL MEETING

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
Feb. 12-23 (M-Su)	Valley, AL (studies on Prophecy)	Harry Cobb (Wedowee, AL)

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## BIBLE PRINCIPLES OF SALVATION

### I. ALL PEOPLE HAVE SINNED

1 Ki 8:46 Rom 3:10 Rom 3:23 Rom 5:12 1 Jn 1:8 1 Jn 5:19

### II. A SINNER WILL FACE ETERNAL DEATH

Ezek 33:8-9 Rom 5:23 2 Thes 1:7-9 Jas 1:15 Jas 5:20 Rev 21:8

#### Unless he:

1. Hears the Word of God  
Matt 13:23 Lk 10:39 Jn 10:16 Rom 10:17 Eph 1:13 1 Thes 2:13
2. Realizes Jesus Christ is the Only Way to Eternal Salvation  
Jn 6:68 Jn 14:6 Acts 4:12 Eph 2:18 1 Thes 5:9 Heb 5:9
3. Believes Jesus is the Son of God  
Mk 16:16 Jn 3:16 Jn 8:24 Jn 20:31 Acts 10:43 Acts 16:31 Heb 11:6
4. Is Convicted in his Heart of his Own Disobedience  
Acts 2:37 Acts 16:29 Acts 24:25 2 Cor 7:8-11
5. Repents of his Sins  
Lk 13:3 Acts 2:38 Acts 3:19 Acts 17:30 Acts 26:20
6. Confesses his Faith in the Lord Jesus  
Matt 10:32 Acts 8:37 Acts 19:18 Rom 10:9-10 Phil 2:11 1 Jn 4:15
7. Is Baptized by Immersion for the Remission of Sins in the  
Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost  
Matt 28:19 Mk 16:16 Jn 3:5 Acts 2:38 Acts 8:36-39 Acts 10:47-48  
Acts 16:33 Acts 22:16 Rom 6:3-6 Gal 3:27 Col 2:12 1 Pet 3:21
8. Lives a Faithful Life, Guided Only by the Authority of the NT  
Matt 25:21 Rom 1:16 Tit 2:11-12 Heb 4:12 Jas 1:21 1 Jn 5:4 Rev 2:10
9. Worships in Spirit & Truth, not Forsaking the Assembling, and  
Observing the Lord's Supper every first day of the week  
Matt 4:10 Jn 4:23-24 Acts 2:42 Acts 20:7 1 Cor 11:20-30 Heb 10:25
10. Prays for Forgiveness, if he should Fall into Sin again  
Acts 8:22 1 Cor 10:12-13 Eph 6:18 1 Thes 5:17 Jas 5:15-16 1 Jn 1:5-10

### III. ONLY THOSE WHO DO THE WILL OF GOD SHALL BE SAVED

Matt 7:21 Matt 12:50 Lk 6:47-48 Rom 2:13 Jas 1:22 1 Jn 2:17 Rev 22:14