



Christian Life Fellowship

Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ



TEACHING AND PREACHING CORE VALUES

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Introduction:

One of the ways that truth is communicated is through teaching and preaching. This is a core value that Christ left to the church.

As we begin this morning, let me ask you a question. How important is the Bible? How much has this book changed your life?

2 Timothy 3:16, 17: "All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

The purpose for teaching and preaching is not just that truth can be shared but that lives can be transformed. We have a purpose. People have laid down their lives to live by the truths contained in this book. People are equipped to walk by faith by the words in this book. People are inspired to live lives of devotion and commitment to death because of the words in this book.

I. Through teaching and preaching the truths of the Bible, people who follow Jesus can be equipped to serve.

It is through preaching and teaching that spiritual formation happens and transformation takes place. The Holy Spirit takes the things that I read, study and have been taught and brings conviction to my life that causes me to act on the Word that has been taught or preached.

When we look back into history, we see that when God gave the commandments to Moses to teach to the nation of Israel, He was specific as to how those commandments were to be taught.

Deut. 6:6-9

'These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols

on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.'

What I learn from this is that God wanted His people to be surrounded by the Word. They were unable to

escape the teaching and power of the Word that would guide them and help them live a life pleasing to Him.

So we see the value of teaching and preaching God's Word and His truth to people. In part, what we have done with the space downstairs for children's ministry is a vital part of this process. However, we must also have teachers and workers who will instruct them about God's love and character.

Please watch this clip. (VIDEO CLIP ABOUT KIDS)

http://breakthroughchurch.com/7_summers_video.htm

Listen to what Jesus instructed His followers to do before He left them and ascended to Heaven:

Matthew 28:19-20

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Making disciples involves communicating values and truths. Those values and truths come from the Bible and are taught here and in small groups from CLF. Those values and truths are being communicated by missionaries in other cultures who are supported by the faith promises of people in this congregation.

You and I cannot possibly hope that we will be changed or transformed without the power of God's Word alive within us. We cannot hope to have an impact on our world without communicating the truth to others so their lives can likewise be transformed.

Here is what the disciples of Jesus did in response to this directive from Christ Himself:

Acts 5:42

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

II. Through teaching and preaching the truths of the Bible, people hear the message of Jesus Christ and can make a choice.

Suppose you had gotten some form of muscle disease. You suffered terribly and after many years, you came and told me you just couldn't live any more with the pain and suffering and were giving up on life. But if I was aware that ten years ago a team of people had perfected something that would eliminate any disease, you would say, “Why didn't you tell me? Who do I need to see? How can I get this amazing product?”

Friends, the same thing is true with truth from God's Word. For people to act in faith on the truth from God's Word, they have to hear it through preaching or teaching.

Romans 10:14

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

One of the battles that is happening in our culture today is the battle to share the message in the marketplace. In fact, there is pending legislation before our congress that would make preaching the truth from God's Word a crime when it comes to homosexuality. If passed it would be considered a “hate crime” to declare that God loves the homosexual but hates the sin and to call people to a lifestyle that pleases HIM.

We have seen in several states that it is illegal now to display the Ten Commandments in the public arena. Where are our voices? Are they being heard? Men and women, it's time for us to let our voices be heard. It's time for us to preach the truth with both words and lifestyle. It's time for some who sit here to run for public office, to get on school boards or to run for positions in government. It's also time to be involved in teaching in ministry positions in the church. We cannot fight the battle without getting on the battle field.

The message of whom we serve, who we are and what we are about has to be proclaimed if we are to be faithful to our destiny and purpose. Proclaim it then. Teach the message to your children at home,

teach that message here at CLF, and teach that message out in the public places to the people around you.

Oswald J. Smith said it well. “The world does not need sermons; it needs a message. You can go to seminary and learn how to preach sermons, but you will have to go to God to get messages. “

The message we have to preach and teach is one that will transform a person who is faithless to one who believes. It is a message that will transform a person from death to life, from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from sinner to saint, from victim to overcomer.

THE MESSAGE HAS TO BE HEARD!

Conclusion:

Here is the challenge: know the Word, study it, and then share it. That is why we have Growth classes on Sunday morning before worship. That is why we have Bible study groups on Wednesday. That is why we do our best to equip you with information and tools to be effective in ministry and mission. First be transformed by the Word and then share it so others are transformed.

This is one of our core values and it has to do with our mission here at CLF. The mission of Christian Life Fellowship Church is ***“...to reach all people within the greater Mayville, Wisconsin area and the world with the hope of Jesus Christ, compelling those who do not follow Christ to do so and challenging those who do follow Christ to become fully devoted and Spirit-filled in following Him, expressing their devotion through evangelism, preaching, teaching, worship, prayer, healing, fellowship and the Biblical cultivation of a God-centered family and community as demonstrated in Acts 2:42-47.”***

We are not done yet. We have a city to reach. We have people who live in Mayville that need to hear. How will they hear without you and me telling them?

Life is a matter of building. Each of us has the opportunity to build something: a secure family, a good reputation, a career, a relationship to God. But some of those things can disappear almost overnight due to financial losses, natural disasters and other unforeseen difficulties.

What are we to do? Daniel Webster offered excellent advice, saying, "If we work on marble it will perish. If we work on brass, time will efface it. If we rear temples, they will crumble to dust. But if we work on men's immortal minds, if we imbue them with high principles, with just fear of God and love of their fellow-men, we engrave on those tablets something which time cannot efface, and which will brighten and brighten to all eternity."

Morning Glory, July 3, 1993.