No Uncertain Sound in the Pulpit

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As we have discussed in earlier classes it is our job and responsibility as parents to bring up (raise) our children in the Church and its teachings. If we fail in this we will lose our greatest gift that God has given us in our children.

Many congregations including ours plan many things for their youth. There are things such as cookouts, fieldtrips, outings, visits, projects, devotionals, etc. The difference we must make is that this is not just a fun activity, but also an activity that is church related and biblically based. We seem to have more participation if we are going to Dollywood or Six Flags. We will even invite our friends to come. But how many times do we invite our friends to come to a devotional?

What about Bible Camps? Bible Camps are an enrichment tool that every child from a congregation should get involved in. If they are not old enough to go to a camp, take them one day during the camp and let them observe what goes on. This will perk their interest. Bible camps are not for loners. They are for people to get involved in classes as well as activities. How else will children learn to get involved in Church and the work of the Church if they are not involved in Church activities.

Our goal in teaching our children is to teach our children about God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit and how to get to Heaven. We also want to teach our children that their friends who are not Christians will be lost if they are not taught as well. So let’s see if we can get our friends involved with our congregation as well, making them want to come back or to start coming to a church that is different than anything they have ever attended before.

When it comes to Bible class material it is important for us to have a plan as well. Before we started on “Engraving Heavenly Truths,” we had a program that may not have had a steady study and bounced around causing our children to not get some material that they might need and getting some material some four or five times from cradle roll to high school class.

We must be mindful of our children today. Our children today learn different than when we were growing up. Some do better by hands on activities, some do better by just reading the material themselves, while others do better by simply listening to a lecture. However, today’s world has moved into the entertainment and social media form for their learning. So, we must adapt.

Before radio, TV, satellite, internet, etc., we simply had preaching from pulpits and Bible class teachers teaching in front of their classes.

As parents we know that there are some times that others have a better influence over our children than we do. We can teach them things over and over and it not get into their mind, but hear it from someone else and it clicks. That is how it is. Parents don’t get frustrated, just be thankful that your children finally understand what you have been trying to explain to them.

This is why it is so important for every congregation of the Lord’s church to have sound gospel preaching coming from the pulpit and its Bible classes. Though the preacher and Bible class teachers are only human, the pulpit and the classroom is the place of authority.

(Titus 2:15) “These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.”

Matthew 7:28-29 “And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine. (29) For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”

Our authority is BOOK, CHAPTER, AND VERSE!

Another emphasis we need to make is this: You know you went to Dollywood and that was a two and a half hour trip one way and spent all day, before coming home. Why can’t you get ready and travel thirty minutes to an hour to a Gospel Meeting. Do we put the same emphasis on this as we do the other stuff?

There is no substitute for plain preaching of the New Testament Christianity.

I Corinthians 14:8 “For if the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?”

What Paul is saying here is that if the pulpit and Bible classes are not preaching and teaching the pure gospel of Christ, then what kind of message are we giving out to our members and students of the Bible. By doing this we are not sure what to believe.

Have you heard the expression “fatal error” when used to cause people to be lost. This could include doctrines, which are permissive of sin, or which are intended to justify failure to obey the gospel commands or simply leads the church into apostasy.

Acts 20:27 “For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”

The reality about the Gospel is that needs vary from person to person and place to place. The challenge is how to have the right balance. Balanced preaching and teaching is sometimes positive and sometimes negative.

We must reprove, rebuke and exhort II Timothy 4:2. The point being that the message must apply to the present need, circumstance, or situation.

So, what do we preach and teach? BIBLE, BIBLE, AND MORE BIBLE!

II Timothy 4:2 “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and sound doctrine.

Instant—means a point of time separating two states (at the instant of death)

Reprove—To criticize or correct someone in a gentle way

Rebuke—To speak in an angry and critical way to someone

Exhort—To try to influence someone by words or advice: to strongly urge someone to do something

Long-suffering—suffering for a long time without complaining: very patient during difficult times

Doctrine—A set of ideas or beliefs that are taught or believed to be true

II Timothy 2:15—Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Psalms 119:128 “Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things that to be right: and I hate every false way.”

When grafting the truth we must understand that to get to some people’s heart we must repeat things, simplify, draw pictures, express the gospel in other words, speak point blank, define terms, differentiate, and sometimes just out and out call names.

Whatever the case we must let everyone know that the Bible is the ultimate law and final say so when it comes to our spirituality. We do not need, nor do we go by manuals, creed books, disciplines, traditions, councils, or anything else. We simply need the Bible.

The young as well as adults need to know that:

God loves us

Christ died for us

The Lord wants us with him in eternity