

**22<sup>ND</sup> PASTORAL CARE CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 2016**  
**MESSAGE SERIES – THE EFFECTIVE PREACHER AND PREACHING**  
**SPEAKER – LIM KOU**

**MESSAGE 4 – THE PREACHER’S MOTIVATION, EMPOWERING AND CALLING**

In this message, we continue with points 3, 4 and 5 on good and effective preacher/preaching.

**3. The preacher’s motivation**

The preacher must be motivated by:

- A *deep love* for God and man, deep concern for the plight of man and deep longing for their well-being
- A deep, unwavering, all-consuming *conviction* that the solution lies in God and what He has revealed – His instructions and ways and His plan and purposes for man

Such love, concern and conviction of the preacher give rise to earnestness in his ministry, concentrating on the spiritual needs and well-being of man, God’s provision for us and His intentions for us in Christ.

This comes through clearly and strongly in *Paul’s life and ministry* – in his deep devotion to God and a life given to God – to serve Him and be faithful to Him.

I will highlight this from a few passages.

*Motivated by love for Christ and Christ’s love in us.*

**2 Corinthians 5:14**

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;

*Paul imparted not mere concepts, but spiritual truths, with the deep conviction that they are vital for the well-being of believers.*

**1 Thessalonians 2:7–13**

7 But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.

8 Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

9 For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

10 You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers;

11 just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,

12 so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

*Paul was deeply concerned for the spiritual state of the believers and sought to strengthen and encourage their faith and walk with God.*

**1 Thessalonians 2:17–20**

17 But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face.

18 For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan hindered us.

19 For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?

20 For you are our glory and joy.

**1 Thessalonians 3: 1-10**

1 Therefore when we could endure it no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone,

2 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith,

3 so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.

4 For indeed when we were with you, we kept telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know.

5 For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.

6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you,

7 for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith;

8 for now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord.

9 For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account,

10 as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

*Paul's primary concern in life was to be faithful to God's call and what the Lord had entrusted to him – because he knew there would be far-reaching, eternal implications for many.*

**Acts 26:15–20** (Paul's testimony before King Agrippa)

15 “And I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.

16 ‘But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you;

17 rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you,

18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.’

19 “So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision,

20 but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

*Paul was prepared to endure whatever was needful, even to lay down his life, to communicate the whole purpose of God – because he knew the significance of the effective communication and reception of the truth.*

**Acts 20:17-32**

17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.

18 And when they had come to him, he said to them, “You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time,

19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews;

20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house,

21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

22 “And now, behold, bound in spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there,

23 except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me.

24 “But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

25 “And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face.

26 “Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.

27 “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

28 “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.

29 “I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

31 “Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

32 “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

*Paul could rejoice in his sufferings in the course of his ministry – because of the glorious goal of the effective communication of the word of God – presenting every man complete or mature in Christ.*

**Colossians 1:24–29**

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions.

25 Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God,

26 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,

27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

29 For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

Paul's approach to life can be summed up in these seven words: *For to me, to live is Christ* (Phil 1:21).

- Live for Christ, live by the power of the risen Christ, exalt Christ, preach and proclaim Christ – the death and resurrection of Christ and the implications for our lives and God's intentions for us in Christ
- Christ – the solution to man's plight and the way to attain God's intentions for man.

#### **4. The preacher's empowering by God**

##### **1 Corinthians 2:4–5**

4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

The communication of the truth must be done with God's empowering. God is the One who gives light and life.

*Giving light and life*

##### **Psalms 119:130**

The unfolding of Your words gives light;  
It gives understanding to the simple.

'Unfolding' means communicating, bringing out the meaning.

##### **Proverbs 10:11, 21**

11 The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life,  
But the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

21 The lips of the righteous feed many,  
But fools die for lack of understanding

*Not all will benefit from the communication of the truth*

##### **2 Corinthians 4:3–4**

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

This principle applies to non-believers and believers – even if it is effective preaching by an effective preacher.

##### **John 6:53–56, 60–63, 66**

53 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.

54 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

55 "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.

56 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this said, "This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?"

61 But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, "Does this cause you to stumble?"

62 "What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?"

63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing;

the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

66 As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

*Question: Does it mean a believer would be ready for an effective preaching ministry if he satisfies points 1 to 4?*

1. He is disciplined and diligent in studying the Scriptures.
2. His life has quality – he walks well with God and has been taught and dealt with by God.
3. He is motivated by deep love for God and man and the unwavering conviction that the solution to man's plight lies in God and what He has revealed.
4. He looks to God to enable him to preach in the power of God.

No, not all believers can be effective preachers – even if he satisfies the above four points. There is another requirement – God's call. Has God called him to the preaching ministry?

Even if he is not called to the preaching ministry, such a believer would be equipped for effective service. He can be an effective witness for the Lord and an effective member of the body of Christ – if he serves in the capacity and role God desires of him in the body of Christ.

Every believer should seek to be so equipped, though preachers and teachers have a heavier responsibility and face a stricter judgement.

## **5. God's calling and being gifted in preaching**

The effective preacher is God's gift to the church for the equipping of the saints, for the work of service.

### **Ephesians 4:8, 11-12**

8 Therefore it says, "When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, And He gave gifts to men."

11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

Believers do not have the same gifts, and not all are called by God to preach.

### **1 Corinthians 12:4, 11, 28-29**

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.

29 All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they?