

A Passion for the Preaching of the Word

Heidelberg Catechism - Lord's Day 25 (Q&A 65, 67)

2 Timothy 3:13-4:9 (KJV)

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Introduction

1. Do we have a passion for the preaching of the word?
2. Catechism tells us why we must have a passion for the preaching of the Word.

Because of What It Is

1. The preaching of the Word is the authoritative exposition and proclamation of the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. There are two main words in the New Testament that reveal this:
 - a. *Evangelize*, which means "to announce the good news." The focus is on the content.
 - b. *Kerusso*, a word that means "to proclaim, to herald." The preaching speaks an official word as an ambassador of King Jesus.
2. The Scriptures speak to us then about the truth of the preaching.
 - a. To preach a man must be called to this work and sent by the Lord Jesus Christ to preach the gospel.
 - b. Those who are called must "preach the word."
 - c. This is not an easy task because those who preach the Word will face opposition.
2 Timothy 4:3, 4

Because of Its Power

1. The Scriptures speak often about the effectual power of the preaching to accomplish God's purposes:
 - a. We read of the in: Isaiah 55:10, 11; Hebrews 4:11; Romans 1:16
 - b. The preaching is powerful to save sinners. Q&A 65: *it works faith and strengthens faith.*
 - c. This powerful word cuts both ways. Not only does it save, but it also damns.
2. But what gives preaching this power?
 - a. First, we understand that the power of the preaching is found only in bringing the word.
 - b. The preaching of the Word is powerful to save only when it is accompanied by the sovereign, effectual work of the Holy Spirit.

Because of Its Necessity

1. If the preaching is what we said it is this morning, then it is self-evident that it is necessary.
2. The preaching is exactly what we need for our souls.