

## Negative Preaching

- I. If one preaches the Bible, he will preach a lot of negatives. His ministry will be characterized by liberal doses of Vitamin “N.”
- A. Note the negatives in the Ten Commandments. **EXO 20:3-17.**
  - B. Note the negatives in Christ's preaching. **MAT 6:1-2, 5, 7-8.**
  - C. Note the negatives in Paul's preaching. **EPH 4:17, 25-30; 5:3-7.**
- II. Christianity is a religion of controversy.
- A. Jesus did not come to send peace on earth, but a divisive sword. **MAT 10:34-37; LUK 12:51.**
    - 1. The angelic announcement “...and on earth peace, good will toward men” (**LUK 2:14**) speaks of peace established between God and sinners. **COL 1:20.**
    - 2. It speaks of peace through Christ for Jew and Gentile. **EPH 2:14-17.**
    - 3. It speaks of peace through righteousness in Christ. **ISA 32:17; 2CO 5:21.**
    - 4. Disputes about how *this* peace is administered to sinners is where the divisiveness oft occurs: grace or works, universal or particular, God's will or man's will, etc.
    - 5. Christ will divide men all the way to final judgment. **MAT 25:31-32.**
  - B. It is Christian to dispute. **ACT 9:29; 17:17; 19:8-9.**
  - C. Christians are commanded to *fight* and *contend* for the faith. **1TI 6:12; JUDE 1:3 ct/w JER 9:3.**
    - 1. contend: To strive earnestly; to strive in opposition; to fight; to strive in argument or debate.
    - 2. earnest: (Of feelings, convictions, etc.) Intense, ardent.
    - 3. ardent: Burning, on fire, red-hot; fiery, hot, parching.
  - D. Contending *against* the truth is wrong (**ROM 2:8**); contending *for* the truth is commanded.
- III. All religions are not equally acceptable.
- A. All men are not seeking truth. **ROM 3:11-12; JOH 3:19-21.**
  - B. There is only ONE right way. **1KI 18:21; JOH 14:6.**
  - C. All that poses as Christianity is not actually so. **2CO 11:4, 13-15.**
  - D. We must discern the true from the false. **1TH 5:21; MAL 3:18 ct/w EZE 22:26.**
  - E. Preaching should expose error and turn souls to the truth. **EPH 4:11-15.**
- IV. Consider the elements of Bible preaching found in these verses.
- A. **1TI 5:20; 2TI 4:2; TIT 1:13; 2:15.**
    - 1. rebuke: To beat down or force back; to repress or check (a person); to repulse; to reprove, reprimand, chide severely.
    - 2. reprove: To reject; to express disapproval of (conduct, actions, beliefs, etc.); to censure, condemn; to reprehend, rebuke, blame, chide, or find fault with (a person).
    - 3. chide: To give loud or impassioned utterance to anger, displeasure, disapprobation, reproof. [See **ISA 58:1; MAR 3:17**]
    - 4. sharply: Of speech, rebuke, command: sternly, severely, harshly; in cutting terms; in stern or angry tones. [See **HOS 6:5**]
  - B. **1KI 18:27-28; MAT 3:7-8; 23:13-17, 33; ACT 2:23; 7:51-52; 17:22-23; GAL 1:8-9; 3:1; PHIL 3:2; 2PE 2:2, 22.**
    - 1. mock: To hold up to ridicule; to deride; to assail with scornful words or gestures.
    - 2. ridicule: To render ridiculous. 2. To treat with ridicule or mockery; to make fun of, deride, laugh at.

3. Name-calling and harsh language is Biblical where justified.
  4. Pungent language is Biblical. **MAL 2:2-3; PHIL 3:8.**
- C. **MAT 16:6; LUK 13:31-32; 1TI 1:20; 2TI 1:15; 2:17; 4:10, 14-15; TIT 1:12-13; 3JO 1:9-10; REV 2:6; 15, 20.**
1. It is Biblical to warn against specific persons and groups *by name*.
  2. Warnings against wrong must be specific as well as general.
  3. Exposing the errors of a person or group does not necessarily imply that everything the person or group believes is wrong.
- V. Consider the nature of God's word.
- A. It is like a fire and a hammer. **JER 23:29.**
  - B. It is like a sword. **EPH 6:17 c/w HOS 6:5.**
  - C. It is given to reprove and correct. **2TI 3:16-17.**
- VI. Such negative, harsh preaching is correct if:
- A. the names are correct and apply to persons actually guilty of the error being exposed. **EPH 4:25.**
  - B. the language accords with Scripture. **1PE 4:11.**
- VII. Such negative, harsh preaching is an act of love and kindness. **LEV 19:17; PSA 141:5; REV 3:19; ROM 13:8-10.**
- VIII. Scripture warns against smooth/syrupy talkers and preachers. **PSA 55:21; 62:4; ISA 30:9-10; JER 23:32; ZEP 3:4; ROM 16:17-18.**
- A. Preaching should be born of passion. **JER 20:9.**
  - B. Preaching should be authoritative. **MAT 7:29.**
  - C. Preaching should be done boldly. **ACT 4:13; 13:45-46.**
  - D. Preaching should not avoid naked wires. **ACT 20:20, 27; 2TI 4:2.**
  - E. Preaching and contending for the truth should leave no middle ground. **MAT 12:30.**
  - F. Preaching should stop the mouths of gainsayers. **TIT 1:9-11.**
  - G. How God's man counsels or witnesses in person is one thing but how he preaches is another since it is by biblical preaching that believers are saved. **1CO 1:21.**
- IX. Negative harsh preaching leaves no room for compromise; it forces the hearer to one of two reactions.
- A. It convicts the hearer and brings him to repentance thus manifesting that the hearer is of God. **JOH 8:47; ACT 2:37; TIT 1:13.**
  - B. Or it exposes the hearer to be stupid and in rebellion against God. **PRO 12:1; 13:1; 15:10.**