



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

Preaching the Word (Homiletics)

Lesson #1

A. Introduction

Every Christian is a priest, an ambassador for Christ, and a missionary. Peter wrote to all the Christians in his care: **“You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”** (1 Peter 2:9). Each Christian, in his own station in life, has the privilege of joining his or her voice to the voice of other Christians in proclaiming to others the praises of our gracious God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God has rescued us from our sin through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God has saved us through the working of the Holy Spirit in our hearts by means of the powerful Word of God.

In His desire to spread His saving Word throughout the world, our Lord has given to some of His Christians on earth special gifts to take the lead in this work. The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Ephesus: **“He Himself** (the risen and ascended Jesus) **gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”** (Ephesians 4:11-12). The apostles and prophets were given to the early Christians before there was a written New Testament. At the present time our Lord supplies evangelists, pastors and teachers, and other special helpers to His Church (His “saints”) to spread His saving Word and to teach Christians how they too can exalt the name of the Lord by their words and works.

This course on “Preaching the Word” is intended especially for those who have been called by God through Christians to preach or teach God's Word in Christ's name. It is also intended for those who hope to be called by God through Christians to preach or teach God's Word. The apostle Paul was called by Jesus Himself to be His special missionary to those who did not know anything about Jesus. Before he died, Paul trained others to carry on his work after he was gone. We have Paul's instructions in the New Testament to two of the men he trained: Timothy and Titus. Shortly before he died, Paul wrote to Timothy: **“The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also”** (2 Timothy 2:2). Paul was Timothy's teacher; Timothy taught others, who were in turn to teach others after them, and so the next generation is trained by the previous generation. It is in this spirit that this course on “Preaching the Word” has been written. We want to pass on to you what we have learned from others about preaching God's Word, so that you, in turn, can pass this on to those after you. Of course, all of us have to look to our Master Teacher, Jesus Himself, and the men He chose and trained to be His apostles. It is from them especially that we want to learn how to preach God's Word.

Questions

1. Why can we call every Christian a priest and a missionary?
2. What special gifts has the ascended Jesus given to His Church?
3. For what purpose has Christ supplied evangelists, pastors and teachers?
4. Has Christ, through His Church, called you to be a preacher?
5. If so, how do you know you have such a call?
6. What did the apostle Paul do for future generations?

Read Acts 2:14-41.