

## The Purpose of Preaching

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by Wayne Goff

It is imperative for us all to remember that God ordained **gospel preaching** as the **means** by which people are to hear the gospel and be saved. You may have wondered, like me, why God didn't just give everyone a copy of the Bible and say, "Here, read this, and do it!" But He chose instead the **method** of **preaching** to save men. Notice what Paul wrote: "*How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? **and how shall they hear without a preacher?***" (Rom. 10:14). God ordained that men preach the Gospel while people listen to it. This method saves those whom God wants to save. Not everyone comes to the sermon with an ear to hear. But God gives everyone the *opportunity* to hear — some do and believe; some do not and are lost. This is God's way.

Again we read: "*But **they have not all obeyed the gospel.** For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?*" (Rom. 10:16; Isaiah 53:1). Those who do not obey the Gospel are still responsible for their unbelief! It's not the fault of the Message, nor the fault of the preacher, but it's the fault of the heart of one who does not believe.

Dear reader, here is my point. **Do you come to every sermon with the attitude of hearing in order to believe and be made better?** If you do, then God bless you, for that is what God intended. If you do **not**, then you might want to reconsider the importance of your cooperation in God's process.

Some people do not like the Message so they assault the messenger! (Remember Stephen, Acts 7?) Others like the messenger so much that they believe **any** message! (Remember Balaam, Jude 7?) But the God-fearing person comes to every sermon with an ear to hear, listens carefully, searches the Scriptures to confirm the validity of the message (Acts 17:11), and then applies it to himself (James 1:22-24). It takes work to be a good listener, but your soul depends upon it. God ordained that it be that way.

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