

Study 11

The Preaching  
**JESUS**  
commanded

If you were God and you wanted to rescue the world, you probably wouldn't want a bunch of people like us carrying out your mission! But the mystery of how God has ordained people to be saved is that He has not only chosen *who* (us) to carry this out, but He has ordained *how* it is to be done. We shall see that in one sense while we are all called to be *witnesses* it is not witnessing that God has ordained as the way to deliver salvation.

1. Why did Jesus say that He came to earth based on Mark 1:38?
- 

To preach means to *boldly declare, proclaim and teach the truth*. Preachers are to preach *the Gospel*. "Gospel" means *Good News*.

2. Why is the Gospel: *good news*?

---

---

Christ could have chosen to come to earth at a time when He had access to TV, Radio, Satellite broadcasting, the internet and mass publications- but He didn't. Curiously, Christ chose to not even use all of the available media of His day. He never wrote a tract. He never penned a book. He only occasionally spoke in a city, preferring instead to teach and preach publicly in the countryside.

3. Read Matthew 10:1-7. Tick which statements below are true based on this text-

- Christ told everyone and anyone to preach on His behalf
- Christ observed and then prayed about those He then called to preach
- Christ concluded every message with a recruitment appeal to be one of His preachers
- Christ modelled His preaching, called those who clearly sought to serve Him, instructed them, and 'ordained' or 'commissioned' them to preach about God's Kingdom
- Christ wasn't really clear about *why* or *what* He wanted His disciples to preach

With all the technology available to us today, the Bible's command for the Gospel to be *preached* still stands. I sometimes think of *preaching* the Gospel as the role of the infantry in advancing the Kingdom of Christ. The use of books, the internet, videos, TV, and radio for Gospel purposes, while sometimes involves preaching, is more often like 'artillery' or 'air cover' in the battle to take spiritual ground. Also, while witnessing to someone can lead to preaching, it is perhaps more like 'reconnaissance' than front-line engagement.



Charles Haddon Spurgeon was regarded as the “Prince of Preachers”. He established the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London as one of the most evangelistically successful churches of all time. In an era of general church decline, Spurgeon preached with such evangelistic zeal and consistency throughout his short career that his church grew to thousands. But he attributed the growth of his church to the combined evangelistic efforts of his congregation. He regarded everyone member of his

church as a *type of evangelist*. For Spurgeon, his church had “sniper evangelists”, “hunting dog evangelists”, “bait evangelists” who each played a role in leading people to Christ. One day Spurgeon was talking with one of his deacons when suddenly his deacon dashed off midway through their conversation. Later that day, Spurgeon asked the deacon why he had left so suddenly. The deacon replied that he spied a lady in anguish in the balcony. He had rushed to her side and posed the question: “*Is all well with your soul?*” This question led to the man leading this lady to Christ. Spurgeon preached, his congregation prayed. Spurgeon preached, his congregation led people to Christ.

4. According to 2Corinthians 4:5 what should the subject of our preaching be?
- 

5. Preaching is to be accompanied by *teaching*. Some preach to entertain and call it *teaching*. What did Paul say was the goal of preaching and teaching in Colossians 1:28?
- 
-

In Acts 8:4 it describes the early church going everywhere “preaching the word”. While this may have involved the public declaration of the Good News, the original Greek word is not the word generally used for preaching (*kerusso*) but the word *evangelizzo*. The early church had preachers but it had far more evangelisers!

6. Based on Romans 10:14, why is preaching so important?
- 

In Romans 16:25, Paul says that it is the preaching of the Gospel that *strengthens* and *establishes* believers. That is one of the reasons why attending church where the Word is both preached and taught is so important to our walk with the Lord.

7. All Christians are called to be witnesses, but based on 1Corinthians 9:14, are all Christians commanded to be ‘preachers’?
- 

Evangelising is a team effort. The role of the preacher is extremely important. But the role of the Body of Christ is just as important. Good preaching is made up of not just the efforts of the preacher (“preaching-evangelism”), but the intensity of the worship to prepare the hearts of listeners for the Word (“worship-evangelism”), the role of the congregation to invite people to church (“invitational evangelism”), the level of attendance to participate in the preaching event (“attendance-evangelism”), the level of prayer for souls to be saved, lives healed, disciples strengthened (“prayer-evangelism”), and the role of givers to resource the proclamation of the Gospel (“giving-evangelism”, see Rom. 12:8).

8. What was one of Christ’s last commands to His disciples? (Mark 16:15)
- 

*Father God, please help us to partner together to preach your Gospel so that You are glorified and Your Kingdom is extended.*

Amen.