

Expository Listening

Acts 17:1-14

THE MAIN POINT:

It matters _____ to the faithful preaching of God's Word!

A. The faithful preaching of God's Word in Thessalonica

I Peter 3: 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect

"An expository sermon is a sermon in which the point of a biblical text is the point of the sermon, applied to the life of the congregation." –Mark Dever

Nehemiah 8: 4 And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. ...8 They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

I Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God

"Yes I hear the sermon; but who is speaking? The minister? No, indeed! You do not hear the minister. True, the voice is his, but my God is speaking the Word that he preaches or speaks."
– Martin Luther

II Peter 1: 17 For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," 18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. 19 And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention...

I Thessalonians 2: 13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

B. The faithful preaching of God's Word in Berea

"Make it your work with diligence to apply the word as you are hearing it. You have work to do as well as the preacher, and should all the time be as busy as he. You must open your mouths, and digest it, for another cannot digest it for you. Therefore be all the while at work, and abhor an idle heart in hearing...call up all when you come home in secret, and by meditation preach it over to yourselves. If it were coldly delivered by the preacher, preach it more earnestly over to your own hearts." – Richard Baxter

Matthew 13: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."