

## Word &amp; Witness

[This lecture corresponds to assigned Reading # 1: *Christ-centered Preaching*, pp. 18-41]

Goal of this lesson: To understand how important preaching is, and what is really important in preaching

### Intro: The Nobility of Preaching

#### I. Power is in the Word

##### A. The Power of God is Inherent in the Word:

The Word of God creates- "God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light" (Gen. 1: 3). "For he spoke and it came to be; he commanded and it stood firm" (Psalm 33: 9).

The Word of God controls- "He sends his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes. He hurls down his hail like pebbles . . . . He sends his word and melts them . . ." (Psalm 147: 15-18).

The Word of God convicts- "Let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. . . .' declares the Lord. 'Is not my word like fire . . . and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?'" (Jer. 23: 28, 29).

The Word of God performs his purposes- "As the rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without watering the earth . . . so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55: 10,11).

The effectiveness of the Word of God is not bound by the actions of men-Paul rejoices in Phil 1:15-19 that whether for "pure motives" or pretense he rejoiced because whenever the Word was spoken the work of God went forward.

##### B. The Power of the Word is manifested in the divine *Logos*, Christ.

(John 1:3; Heb. 1:3)

(James 1: 18; I Pet. 1: 23).

(II Tim. 2:15)

(Heb. 4:12) "The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Therefore:

I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power (dunamis=dynamite) of God for salvation (Romans 1:16)

The foolishness of preaching is effective (see I Cor 1:21).

##### C. The Power of the Word is Applied in Expository Preaching.

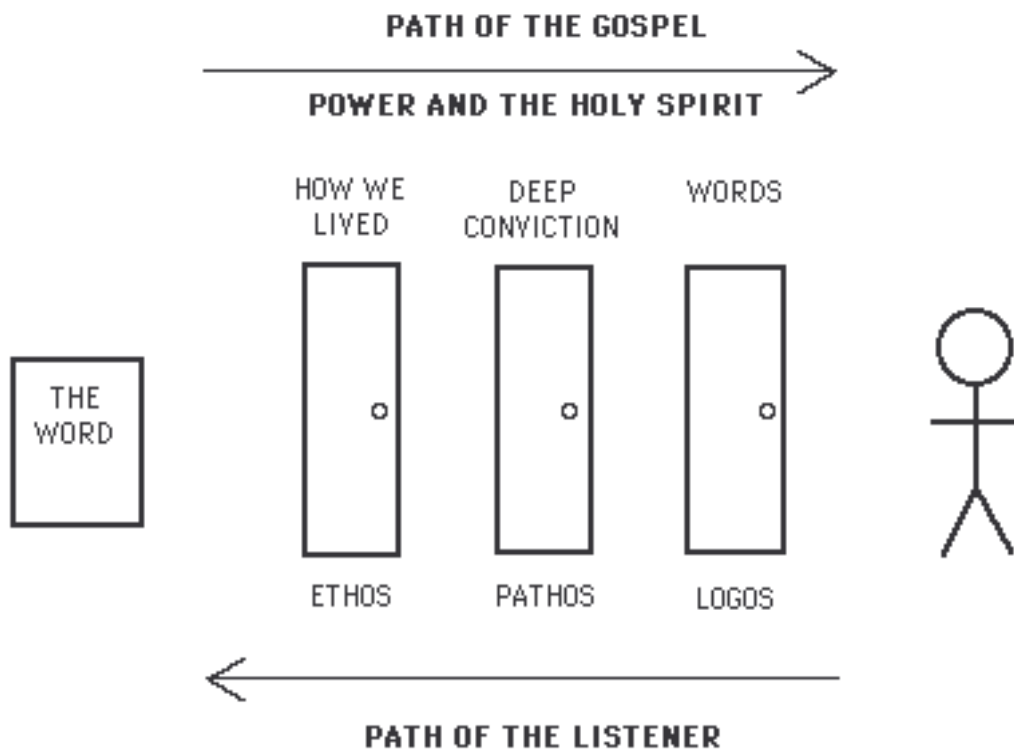
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## II. Effectiveness of the Word is promoted by testimony:

### A. Aristotle's distinctions:

Every persuasive message is made of three components:

1. Logos-
2. Pathos-
3. Ethos-



Our gospel came to you not simply with words [logos], but also with power and with deep conviction [pathos]. You know how we lived [ethos] among you for your sake. (1 Thess. 1:5)

## B. Scriptural Corroboration

(1Thess. 2:3-8 and 11-12) For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.

You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed -- God is our witness.

We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else. apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.

We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

(II Tim. 2:15 ff.) Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter...flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace.... Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments.

(Titus 2:7, 8) In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned.

(2 Cor. 6:3, 4) We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way....

(Phil. 1:27) Whatever happens conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel ....

(James 3:13) Who is wise among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

James 1:26, 27 If any man among you seems religious and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart this man's religion is vain. Pure religion as undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

## C. Ethos Implications:

### **Conclusion: I Tim. 4:12-16**

#### **Assignment for Next Class:**

Reading Assignment #2: *Christ-centered Preaching*, pp. 43-57.

Written Assignment: #1: Write a one-page comparison of two sermons in chapel.

Divided the page into thirds, and devote a third to comparing how the speakers establish and use logos, pathos and ethos. Due the day of Lecture 4.