



THE WONDER OF WORSHIP

The Wonder of Preaching in Worship

Sermon series #6

Nehemiah 8 & 2 Timothy 3,4

Robert Dunn, Associate Pastor

24 September 2017

unityhill
unifying church

Series Concept... There is a sense of wonder and beauty when we meet with the Lord in every part of our worship.

Sermon Concept... Preaching is biblically and historically an essential part of worship. The wonder of preaching in worship is a divine encounter with God's Word, the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the influence of the Holy Spirit in a receptive heart

Significant Words...

- Preach => original Greek => To announce victory/good news or to herald on behalf of the king
- Scripture / Word of God = God's inspired word to and for us today

Nehemiah and Ezra Nehemiah 8 & 9

- **Reverence** for the Scripture
 - "The people asked Ezra to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses" vs 1b
 - "When they saw him open the book, they all rose to their feet." vs 5
- **Reading** of the Scripture
 - Ezra ... "from early morning until noon read aloud to everyone who could understand." Vs 3a
 - "All the people listened closely to the book of the law" Vs 3b
- **Responding** to the Scripture
 - "Then Ezra praised the Lord, the great God, all the people chanted 'Amen! Amen! as they lifted their hands. Then they bowed down and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground." Vs 6
- **Relating** to the Scripture
 - "The Levites... read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage" Vs 7,8

- **Response** to the Scripture
 - "Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest & scribe, and Levites said, 'Don't mourn or weep on such a day as this! For today is a sacred day before the Lord your God! For the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.'" Vs 9
 - Nehemiah said, "Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and share gifts of food with people who have nothing" Vs 10 Potluck lunch! :)
 - "Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!" Vs 10b
- **Obedience** to the Scripture
 - "They discovered that the Lord had commanded through Moses that... shelters for those returning from captivity... confession of sin." 8:13-17, 9:1-3

Paul and Timothy 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:1-4

- The **impact** of Scripture on Timothy
 - "You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus." vs 15
- The **authority** of Scripture for Timothy's preaching
 - "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives. Vs 16
- The **commissioning** of Timothy to preach Scripture
 - "Preach the word of God" Vs 2
 - Paul uses a different word than teach
- A **warning** to Timothy about the future of preaching Scripture
 - "For a time is coming when people will no long listen to sound and wholesome teaching" Vs 3,4
- An **encouragement** to stay focused on preaching the Good News
 - "But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you." Vs 5

Summary... The preaching the word of God is designed and appointed by God to be an essential part of worship. If preaching dies... worship dies... if worship dies the church dies... if the church dies, its mission dies.

Prayer...

Lord, I pray that you would continue to transform my life as I am receptive to the influence of your Spirit. I ask that you would help me to appreciate anew the wonder of divine encounter with You through preaching of your Word.