

# **What Is A Sermon Worth?**

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We live in a world in which religious apathy is rampant. The world does not want to hear God's instructions, nor do many of my brethren. If everyone who claimed to be a member of this congregation, and those who once were members and still live in the area were present all at one time, I imagine we could pack the building every service. But sadly, we see some of our brethren every other week, once a month, or twice a year (Christmas and Easter), and some we never see. It is obvious that those who come occasionally are not here for their spiritual growth, or fellowship with their brethren, or to benefit the church in any way. They are here for selfish reasons thinking that their sporadic attendance will allow them the blessings of God. They don't know God's word well enough to realize that their lukewarmness makes Jesus sick (cf. Revelation 3:16). Because they do not love the Lord, and do not wish to learn of His Word, they sit passively in the pew waiting impatiently for the preacher to finish up so they can leave. If only they could realize what a biblical sermon is worth.

## **A Sermon Can Change the Course of History**

The preaching of Moses transformed an idolatrous and rebellious people into a new nation under God. The preaching of Micah postponed the destruction of Judah for more than a century (Jeremiah 26:18-19). The preaching of Jonah spared the wicked city of Nineveh from her destruction for ~ 150 years (Jonah 3:9-10). Preaching has awakened millions of people to the value and necessity of God's word, and established congregations of the Lord's body all over the world. This has helped to change the moral compass of many nations. Our nation was founded upon biblical principles that were preached, and only sound preaching combined with heartfelt obedience will restore our great country once again.

## **A Sermon Can Change the Hearts and Lives of Men**

When a sermon is heard and heeded it can transform a vile person into a saint. Peter and the other apostles preached to the murderers of Jesus on Pentecost (Acts 2:36), and 3000 were baptized and added to the church that day (vs. 41, 47). Peter's preaching at the house of Cornelius produced the first recorded converts of the Gentiles (Acts 10-11). The preaching of Jesus and Ananias changed the chief of sinners into a great preacher and author - the apostle Paul (Acts 9:4-6, 15-18). People who knew me in my younger days would never have believed that I would become a Gospel preacher. A Gospel sermon will affect anyone positively if they desire to heed the message.

## **A Sermon Can Change the Destiny of Souls**

Paul made it known that the Gospel is God's power unto salvation (Romans 1:16). James said the word of God is able to save your souls (James 1:21). Peter said we are born again by the word of God (1 Peter 1:23). There is no salvation without the proclamation of God's word. Preaching occupies a central position in God's scheme of redemption, thus, Paul's command to Timothy, "*Preach the word,*" 2 Timothy 4:2.

Though many people don't think that hearing the Gospel preached is worth much, it is. It is necessary for salvation - always has been and always will be. Let us never forget that preaching is God's way of getting His message to lost humanity. "*It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe,*" 1 Corinthians 1:21.