

# One Dimensional Preaching

It is the task of the gospel preacher to use the word of God for "*doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). He must preach "*all the counsel of God*" (Acts 20:27). He must also "*be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine*" (2 Timothy 4:2). All of this requires good judgment and balance on the part of a conscientious gospel preacher.

Brethren need to know how to handle the difficult trials of life; they need to know why they occur and how to turn to God for help. Brethren need to know about critical doctrine that will save their soul and the souls of people who will listen to them proclaim the gospel. Brethren need to know how to grow spiritually, having had the scriptures explained to them through capable study. All of these tasks, and more, take great study and contemplation.

I fear that our preaching can become one dimensional. Quick perusals of gospel meeting announcements and online postings show that many of the topics have turned away from distinct, fundamental, doctrinal lessons about the church, the nature of Christ, the error of false doctrines, etc. Those lessons have been replaced with lessons on the home and family, spiritual growth, trust in God, etc. Please do not misunderstand me -- these lessons are needed, but if we have a exclusive diet of them, we are not receiving "*all the counsel of God.*" I reject the assertion that a lesson on the glory of the church or the falsehood of Mormonism cannot help a Christian grow! Let us seek balance, and preach what will help the hearer, no matter how "negative" the message may seem.

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