

Sermon Handout

The Apostolic Preaching

Acts 17:1-3

I. A Primitive Gospel Statement – “Jesus is Lord”

- a. Believers must confess that Jesus is Lord – Rom 10:9
 - i. The Holy Spirit moves men to this confession I Cor 12:3b
 - ii. Set in opposition to “Jesus is accursed” I Cor 12:3a
See Mt 10:33; 26:34ff; I Jn 2:22; II Tim 2:12
- b. The early apostolic preaching – “preaching the Lord Jesus”
Acts 2:36; 11:20 *cf.* 11:16-17; 16:31
- c. Recapitulated in St. Paul’s letters Col 2:6; Phil 2:11
- d. Distinctly similar to the Great Shema in Deut 6:4
 - i. Definitive declaration of allegiance to YHWH *see* I Cor 8:6
 - ii. YHWH is God of all the earth – to be loved utterly v. 5

II. A Standard Body of Doctrine from the Apostles

- a. Jude “The once-delivered faith” v. 3 *cf.* v. 20
- b. Letters to Timothy & Titus
 - i. I Tim 6:20-21; 1:19; 4:6 (*esp.* the parallel phrases)
 - ii. II Tim 1:13; 4:3; 1:14 (*cf.* I Tim 4:6)
 - iii. Tit 1:9; 1:13
- c. Hebrews 3:1; 4:14; 10:23; 6:2 (“confession” & “doctrine”)
- d. “Word(s) of life” Acts 5:20; Phil 2:16; I Jn 1:1 (*cf.* 2:24)

III. What the Earliest Church Believed

- a. St. Paul urged them to cling to what they had been taught
 - i. Gal 3:1 “We openly declared Christ crucified”
 - ii. II Thess 2:15 “hold the ‘traditions’ we gave you”
 - iii. Rom 6:17 “you obeyed the *pattern* of doctrine”
 - iv. Col 2:7 “the faith . . . as you were taught”
- b. The received & delivered teaching
 - i. I Cor 11:23 – Eucharist *cf.* Acts 2:46; Lk 24:30
 - ii. Eph 4:5 – Baptism *cf.* Acts 2:37-38; Mt 28:19; (Acts 8:36-38)
 - iii. I Cor 15:3, 17 – Resurrection narrative *cf.* Rom 1:3-4; Gal 3:1
- c. The gospel encompasses passing into deeper levels of understanding
Rom 1:15-17 “God’s righteousness revealed from faith to faith”