

“bits from bob....”

All you preach about is Jesus!

By Bob Young



I share an experience that I had a number of years ago when I was preaching full-time. I was not in the habit of “changing churches” – in 20 years of preaching before I began serving in Christian higher education, I preached in only two churches. But on one occasion, I was “pursued.” The elders in a certain church were seeking a new preacher and they asked me again and again to visit with them – even as I repeatedly said “no.” Eventually, I sent the required recorded sermons, visited the church, preached the customary “try out” sermon, and interviewed with the elders.

Early on in the interview, one of the elders said, “It seems that all you preach about is Jesus.” I took it as a criticism of my preaching. On the one hand I think his observation was exaggerated, on the other hand I plead guilty! In a quarter century of pulpit ministry, most of my sermons were about Jesus...why the truth that God sent Jesus is such Good News, God’s eternal purpose to save the world through Jesus, accepting Jesus as King demands our commitment, salvation, evangelism, discipleship, God’s plan for the church, Jesus is coming back. Each week, the sermon should declare the great truths of Scripture, establishing faith and giving God’s people a clear identity.

I believe God blesses such preaching. I believe there is a reason that our ministry saw one church double, another church tripled. The early church preached one message—it was the message of Jesus. Paul declared Jesus as Lord and Messiah. Read the early chapters of Acts: the message of Jesus is a life and death message that saves souls for eternity.

Classes, Bible studies, and small groups provide opportunities for exploring the details of the Christian life. But we must never forget the correct order -- the horse goes in front of the cart! Preachers, preach the Word! Preach Jesus! Preach the Good News! “How will they obey without faith, how will they have faith without hearing, how will they hear without a preacher who declares Good News!”

(Oh, and by the way, those elders did not offer me the job!)