

the truth that the teachings within it are necessary parts of our creed and conduct. If I have lost you in this....the hour will soon be over... and if I did not think it important I would not be devoting this much time to it.

But this practical authority of the Word is what underlies our message to the world. God has prepared a way of salvation and it is the most practical thing we have to offer our society. Because of the authority of the Word we may proclaim it very positively and by it urge people to trust and live for the Lord Jesus.

II. Discussion: By the practical authority of the Word of God, we declare:

A. The Lord Jesus Christ is the appointed way to life: Acts 4:12
He stated so, Himself, in John 14 and while the way is a "narrow" way it is also very precise. Those who come to God by Him are not rejected. This is a primary message commitment of every believer and certainly of every gathered testimony. There is no other way.

B. The Lord is known by faith to those who believe. John 20:29
The blind man of John 9 as well as Nathaniel in John 1 and many others typify this. The psalmist invites us to taste and see that the Lord is good. The skeptic is convinced by believing more than by arguing. We declare it on the basis of the Word of God and as in Philippians 1 it is something for which we should all be ready to contend for with one mind.

C. He delivers from guilt those who trust Him Acts 26:13-18, et al.
The message in a practical sense is not about what we are but about Him. Freedom from bondage is the watchword and as in Ephesians 2 it is a matter of grace through faith, the gift of God. You may say it in many different ways but if it suggests any other form of salvation...it is an error. What we declare is true by the Word of God...and that is practical authority.

III. Conclusion: By the authority of the Word of God we declare these things and if we fail to do so we have forgotten His love to us. It is an enormously practical message for it delivers people from sin and death.

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