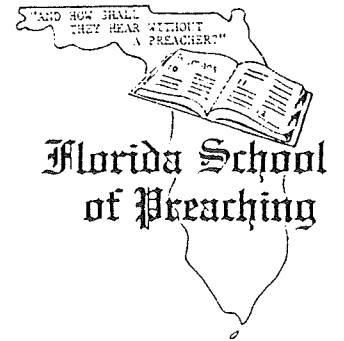


THE HARVESTERS



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Flavil Nichols' Presentation of Basic Sermon Materials

By
Jackie M. Stearsman

The major thrust of our work is training men to preach. In doing so we seek the services of those who have a particular expertise in preaching.

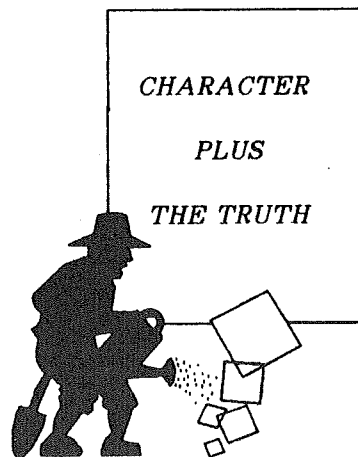
Recently brother Flavil Nichols presented basic sermon material for four days. Brother Nichols comes from a preaching family. His experiences as a preacher, and his willingness to recall the experiences of his family, made us proud to be committed to preaching.

What Makes A Great Sermon?

Most can provide evaluations of sermons, and some evaluations are better than others. Some good sermons are condemned as being of no value. Some poor sermons are praised as being good.

The opinion expressed about sermons will disclose as much about oneself as it does about the sermon being evaluated. Read again the sermon of Jesus in John 8 for Biblical

confirmation of this truth.



Since brother Nichols' presentation of sermon material is fresh in my mind I would like to offer two suggestions for evaluating sermons.

The Preacher

God intended for his message to be delivered by faithful men (II Tim. 2:2). God knew that some men like evil spirits would not present the truth, thus he forbids their participation in furthering the truth (Mark 1:21-28; Acts 16:16-18).

Man, by living a godly life, may greatly enhance the lesson presented and he may likewise detract from the message presented if his life is immoral. Have we not been provided a vivid demonstration of this in the past months by the fall of some messengers of error.

Gus and Flavil Nichols enhanced their sermons by being men of genuine Christian character. (1) They *loved the souls of men*. (2) They *loved God*. (3) They preached the Bible with *courageous boldness*. (4) They *prepared* for their role of preaching. (5) *Unselfish generosity* characterized their labors.

Brother Flavil motivated us to be more diligent in study as he recalled the long hours of study made by brother Gus throughout those long years of serving others in the Gospel. This was emphasized as brother Flavil told of the preparation made for the debates and answering false doctrine which was never far removed from them.

No preacher or teacher in

need of spiritual food would be disappointed sitting at the feet of these great men.

This was a contributing factor to the success of Ezra. *"For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments" (Ezra 7:10).*

The church today would be different if it had in its pulpits and classrooms men of integrity. Reproof, rebuke, and exhortation is more palatable when it comes from a person who commands respect.

The Sermon

In evaluating the content of the sermon there are a number of components which stand out as we listened to brother Nichols.

(1) *Simplicity*. In reviewing the outlines passed out to those in attendance, there was no outline but what the novice as well as the full grown in the faith could have profited and understood. (2) *Substance*. The sermon outlines were filled with Bible. They were designed to teach the Bible and to motivate men to respect and obey it. Viewed by this criteria we may call them masterpieces. (3) *Problem solving*. The church has always had problems. It always will. It does today. The Nichols' sermons were not efforts to deceive anyone. They did not dodge any problem which confronted the church in their day. A review of the outlines would make one aware of what the brotherhood faced in their day and how it was assisted in solving major problems. (4) *Influential*. The lessons presented were timeless. The same basic fundamental truths needed in the past are needed today.

A Specific Example

One of the ways brother Gus will be remembered is his driving home what he called "Generic and Specific" commands. In a pass out provided by brother Flavil there were thirteen (13) lessons which called attention to the distinction between two extremes the church will face in every generation: Those who would make laws for God and those who would take liberty with the law of God.

Preachers, could you present four (4) days of sermon outlines which would be helpful to your fellow preachers? Do you have thirteen (13) charts you could share with one being confronted by liberalism and/or antiism? If a congregation was facing a problem could they obtain help from you?

Conclusion

We are grateful to brother Flavil Nichols for being with us in this series. We have a greater appreciation for preaching and what preaching involves because of his days with us. If you did not take advantage of these occasions you have missed recalling a part of history which would have been of encouragement to you in the faith.

Brother Nichols, we thank you for the lessons and thanks for the memories.

LADIES WE APPRECIATE YOU!

We are delighted for the many helping hands extended making it possible for us to train preachers without the undue anxiety and time consuming efforts begging for funds.



Recently the Ladies of South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, Florida, contributed \$370.25 to the School. We deeply appreciate their thoughtfulness and generosity.

SUMMER SCHOOL CLASSES

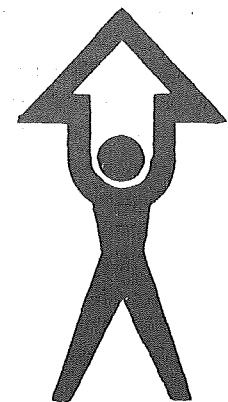
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IS YOUR RESPECT FOR THE BIBLE APPROPRIATE?

I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts (Psalm 119:63).

Through thy precepts I get understanding therefore I hate every false way (Psalm 119:104).

Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God (Psalm 119:115).

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether (Psalm 19:7-9).

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (II Tim. 3:14-17).

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth

his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed (James 1:21-25).

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (II Pet. 1:19-21).

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day (John 12:48).

If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant (I Cor. 14:37-38).

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual (I Cor. 2:13).

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe (I Thess. 2:13).

Think not that I am come

to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:17-20).

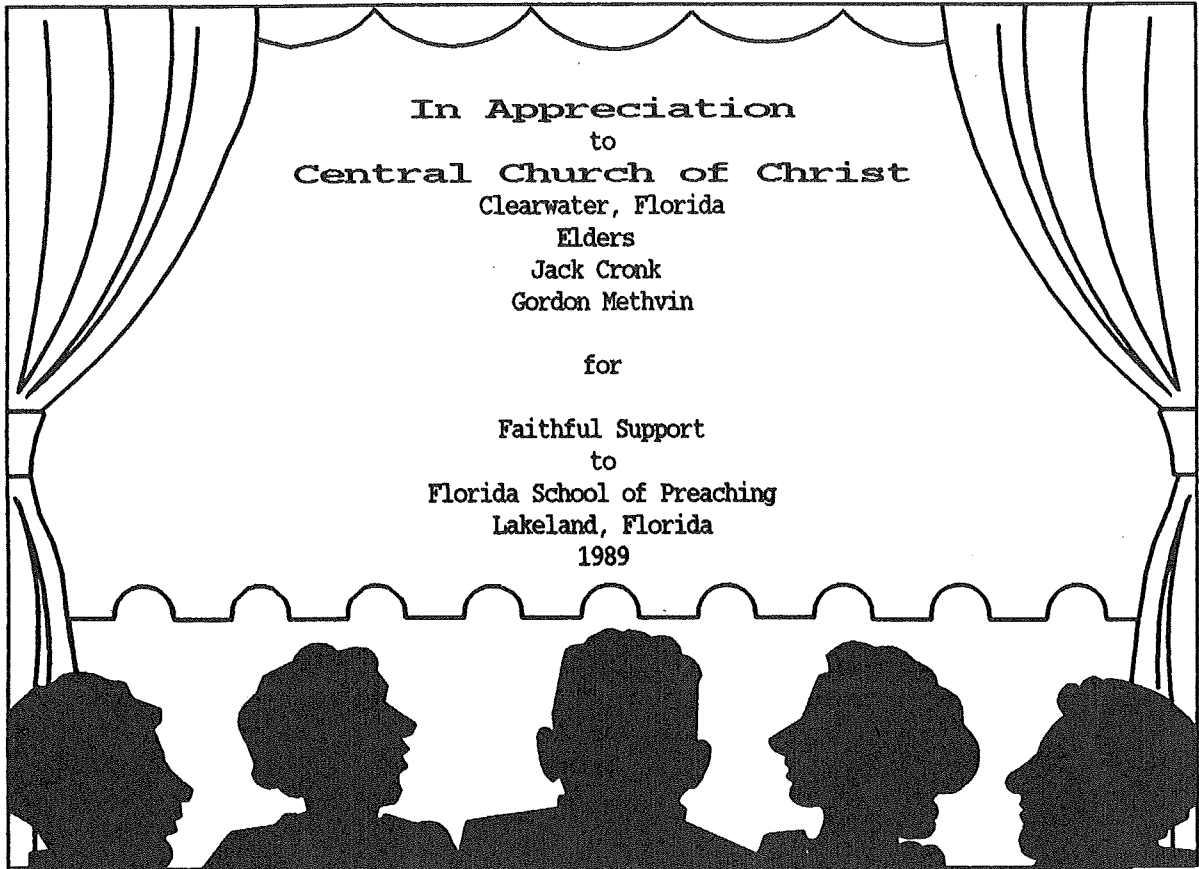
Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you (Deut. 4:2).

Every word which I command is pure: and I have sent unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar (Prov. 30:5-6).

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book (Rev. 22:18-19).

THINK

Booster Club Banquet 1989



It has become a tradition for the Florida School of Preaching to have a Booster Club Banquet. For several years during this occasion recognition has been given to those who have made special contributions toward the progress of the Florida School of Preaching.

At the Banquet March 13, 1989, the Central Church of Christ, Clearwater, Florida was honored and pres-

ented a plaque with the above caption.

The congregation has been a faithful financial contributor; it has in the past permitted their preacher to teach classes in the school; and one of the elders, Gordon Methvin, serves on the Board of Directors of the School.

Entertainment for the occasion was provided by Glann Lee, Earl Morris,

William P. Jeffcoat, Kym Polk, Gene Burgett, Harold Rodriguez, and Steve Bedard.

Information about the present state of the school and presentation of the plaque was made by brother B. C. Carr.

Special thanks to J. H. and Louise Blackman, Laura Hart and others who assisted them in preparing and serving the meal.

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