

# Spiritual Disciplines Within The Church

## Chapter 4: Why Listen to Preaching in the Church?

### **Introduction:**

Do we need to change our method of bringing people into church? Maybe just preaching isn't enough. Are there more effective ways in which we could be reaching the lost other than preaching?

### **I. God was pleased to ordain preaching. (I Cor. 1:21)**

- A. Why preaching: It pleased God.
- B. How: Through the foolishness of the message preached.
- C. Who: To save those who believe.

### **II. God could have chosen other ways to communicate His message.**

- A. He had tens of thousands of angels. (Luke 2:9-14)
- B. He created and controls the stars.
- C. Calligraphy of the clouds.
- D. Speak directly from heaven every morning. (John 12:28-30)
- E. Pictures books or drawings.

### **III. The meaning of preaching.**

- A. The proclamation of God's truth by any and every legitimate means. (I Cor. 1:21)
- B. The ordination of preaching.
  - 1. He spoke through the preaching of prophets. (Matt. 10:7)
  - 2. Preaching was and is the method explicitly appointed by God.
  - 3. Preaching is always relevant because it is timeless, trans-cultural, and simple.
    - a. All that is needed for preaching in any place, in any culture, at any time, is a preacher, the Word of God, and listeners.
    - b. The most effective means of communicating the gospel is through preaching.

*"God uses preaching to communicate more than current communication theory is concerned with, I have nothing against books, films, tapes, and study groups in their place, but the place where God sets the preacher is not their place." (J.I. Packer)*

### **IV. God's message is the subject of preaching.**

- A. Message of the cross. (I Cor. 1:21-23)
- B. Types of preaching.
  - 1. Topical
  - 2. Textual
  - 3. Expositional

*"Go where the gospel is preached, the gospel that really feeds your soul, and go often."*