

January 31, 2024

Marks of a Healthy Church Part 1: Expository Preaching & Gospel Doctrine

Goal for This Week:

To consider how expository preaching and gospel doctrine helps the church and its mission begin with God, remain with God, and end with God.

Review of Past Weeks:

Theological Reflection – _____

Because theological reflection should always begin, remain, and end with God, and because God has revealed Himself to us through His Word to transform us to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom 8:28), theology should not only be intellectual but also *transformational*, which includes our _____ and _____.

Our Ecclesiology and Missiology flow out of our doctrine of God and leads to doxology.

“Christ’s kingdom rule becomes visible in the local church and the demonstration of that kingdom rule requires a gathering where the saints affirm one another in the gospel and one another’s membership in the gospel” (Leeman, *One Assembly*, 48)

What Distinctively Marks A Healthy Church? How Do We Evaluate Good Markers?

Mark 1: Expository Preaching

Expository preaching is the main role of any pastor and it’s what any congregation ought to demand of their pastors.

“Expository preaching is preaching that takes for the point of a sermon the point of a particular passage of Scripture” – (Dever, *Nine Marks*, 45).

Why should the expository teaching of God’s Word be the central instrument for the church?

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2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 4:1-5 – “I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: (2) preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. (3) For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, (4) and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. (5) As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

Titus 1:9 – “He [the elder] must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.”

What are some observations we can make about preaching from the texts above?

How does expositional preaching help the church and its mission begin with God, remain with God, and end with God?

Mark 2: Gospel Doctrine

Gospel doctrine is the _____ of expositional preaching because it is the _____ of Scripture.

“Expositional preaching serves a church and helps to make it more healthy only if what is preached is true” – (Dever, *Nine Marks*, 69).

What is gospel doctrine?

“Biblical theology is the theology of the Bible, particularly as it is considered in the sweep of its history. Biblical theology is gospel doctrine” (Dever, *Nine Marks*, 71).

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Example: Using Biblical Theology to See Gospel Doctrine in Deut. 28:1-14.

Genesis 12:2-3 – “And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. (3) I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Galatians 3:7-9 – “Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. (8) And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘In you shall all the nations be blessed.’ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.”

Galatians 3:16, 18 – “Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, ‘And to offsprings,’ referring to many, but referring to one, ‘And to your offspring,’ who is Christ... For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.”

Galatians 3:29 – “And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.”

Ephesians 1:3, 7, 11, 13 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places... (7) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace... (11) In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will... (13) In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.”

How does biblical theology help us see gospel doctrine in Deut. 28:1-14?

How does gospel doctrine help the church and its mission begin with God, remain with God, and end with God?

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Preparation for Next Week:

Read some confessions of the Baptist church. Attached to this document includes the BFM 2000 and the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

Resources That Will Be Used This Semester:

Akin, Daniel L. *10 Who Changed the World*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2012.

Clark, Elliot. *Mission Affirmed: Recovering The Missionary Motivation of Paul*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2022.

Dever, Mark. *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021.

DeYoung, Kevin and Greg Gilbert. *What Is the Mission of the Church?: Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011.

George, Timothy and Denise George. *Baptist Confessions, Covenants, and Catechisms*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing, 1996.

Hammett, John S. *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches: A Contemporary Ecclesiology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2005.

Leeman, Jonathan. *One Assembly: Rethinking the Multisite & Multiservice Church Models*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020.

Leeman, Jonathan and Gregory A. Wills. *The Rule of Love: How the Local Church Should Reflect God's Love and Authority*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018.

Ott, Craig. *The Church on Mission: A Biblical Vision for Transformation among All People*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019.

Piper, John. *Let the Nations Be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010.