

## The Pulpit

Nehemiah 8:1-8

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## Preachers and Preaching

- **Expectations and demands of preachers (some right and some wrong)**

- Men: Isaiah 30:10; Jeremiah 5:31; Matthew 15:12; 2 Timothy 4:3

- God: 2 Timothy 4:2; Acts 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:1-2

- **Goal of gospel preaching**: Conviction and conversion of soul. John 16:8 (2 Timothy 4:2)

- It is God's work – All must understand this and not cheapen it, disable it, or invalidate it by turning it into the work and wisdom of men.

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## The Pulpit is Not ...

- **A soapbox to promote a personal agenda.**

Philippians 1:15-16

- Not for self-promotion. cf. 2 Corinthians 10:12, 17-18

- Hidden agendas obscure the glory of the cross. Galatians 6:12-15

- **A stage to entertain the audience.**

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (Acts 8:9-11);

2 Timothy 4:3-4

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## The Pulpit is Not ...

- **A lectern for academia (human wisdom).**

1 Corinthians 1:26-29; 2:1, 4; Colossians 2:8, 18

- Preacher must boldly preach truth. Ephesians 6:19

- Not propose, suggest, offer options, and theorize.

- Bible produces faith, not doubt. 1 Timothy 1:4

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## When doubtful preaching is accepted, then gradually ...

- The standard of absolute truth becomes relative.

- Sin is minimized, becoming “differing yet honest opinions.”

- Worldliness invades thinking and churches.

- Fellowship with sin and error broadens.

- Distinctive message/meaning of the gospel is lost. 1 Peter 2:9-10

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## The Pulpit is Not ...

- **A rifle range to take “pot shots” at one another.**

3 John 9-10

- Document and address every issue, including identifying those in error. Matthew 16:6, 12; 2 Timothy 2:16-18; 4:10, 14-15; 3 John 9; Romans 16:17

- Do not preach personal attacks on a man.

- Preach against the error men teach, while preaching the “purity and simplicity that is in Christ” 2 Corinthians 11:3

- Public and private teaching must work together. Acts 20:20 (Matthew 18:15); 2 Timothy 2:24-26

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## The Pulpit is ...

- **A divine charge.** 2 Timothy 4:1-2  
(1 Corinthians 9:16)
  - The entire word of God must be preached. Nehemiah 8:8; Acts 20:20, 25-27
  - Make scriptural, practical applications that encourage, warn, and rebuke. 2 Timothy 4:2 (3:16-17)
  - Be true to the message of truth. Acts 4:19-20

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## The Pulpit is ...

- **A sober responsibility.** (James 3:1)  
2 Timothy 2:25-26; 4:5
  - It must be motivated by love of God, love for truth, and love for souls. Philippians 1:15, 17
  - Seize opportunities to serve and to save. 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:5

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## The Pulpit is ...

- **A perpetual work.** 2 Timothy 4:5
  - Repetition: Continue preaching the same truth without fear, favor, or faltering. Philippians 3:1; (2 Peter 1:12-15)
  - Training and encouraging men to be preachers. (Matthew 28:20); 2 Timothy 2:2
  - Sending and supporting sound gospel preachers. Romans 10:14-15; Acts 13:2-3

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## The Pulpit is ...

- A blessing from Christ. Ephesians 4:11ff
- When misused, it becomes a curse. Galatians 1:6-9; (Titus 1:10-11)
- Preach to us "*right things*" (Isaiah 30:10)

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