

Soli Deo Gloria

1Co 2:1-5

What You Can Expect from Your Pastor

That he preach Christ crucified

And nothing else

Intro: What do you expect when you come to church on a Sunday morning? That varies from Sunday to Sunday doesn't it? The readings change from Sunday to Sunday as do the hymns and the order of service. But one thing you always expect to hear at church every Sunday, Sunday after Sunday, is the gospel message. The simple message of Christ crucified for you to assure you of your forgiveness and to assist you in your Christian living. This is What You Can Expect from Your Pastor. 1) That he preach Christ crucified 2) And nothing else.

I. That he preach Christ crucified

A. Preach the gospel

1. the gospel
 - a. what do you expect to hear being preached from most pulpits today?
 - b. walk into many churches or turn on your TV
 - c. and you would expect to hear many different things being preached by many different 'pastors' and I use that term lightly
 - d. things like: a cure for social ills
 - e. political rhetoric
 - f. how to be truly happy and have a better life
 - g. how to find financial success
 - h. but what do you and should you expect to hear from your pastor from the pulpit on any given Sunday
 - i. or in Bible Class on Wednesdays or in Confirmation class?
 - j. Paul tells you in **(1Co 2:2, "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.")**
 - k. what you can and should expect to hear from your pastor is the gospel
 - l. the very simple message of Christ crucified
 - m. the chief doctrine of all Scripture around which all other teachings revolve
 - n. the message that Jesus died on a cross
 - o. and with that death took away the sin of the world, including yours
 - p. defeated Satan
 - q. conquered the grave
 - r. overcame death
 - s. reconciled God and sinners
 - t. and opened heaven to them
2. the gospel *alone*
 - a. this is to be the heart and soul of all that your pastor does
 - b. it must be the sole focus of every sermon he preaches
 - c. every class he teaches
 - d. and every call he makes
 - e. he must, like Paul, resolve to know nothing but Christ crucified

B. The gospel is *power*

1. why?
 - a. why must the gospel be the sole focus of your pastor's entire ministry?
 - b. because this is the only message that really matters
 - c. this is the only message that is really important and necessary

2. the gospel is God's power
 - a. why? because the gospel message is God's power
 - b. this is the message by which the Spirit operates
 - c. the gospel alone has the power to save
 - d. it alone has the power to create faith in Jesus in a person's heart
 - e. through a splash of water and a few spoken words
 - f. to turn a heart dead in sin and unbelief
 - g. into a heart alive with faith in Jesus
 - h. the gospel alone has the power to sustain and increase that same faith
 - i. through the penny's worth of bread and a sip of wine you will receive later on
 - j. only the gospel has the power to aid a person in successfully living the new Christian life given in baptism
 - k. only the gospel has the power to make people truly happy and successful
 - l. the gospel alone has the power to truly help in times of distress and trouble and difficulty
 - m. and the gospel alone has the power to overcome the dread, threat, and sorrow of death
 - n. the gospel IS the only message that really matters
 - o. and you can and should expect that this will be the ONLY message your pastor will preach

Trans: Expect your pastor to preach Christ crucified...

II. And nothing more

A. Forsake himself

1. weakness, fear, and trembling
 - a. who are the most popular preachers in our day?
 - b. turn on your TV, go to the mega churches and you will see
 - c. the ones with the \$100 haircuts and \$300 suits
 - d. the ones who are flashy and eloquent and able to give dramatic, impassioned 'sermons' and I use the term lightly
 - e. the ones who draw attention to themselves and appeal to their vast intelligence
 - f. but this is not at all what you can and should expect from your pastor
 - g. Paul exemplified what you can and should expect from your pastor
 - h. **(1Co 2:1,3-5, "When I came to you brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.")**
 - i. your should and will have a low-key approach to his ministry among you
 - j. he will not be proud or boastful, pointing to or glorifying himself
 - k. he will not have airs about him
 - l. rather, he will be among you in weakness
 - m. he will be acutely aware of his own mental, physical, and spiritual weakness
 - n. he will be alert to his faults and shortcomings
 - o. he will be conscious of his complete insufficiency to carry out his noble task of proclaiming the gospel to you
 - p. in addition, he will be among you in fear and trembling
 - q. keenly aware of his awesome responsibility of preaching the gospel
 - r. and having a deep respect for the sacred task assigned to him by God
2. for the sake of the gospel
 - a. your pastor will operate in this manner for the good of the gospel he and you both love so dearly

- b. so that both the pastor's and people's focus remains solidly, squarely, and firmly on the gospel message
- c. and so that both the pastor and people know that all power and success come from the gospel and not the man

B. Forsake his wisdom

- 1. don't add any kind of human wisdom
 - a. that low-key approach to the gospel ministry will continue in what your pastor preaches
 - b. your pastor will not add anything to the gospel
 - c. to try and make it more attractive to people
 - d. more appealing to people
 - e. or easier to accept
 - f. like using eloquent, flowery language to entertain
 - g. or superior wisdom to impress
 - h. or fancy and flattering words to persuade
- 2. for the sake of the gospel
 - a. the gospel doesn't need anything human beings add to it
 - b. all these human additions do is take the focus off the gospel
 - c. and place it on the pastor, his skills, and his ability to entertain
 - d. in addition, man's wisdom is imperfect and unreliable
 - e. and cannot save a single soul
- 3. pray for your pastor
 - a. to preach the gospel alone
 - b. that is what you called your pastor to do here
 - c. this is what you expect of him
 - d. indeed, this is what God expects of your pastor, too
 - e. by all means, hold him to it!
 - f. your pastor must admit that that he has not always lived up to your and God's expectations of him
 - g. often he has failed to make the gospel the focus of his ministry among you
 - h. for that he asks your forgiveness and God's forgiveness for Jesus' sake
 - i. and he asks for your prayers and God's help to do as you and God expect
 - j. to preach Christ crucified alone

Concl: To the crucified Christ alone be the glory.