

## Real Preachers Please Stand Up!

Preachers must stand and preach the whole gospel to a world desiring warm fuzzies.

There are those in the church today who would suggest that some gospel preachers are spending too much time being "nitpicky" on sound doctrine and not enough time preaching on Christ and the cross. To preach Christ and him crucified is to preach the doctrine. Many preachers today are failing in their task to perfect the saints, teach the congregation and train up young men to defend the faith. This failure is giving rise to the idea being circulated that a basic portion of the gospel is being neglected and that the Epistles and Acts are secondary to the core gospel.

It is worthy of note, that the Bible never mentions a core gospel. Christ did command his disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel. It would be safe to conclude that they did this since the Holy Spirit was given to the apostles (Acts 1:8; 2:4) to guide them into all truth and bring to their remembrance all that Jesus had taught (John 14:25-26; 16:13). So why should we consider Acts and the Epistles as secondary? They are the gospel, too. Peter spoke on the day of Pentecost "as the spirit gave him utterance."

The doctrine of Christ is what Jesus taught and what his apostles taught (John 14:25-26). 2 John 9 says that those who "progress" away from the teaching of Christ do not have God. We cannot preach Christ and the cross without preaching the church because the church was purchased with the blood shed on the cross (Acts 20:28). We cannot preach the gospel of Christ without preaching the kingdom (Acts 8:12). We cannot preach the kingdom/church without preaching about its doctrines, organization, work, worship, etc., which is taught in Acts and the Epistles. If we are going to declare the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27), it would have to include all that God has revealed.