



## Correspondence

Comments on articles appearing in the magazine are always welcome, and should be addressed to the editor in whose section the article appears.

### More effective preaching

I would like to make some proposals on what I think we need to do to become more effective preachers:

- 1 We have to stop censoring the Bible and preach the parts that seem to us to be unpalatable. Why? Because it is the unpalatable parts that our contemporary world needs; for example, Christ's condemnation of the lawyers of his day for binding burdens on men's shoulders and not lifting a finger to help (Mt. 23:4).
- 2 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov. 9:10). We must preach "the fear of the LORD" and stop pretending that it is merely a mild sort of reverence, as it is commonly interpreted in the churches to be. From Adam, Abraham and Moses, men have physically trembled at God's Word.
- 3 Throughout the Old Testament God blamed the politicians—the kings and the rulers—for the sins of the people. By targeting our proclamation at 'friends' and neighbours, we have omitted our main duty, to target "principalities and powers". We seem to be able to talk at great length about politics but we do not address local political issues, where we could have the most effect, like Jeremiah and the prophets of old.
- 4 The first three chapters of the Bible demonstrate that God's way of dealing with mankind is firstly to give them generous blessings and then curse those blessings if men disobey. This practice has been carried on by the Almighty ever since, as seen in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28, and culminating in the last book of the Old Testament: "I will curse your blessings" (Mal. 2:2).
- 5 There should be a great increase in proclaiming the mighty acts of the Lord of hosts, His

judgements on the wicked: "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men" (2 Cor. 5:11).

- 6 We need to understand the importance of the ninth commandment, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour" (Ex. 20:16), in social life, and preach honesty much more forcibly. Judas has a great number of followers in modern life; he was a devil and so are his followers.
- 7 We must remember that we are not just generic Christians, we are Bible Christians.
- 8 We pray, "Thy will be done in earth" (Mt. 6:10); let us preach as we pray.

In all these things the principle is, "to the Jew first, and also to the Greek [Gentile]" (Rom. 1:16). Big changes are needed in gospel proclamation; we need to be a lot less shy of what some people might think of us, and remember instead, "Thou God seest me" (Gen. 16:13).

Arthur Fletcher  
Melbourne, Australia

*I take it that under item 3 Brother Fletcher does not mean voting and standing for election, but rather exerting pressure on local leaders for things to be done in conformity with God's principles. However, I think he is on doubtful grounds here. Israel was God's nation, supposedly being ruled under God's laws, and it was right that attempts should have been made to get things done in accordance with God's laws. I see no evidence in the Acts or the epistles that early believers in Gentile lands were expected to do the same, and I cannot therefore see any Biblical precedent for doing what Brother Fletcher advocates, especially as the prophets were men commissioned and inspired by God for their work, which we are not.—T.B.*