Preaching The Bible
And Not The Social Gospel

Intro: More and more preachers within the Lord’s church are preaching a social gospel instead of the book, chapter, and verse preaching.

I. WHAT IS THE SOCIAL GOSPEL.
   A. The social gospel says that the church’s objective is to be involved in social issues.
      1. The most important need of man is man’s physical and material needs.
      2. Thus, it is the church’s responsibility to provide for those physical and material needs.
   B. The social gospel assumes man is perfect and the evils that exist are the product of a corrupt social system.
      1. They seek for a perfect place in this world—a heaven on earth.
      2. They believe the world will be a perfect place when all the wars, poverty, sickness, greed, and such like are eliminated.
         a. There is a redefining of sin. Sin is poverty, disease, pollution, and such like.
         b. They, thus, seek a one-world government in which their aims of social justice can be realized.
      3. Christ is no longer the redeemer of the sins of the world (spiritual), but the redeemer of social injustice (physical).
         a. The social gospel teaches that the only way to change man is by social equality.
         b. Give man food, clothing, and provide for his material need and that will change man.
         c. The Bible teaches the opposite: change man and that will lead to a change in his situation.
            (1) Slavery in the days of Christ is an example of such.
            (2) There was never the attempt to revolutionize slavery.
            (3) However, when man was changed, the institution of slavery came to a natural end.
      4. Notice the Scriptures teaching concerning this world.
         a. Heb. 1:10-11 “And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: 11They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;”
         b. This world is a corrupt place and will one day be burned up; 2 Pet. 3:10 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”
   5. They also hold a One Church for One World view.
      a. This is a global, ecclesiastical empire that can rule the world.
      b. Thus, they preach an ecumenical doctrine.
C. **What it means to preach the social gospel.**

1. This philosophy changes the mission of the church.
2. The social gospel says the mission of the church is to feed the poor, advance the labor unions, push for freedom and economic reforms.
3. Since they are looking for a heaven on earth, they will make the church address things that are not spiritual.
4. This leads churches to “meet the needs of man” (the felt-needs fallacy).
   a. We see congregations providing seminars on aging, depression, how to manage money, stress management, etc.
   b. This is why we see the putting of pleasure above anything else. They building of gymnasiums’ to help man meet his supposed needs.
   c. They preach the doctrine that God’s desire for man is that he be wealthy (cf. the televangelist).

II. **WHAT IT MEANS TO PREACH THE BIBLE.**

A. **Preaching on sin.**

1. Gal. 3:22 “But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”
2. John 16:8-9 “And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me;”
3. Make people realize a personal conviction of sin.
4. That does not mean always making people feel good about themselves.

B. **Preaching on salvation.**

1. This is salvation from sin as revealed in the Bible, not social ills.
2. After convicting man of his personal sins; there is the need to instruct him how he can remove the stain of those sins.
3. What man must do to have the remission of his sins.

C. **Preaching on the church.**

1. Its distinctiveness.
   a. There is only one church.
      (1) Eph. 4:4 “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;”
      (2) Mat. 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
   b. Preaching on the sin of division and denominationalism; 1 Cor. 1:10 “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”
2. Its work.
   a. That the work of the church is not correcting the social ills of society.
   b. The work of the church is spiritual in nature—not physical.
      (1) John 18:36 “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.”
(2) Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

c. This spiritual work is manifest in three areas of work.
(1) Preaching to the lost; Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

(2) Edifying the saved; Eph. 4:12-13 “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”

(3) Meeting the physical needs of man (food, clothing, shelter, etc.) to meet his spiritual needs; Gal. 6:10 “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

3. Its organization.

a. Christ the head of the church.
(1) Eph. 1:22-23 “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”

(2) Col. 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

b. Within the local congregation:
(1) Elders overseeing the congregation.
(a) Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

(b) 1 The. 5:12-13 “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; 13And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”

(2) Deacons as special servants, working in the areas of work the elders assign.
(a) Acts 6

(b) 1 Tim. 3

D. Preaching on the Christian life.

E. Preaching the whole counsel of God.

1. Acts 20:20, 27 “And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, 27For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”

2. 2 Tim. 4:1-4 “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”
3. Preaching what people like to hear (peace, joy, love, etc.).
4. Preaching what people do not like to hear. (marriage, divorce, and remarriage; false teachers; demands of the Christian life; etc.).

Conclusion: We as preachers have a solemn responsibility. We deal with the eternal destiny of souls. We must make absolutely sure that what we preach and teach is God’s Word and only God’s Word. Remember James’ words, “My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation” (James 3:1).