

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 35, Part 5, "Good and Bad Preaching"

Scripture Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Lesson Aim	To understand two things: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What preaching is2. What the aspects of proper preaching are.
Steps to Learning	Read the Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 35 and 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>How is preaching a unique form of speech in contrast to other forms of speech? The forms of speech that we are accustomed to involves human communication from one person to another. In preaching, Christ speaks through his Word by the power of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>What is a simple definition of preaching? Preaching is an ambassadorial proclamation from the Bible of what God has done, is doing and will do through Jesus Christ, the Son of God.</p> <p>What do we mean when we say that only the redeemed person will recognize and appreciate true preaching? Paul argues from 2 Corinthians 5:16–17 that before faith in Christ, a person regards Christ according to the flesh. That is, he has human understanding of Christ as a mere teacher or moral person. But after faith in Christ, this person, since he is a new creature in Christ, will understand Christ as the true Son of God who has become man without losing his divine nature and that he is the Savior of the world.</p> <p>Will an unredeemed person like true preaching? No. He will not recognize and appreciate its divine character.</p> <p>What else did we learn in the sermon about the divine character of preaching? We learned from Romans 10, vv.13-17, that the risen Christ speaks through the preached Word. This is what Paul means when he says that one believes in Christ when they hear him in the preached word. Verse 17: "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."</p> <p>What is the preached word a "means of?" The preached word is a means of grace, as the Heidelberg Catechism teaches in question and answer 65.</p> <p>Summarize the aspects of true, biblical preaching.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It reflects the text2. It is interpreted in the framework of written confessions3. It is about Jesus Christ and the Gospel4. It is situated in the history of redemption5. There is a clear distinction between the Law and Gospel6. It is clear, organized, and flows well.
Bible Reading	Luke 13-19 (Reading through the Gospels)