

Precision in our Proclamation

A Conversation for Open-Air Preachers

Whitefield preached wherever he could draw a crowd, whether in open fields, bustling marketplaces, churchyard cemeteries, or aboard seafaring ships ... He said: "Field preaching is my plan; in this I am carried on as eagles' wings...It is good to go into the highways and hedges. Field preaching, field-preaching forever!...My preaching in the fields may displease some, but I am thoroughly persuaded it pleases God, & why should I fear anything else?"

Introduction:

The Need for Precise Theology:

- The *confusion* of the times
- The *clarity* of God's Word
- The *concern* of men's souls
- The *centerpoint* of God's glory

The Gospel of Jesus Christ:

- The Character of God (Rom 1.18ff)
- The Depravity of Man (Rom 1:18-3:20)
- The Person of Christ (Col 1.15-20)
- The Glory of Propitiation (Rom 3.21-25)
- The Summons to Respond (Acts 17.30-31)

The Prayer Life of the Open Air Preacher:

- The example (Acts 6.4)
 - The strength (Psalm 62)
 - The communion (2 Cor 13.12)
 - The desperation (Eph 6:18-20)
- "A man who is intimate with God is not intimidated by man." (Leonard Ravenhill)

Holiness and Devotion to God:

- Character qualities (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)
- Consuming ambition (1 Corinthians 1:23; 2:2)
- Continuous sanctification (Ezra 7:10)
- Continued submission (to a sound local church) (Ephesians 4:11-16)

A man entered the chapel, having "his pockets filled with stones, in order to do injury to the preacher; but when he saw the tears running down the preacher's cheeks, and witnessed the bowels of compassion he evinced for poor dying sinners...down went the stones." (An eyewitness speaking of George Whitefield)

Preparation Before the Public Proclamation:

- Preparation in prayer
- Preparation for preaching

The results of open air work are, for the most part, never known to the workers. ...A preacher might go home one night and say: "Well, what is the use of preaching in the open air anyway? Nobody seems to be converted. I see no results of my work." (William Evans)

But remember: The open air preacher's method is getting the Word of God to the people, whether at a college campus, downtown, an abortion clinic, or in front of a sports stadium. What happens next is up to God! (Ryan Denton, Scott Smith)