

# **What Good Is A Sermon?**

**What makes a sermon good?**



# What Good Is A Sermon?

- **At Best?**
  - Words – Exhort, Instruct, Correct
- **At Worst?**
  - Only Words – Empty, Hollow, Vain
- **Sometimes the people hear:**
  - Blah-Blah-Blah-Blah-Blah
- **Sometimes the speaker feels:**
  - He's speaking to the floor, walls and pews

# First, It Must Be True

- **Acts 26:24-25** *"Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!" But he said, "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason."*
- **Ephesians 1:13** *"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,"*
- **John 17:17** *"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."*

# **But What Makes It Good?**

- **Is it?**
  - **It Sounds Good – Deep Baritone Voice**
  - **It's Well Organized – Easy To Follow**
  - **It Teaches – Helps Us Understand**
  - **It Inspires – Gets You Excited**
  - **It Comforts – Makes You Feel Better**
  - **It Encourages – Lifts Your Spirit**
  - **If it had them all, it would be really good.**
- **We don't ask for much, do we!**

# Is It Simply The Speaker?

- **The previous qualities are really nice and they can increase our ability to focus or retain what we hear.**
  - **But, why can we hear somebody speak with a beautiful voice, truly inspiring words and later have difficulty remembering what he was talking about?**
- **Because those qualities are Not what make a true sermon good.**
- **The difference between a good true sermon and an empty true sermon is...**

# You

- **When You Listen and Search**

- *Acts 17:11 "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."*

- **When You Hear And Do**

- *James 1:25 "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."*

- **When You Transform Yourself**

- *Romans 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*