

Mining for Unsearchable Riches

Aaron Dunlop

Being a pastor is not easy. It takes many skills and lots of hard work to preach the Gospel, teach the Scriptures, and lead the Church effectively.

Before we talk about how to preach, there is a deeper question: What is preaching and why is it so important? Think of the time, energy, and money that preachers spend in colleges and libraries to develop the skill of preaching. Why do we do this?

We preach because God has spoken to us in his Word. But the Bible is no ordinary book; it is the living Word of the living God to living souls. It is deep and difficult, but it is also rich and rewarding.

The preacher is a miner. He works hard to dig into the Word, and returns from the study carrying the "burden of the Lord." He wrestles with words (Ecclesiastes 12:10) in order to clearly explain the mind of God, revealed on the pages of Scripture.

Each week, the preacher works to bring people into the mine of the "unsearchable riches of Christ." He wants them to recognise the depth of divine wisdom and breadth of its application. He wants to draw them in with curiosity and delight, so that they will investigate the Word for themselves like the Bereans (Acts 17:11). He also wants potential preachers in his congregation to get a hunger for biblical knowledge, and a passion to preach and apply the Scriptures to the hearts of God's people.

While the preacher must work hard in digging down into the mine of God's Word, he also realizes that he is just the messenger, and that the effective application of power of the Word is by the Holy Spirit. And so he prays for the power of the Holy Spirit to bless the Word to his hearers.

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