

The Bishop's Corner

Preach: The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand

Praise the Lord Saints,

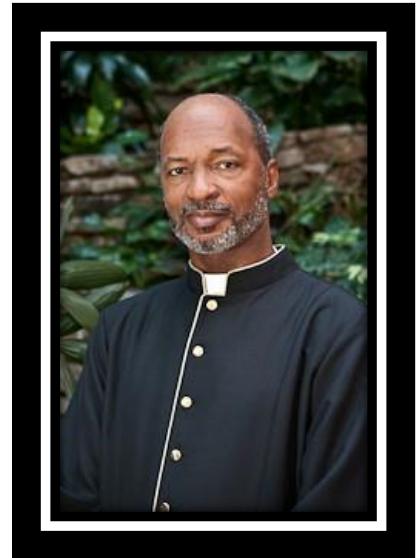
“From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand (Matthew 4:17, NKJV).’ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord (Luke 4:18-19, NKJV).”

The reason Christ came is to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15); therefore, one of the elementary things we should preach to sinners is that they need to be saved. We should see how many people God can use us to get saved this year. The most important decision people can make in the earth today is to ask God to save them. If our salvation is not that important to us or we don't have a readiness to go to Heaven, we won't witness about Jesus to others so they can be saved. To people we don't witness to, we're saying that we don't care if they go to hell. The devil has a serious campaign to get people to go to hell, and God only has us to witness and cause people to repent and go to Heaven. It is a desperate situation that people be saved because if they die and they're not saved, they go to hell (Ezekiel 18:4). We can't pretend that we're saved so we need to make our calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10-11). “Take heed to yourselves and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself those who hear you (1 Timothy 4:16, NKJV).” Some people are not going to heaven because they're not interested in having Jesus as their Lord and Savior (John 3:17-21).

In Luke 4:18-19, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand because we have the Holy Spirit when we witness to someone to be saved. Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven is available now for people to be saved, “To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord (Luke 4:19, NKJV).” In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus' ministry addresses all of life's circumstances; He came to comfort the poor and brokenhearted, set the captives free, give sight to the blind, and deliver the oppressed. Deliverance is not easy, that's why we need Jesus to help us endure to the end. There's only one thing the devil wants us to give up and that's Heaven. “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58, NKJV).”

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
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For more of Bishop Smith's teachings, go to the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Website at <http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org> and click on "Encouragement" then "Teachings."