

## God's opinion of Preachers who do not do expository preaching

Written by Calvin Fox

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Since retiring from the Pastorate, I have sat in the pew and listened to hundreds of sermons. It is the rare today to hear expository preaching, ie preaching which digs in, opens up, explains and applies passages of Scripture. Why is this? Though claiming to be Evangelical, many Pastors and certainly do not take the Scripture seriously. They have grown to doubt verbal and propositional revelation. And far from believing in Sola Scriptura, they have no confidence in the content of their Bibles or in its power. While they read it from the pulpit, they feel compelled to add to it, elaborate on it or use it simply as a spring board into their own personal ideas and stories. Repeatedly, a passage is read and instead of simply preaching it, the common practice is to take one phrase or image found in the text and off to the races of man-made material they go. This is a sin and a shame.

*You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, Deut 4:2*

*"Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it." Deut 12:*

These verses do not mean Pastors are not to prepare sermons but only read Scripture to their people, no more or no less. No, Pastors are to be expositors of Scripture, using their own words to enable their people to understand exactly what Scripture says and means, like Jesus did, (Luke 24:27 and 32) like Philip did (Acts 8:30-35) and Priscilla and Aquila did (Acts 18:26) and like the Levites did (Neh 8:8)

*"And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. Jer 3:15*

There is a time and place for Topical teaching and evangelistic preaching, but the good Shepherd, the good Pastor, will regularly feed his flock with the Word itself, not some other message based on a verse or phrases taken from the Word or even on a string of verses taken from many places in the Bible [[his often is passed off as expository preaching, but it is not] Listen to what God says of Pastors who regularly substitute their own ideas for expository preaching:

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*Her 23:16 This is what the Lord of Hosts says: "Do not listen to the words of the Pastors] who [preach] to you. They are making you worthless. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the Lord's mouth.*

*to them, yet they prophesied.*

*in My council, they would have enabled My people to hear My words*

25

*"I have heard what the [Pastors] who prophesy a lie in My name have said: I had a dream! I had a dream!*

26

*How long will this continue in the minds of the Pastors] preaching the deceit of their own minds?*

28

*The [Pastor]who has ... My word should speak My word truthfully, ...*

29

*"Is not My word like fire"-the Lord's declaration-"and like a sledgehammer that pulverizes rock?"*

30

*Therefore, take note! I am against the prophets"-the Lord's declaration-"who steal My words from each other.*

31

*I am against the prophets"-the Lord's declaration-"who use their own tongues to deliver an oracle.*

32

*I am against those who prophesy false dreams"*

*-the Lord's declaration-"telling them and leading My people astray with their falsehoods and their boasting. It was not I who sent or commanded them, and they are of no benefit at all to these people"-[this is] the Lord's declaration.*