

YOKEFELLOW

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B.J. CLARKE, EDITOR

50 YEARS 1966 - 2016



THINGS THAT HAVE NOT CHANGED SINCE 1966

B. J. Clarke

It all started in Memphis in 1966. The Memphis School of Preaching began that year, and this School year marks the beginning of our 50th year of operation. Of course, many things have changed in the world since 1966. There have been enormous advancements in electronics and technology. World leaders have come and gone and, sadly, moral values seem to be on the way out as well.

Many things have also changed in "the Memphis School of Preaching world" since 1966. There have been different facilities at different locations, with different elderships, different local preachers, different directors, different faculty and staff members, and many different students.

However, some things have not changed in the world since 1966. What the world needed then, the world needs now, and that need is salvation from sin (Rom. 3:10, 23; 6:23). This was true in Paul's day. It was true in 1966,

and it is still true today! The engrafted Word was able to save the souls of those who read the epistle of James (James 1:21), and it is no less powerful today (Matt. 24:35). Thus we need to preach the Word! This was the theme of the School in 1966 and it is the same theme today. It should be noted that this theme dates back way beyond 1966—it goes all the way back to Paul's correspondence to Timothy, wherein he wrote, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:2).



"The First Class" (1966)

THE MANDATE HAS NOT CHANGED

Preach the Word! (2 Tim. 4:2). This mandate from Paul to Timothy is no less mandatory today. However, the concept of preaching is generally unpopular in our modern world. Some people, who want to govern their own lives, say, "Don't get all preachy with me." Sadly, even some of our brethren want less and

less preaching. "Shorten the sermon," they plead, as they gaze at their watches instead of their Bibles. Yet, no matter how negative the attitude may be toward preaching and preachers, it is still the mandate of our Lord that we go and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). Preaching is a noble profession and Paul was not the least bit hesitant to identify himself as a preacher (1 Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:11).

THE MESSAGE HAS NOT CHANGED

Note that the emphasis is not just to preach—it is to "preach **the Word**." Why preach the Word?

1. Because **it is the power of God unto salvation** (Rom. 1:16). It was powerful in 1966—it is just as powerful today!

2. The message of preaching is **still a saving message**. Because the engrafted word is able to save souls (James 1:18-21), we cannot presume to change this message.

3. **It is a message of hope** (1 Tim. 1:1). Paul's opening lines to Timothy focused on "our Saviour" and "the Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;" (1 Timothy 1:1). The modern world needs the hope that only Christ can bring!

4. **It is a glorious gospel**. Precisely, Paul described it as "the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust" (1 Timothy 1:11). The glorious gospel has not lost any of its shine in the 50 years that have passed since the Memphis School of Preaching was established! For that matter, the glorious gospel shines just as brightly today as it did in the days of Paul!!

5. We preach the Word **because God wants all men to be saved** (1 Tim. 2:4-6), and **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners** (1 Tim. 1:15). God wants all men to be saved every bit as much today as He did in 1966, and no less than He did in the days when Paul wrote 1 Timothy.

6. Because **it offers the promise of life in Christ Jesus** (2 Tim. 1:1), and tells of how He abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel (2 Tim. 1:10). People were dying in 1966, and they are still dying today. Thankfully, the promise of life in Christ Jesus has not expired in the nearly 2000 years since Paul wrote these inspired words to Timothy. People today can still find life and immortality through the gospel message. The message has not changed!

To take it a step further, **the message must not be changed!** This was true in 1966 and it is true today. Moreover, this was true in Paul's day. He told Timothy that he left him in Ephesus so that he might "charge some that they teach no other doctrine" (1 Tim. 1:3). In fact, a careful reading of Paul's correspondence to Timothy reveals this theme: Do not divert your focus to

anything that is contrary to sound doctrine (1 Tim. 1:4-10; 4:1-7; 6:3-5, 20; 2 Tim. 1:13; 2:14-18, 23).

THE MANNER HAS NOT CHANGED

Although the world has changed dramatically since 1966, and even more so since the first century, our manner of preaching must not change to the point of departing from the Scriptural model for preaching that Paul gave to Timothy by Divine inspiration. To be good ministers of Jesus Christ we need to put the brethren in remembrance of the things God has said so that they will be "nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine" (1 Timothy 4:6).

As we teach and preach God's Word, we must remember that "the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves" (2 Tim. 2:24-25). In the very same epistle we learn that this meekness of manner does not convey the concept of being spineless. On the contrary, Paul went on to say, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:2).

Did the students at MSOP in 1966 need to learn this manner and method of preaching? Unquestionably, the answer is yes. Do the students at MSOP in 2015 need to learn to be gentle unto all men, and to be patient and meek in their manner of presenting the gospel? Without a doubt, they do. Do they also need to be trained to reprove, and rebuke and exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine? A thousand times yes!

THE MAN, CHRIST JESUS, HAS NOT CHANGED

Paul taught Timothy "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus**; (1 Timothy 2:5). It was this man, Christ Jesus, God in the flesh (John 1:1, 14), Who changed the sinful man, Saul of Tarsus into a godly man (1 Tim. 2:5; 1:12-16; 3:10-11). As the apostle Paul, he encouraged Timothy to become the man God wanted him to be (1 Tim. 4:13-16; 6:11-14; 2 Tim. 2:3; 3:13-17; 4:5). He also encouraged him, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2).

This man, Christ Jesus, was still the one mediator between God and men in 1966, and He is still the one mediator between God and men today! He still can change sinful men into godly men, and He still needs faithful men who shall be able to teach others also. And as long as this world stands, He will need men to go into all the world to preach the gospel. We do not know if the Lord will linger another 50 years before He returns to judge the world. But we do know that the only way men will be acquainted with the Word that will judge them in the last day (John 12:48) is if we "preach the Word" (2 Tim. 4:2). May our zeal to do so never change!

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

-2 Timothy 4:2

The 50th year of operation at the Memphis School of Preaching is officially underway!

Forty-three students make up the current student body at MSOP. Forty-one of these students are enrolled in the two-year program; two students are enrolled in the World Missions Program, a one-year curriculum designed to prepare the missionary to perform effective in the mission field on day one of his arrival.

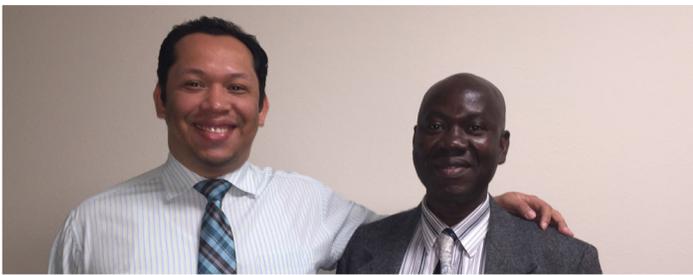


The first quarter class at the Memphis School of Preaching consists of 19 new students and 4 wrap-around students, (students who will finish their studies at MSOP in January of 2016).

The students in this class consist of 15 second year students who will graduate in June 2016, and three students who will finish their course work in January of 2017.



Two students are enrolled in our World Missions Program, a one-year curriculum designed to equip our students with the tools and knowledge necessary to do effective mission work. To enroll in this program, students must have already graduated from a two-year program, or college, or have equivalent life experience.



One of the highlights of this quarter was that our entire student body of MSOP enjoyed a week of learning at "Polishing the Pulpit," an annual event held in Sevierville, TN. The students were required to attend a minimum of six sessions for each full day (the same number of classes they attend everyday at MSOP). They were also required to take notes of these sessions. This was not a vacation, but a learning lab in another location.



M.O.S.T.

MSOP Ongoing Spiritual Training

The Memphis School of Preaching's M.O.S.T. (MSOP Ongoing Spiritual Training) program resumed on Thursday, September 17, 2015. The classes will meet every Thursday until December 17 with the exception being November 26 which will be Thanksgiving. We offer all three classes not only on campus but also over the Internet (please visit www.msop.org or email dcates@msop.org for details on how to take part online). Missed any classes? No problem. All you have to do is go to the website, sign up, and follow the links to the archived courses.

These classes may be audited or taken toward a certificate (awarded after the successful completion of 72 semester hours) or an advanced diploma which is the equivalent of an M.A. in Biblical Studies (awarded after the successful completion of 72 hours and contingent upon a student's having completed the MSOP two-year program or a like training program, or having a B.A. or B.S. in a Biblical area from a four-year college).

The courses will be of special interest to all Christians! Also, there is no charge for these classes as far as tuition or fees of any kind are concerned, regardless of whether one is just auditing or taking the classes toward the certificate or diploma. If you have any questions, call (901) 751-2242. We look forward to helping you make the "MOST" out of your spiritual training.

FALL, 2015, Courses

Thursdays			
11 AM - 2 PM	Acts	Keith Mosher, Sr.	4 hrs.
2 PM - 5 PM	Studies in the Gospel of John, II	T.J. Clarke	4 hrs.
6 PM - 9 PM	Old Testament Introduction	Dan Cates	4 hrs.

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