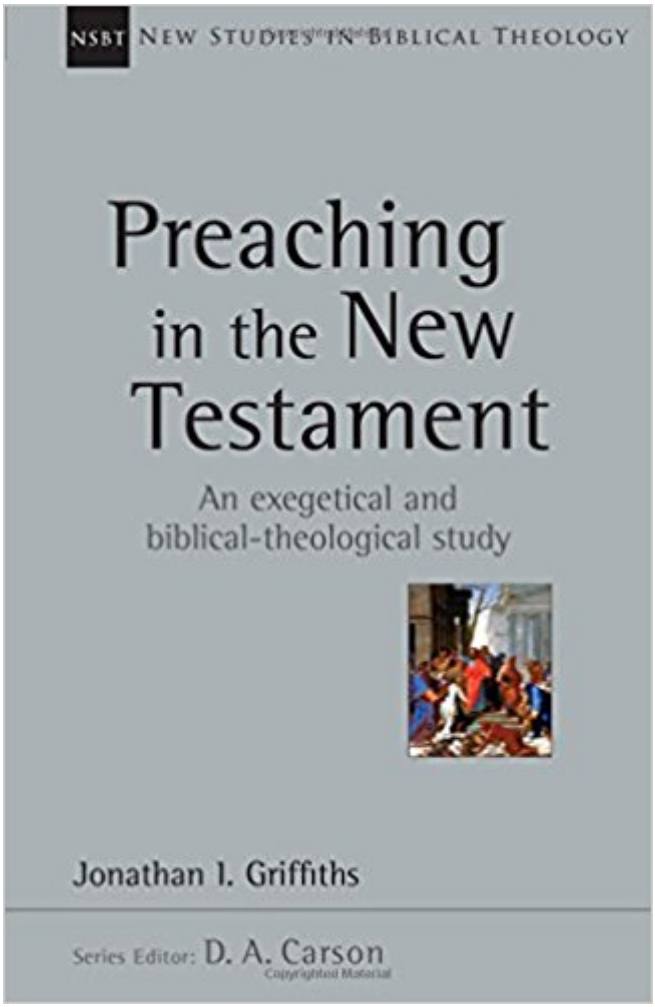
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Preaching In The New Testament (New Studies In Biblical Theology)



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Synopsis

Many Christians share the assumption that preaching the word of God is at the heart of God's plans for the gospel in our age, that it is vital for the church's health, and that it is the central task of the pastor-teacher. Many helpful books on preaching are available. The vast majority are concerned with "how-to," but relatively few focus primarily on the character and theology of preaching according to Scripture. Two key, interrelated questions need to be addressed. First, is there such a thing as "preaching" that is mandated in the post-apostolic contextÃ¢â ¬â ¢and, if there is, how is it defined and characterized? Second, how does post-apostolic "preaching" relate to the preaching of the Old Testament prophets and of Jesus and his apostles? In this New Studies in Biblical Theology volume Jonathan Griffiths seeks answers to these questions in the New Testament. In Part One he gives an overview of the theology of the Word of God, surveys Greek terms related to preaching, and looks at teaching concerning the scope and character of other word ministries in the life of the church. In Part Two his exegetical studies concentrate on teaching that relates especially to the post-apostolic context. In Part Three he summarizes the exegetical findings, sets them within the context of biblical theology, and proposes a number of broader theological implications. Griffiths's accessible, scholarly investigation will be of value to scholars, pastors, preachers, and Bible teachers. Addressing key issues in biblical theology, the works comprising New Studies in Biblical Theology are creative attempts to help Christians better understand their Bibles. The NSBT series is edited by D. A. Carson, aiming to simultaneously instruct and to edify, to interact with current scholarship, and to point the way ahead.

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Customer Reviews

"This volume addresses the need for a biblical theology of preaching by focusing on some foundational matters before closely studying a handful of passages in Paul and in Hebrews. Considering how much preaching is done week by week around the world, it is good to have a study that requires us to reflect on what we are doing." (D. A. Carson)

Jonathan Griffiths is lead pastor of the Metropolitan Bible Church in Ottawa, Canada. Previously he served on the staff of the Proclamation Trust in London, England, where he taught the Cornhill Training Course. He is editor of The Perfect Saviour: Key Themes in Hebrews.

Conventional preaching textbooks frequently begin with the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“how-toÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• for a proposed model of preaching (e.g., narrative, inductive, deductive, etc.). However, these texts fail to establish a basis for preaching from the biblical text. By this I mean no arguments are made for the necessity of preaching; this is automatically assumed. It is because preaching has always occurred in churches, and pulpits around the world and books are focused on mechanics, that these arguments for the necessity of preaching are often excluded. Understand that I am not arguing against books that teach the basic principles of preaching and sermon preparation. There is a mandate for a different type of ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“ministry of the WordÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• found in preaching that is not in general group study of the Bible. Every Christian is called to study the Bible, but not every study session is a sermon.This is the aim of Jonathan GriffithsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ book Preaching in the New Testament which provides an exegetical and theological argument for the necessity of the ministry of the Word known to Christians as preaching. Griffiths exegesis begins with verbs in the Greek language that are connected to the act of preaching, heralding, proclamation, or a combination thereof. Griffiths exegesis is seeking to assuage any tension between differing word ministries in the church and to establish the conclusion of if churches should continue to allow preaching. Moreover, Griffiths ensures that the reader possesses proper theology of the Word of God to begin the preaching journey.The second portion to Preaching is the application of the exegesis of the Greek verbs which give credence to preaching in the biblical text. Texts surveyed are Hebrews, Romans 10, 1 Thessalonians 1-2, and others. Griffiths chose these passages due to their call to post-apostolic preaching. I am thankful Griffiths examines these

because each text presents a different characteristic to post-apostolic age preaching.Griffiths has written a volume which will contribute to homiletics far beyond expectation. I say this because it is not another ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“how-toÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, but rather it argues the heart of the necessity for preaching from the biblical text. Thus it is not only theologically consistent but also exegetically consistent. For preachers of all ages and students of preaching, I hope you will consider adding this book to the preaching section of your library.Disclosure: I received a complimentary copy of this book from InterVarsity Press. The opinions I have expressed are my own, and a positive review was not required. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade CommissionÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s 16 CFR, Part 255.

Among the many books that have been published on the issue of preaching Preaching in the New Testament by Jonathan Griffiths truly stands apart. Most of the recent publications on preaching in recent years have focused more on the how to of preaching. In contrast to those work Griffiths seeks to explore what the New Testament has to say about preaching and its priority in the local church.This book is divided into three main sections. In the first section a biblical theology of the word is presented, the key terms used to describe preaching in the New Testament are explored, and the word ministry of all believers is addressed. In the second section of the book Griffiths narrows in with laser focus on six of the most prominent New Testament passages that address the issue of preaching the word, his work addressing Hebrews and its implications for the church are worth the price of the book. Th third and final section provides an overview of the material covered in previous chapters with some important implications of this work explored.Biblical preaching has fallen on hard times, and rather than argue for the importance of preaching simply based on its importance in church history we must have a biblical foundation for preaching in the church. Griffiths in this work points to the solid foundation for understanding the enduring importance of preaching in the life of the church which is found in the New Testament.Disclosure: I received a review copy of the book from the publisher for the purpose of reviewing it. The opinions I have expressed are my own, and I was not required to write a positive review.

I have enjoyed InterVarsity’s New Studies in Biblical Theology series, and Jonathan I. Griffiths has provided another helpful volume with Preaching in the New Testament: An Exegetical and Biblical-Theological Study. Griffiths asks, "According to Scripture, is there such a thing as ’preaching’ that is mandated in the post-apostolic context; and, if there is, how is it characterized and defined?" That question is more important than you might think.The initial task of the early

church was to announce and proclaim the good news that Jesus Christ had risen from the dead, and that through faith in him and trust in his work upon the cross people could be forgiven and reconciled both to God and one another. But once communities were formed around Jesus, all members of the fellowship were then to engage in "Word ministry" with one another, teaching and reminding one another of the Scriptures and challenging those in the fellowship to live in accordance with the message they had received. Preachers were the initial heralds. But moving forward, what is the place of preaching, and preachers? Griffiths makes it clear that preaching was mandated in the apostolic age, but demonstrates that this ministry is to continue beyond the church's earliest beginnings, and that the church is wise to continue to appoint and equip for ministry those whom God calls to preach.This book includes helpful word studies, an overview of what the Bible as a whole has to say about preaching, and a close examination of the role of preaching in the New Testament. I found this study helpful and illuminating, as well as clarifying. If the church is to continue to call forth and equip preachers, it will be invaluable to know what preaching is and to what end it should be directed, both in the announcement of the gospel and in the ongoing work of equipping congregations with knowledge of God as it has been and is being revealed through Scripture. Studies like this one will no doubt be of help.

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