

The Summer

August 19, 2022

# PLUMBLINE

## Focus on Preaching, The Words

Article 11 in the Series by D. Bruce Barnes

In previous articles, we have dealt with ten New Testament words specifically related to the ministry of teaching. These studies reveal that the teacher should, through various means, seek to explain and apply biblical truth for the hearer's surrendered response. Also suggested in these studies is that preaching follows similar patterns seeking comparable results. In the New Testament, thirteen words are used or translated as preach or preaching. *(See the word list on page 4. For further study, this provides the Strong's number, the Greek word, and a basic definition.)*

These words indicate that preaching is declaring the good news, heralding, promulgating, announcing, publishing, proclaiming, discussing, uttering, reasoning, and boldly speaking. And, of course, the objective is always to have the message received, accepted, and applied.

One of the purposes of these articles is to interject a needed perspective concerning statements occasionally made about preaching. We sometimes hear preachers,

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D. Bruce Barnes, VAFWB Promotional Director

<https://vafwb.org>

| [dbrucebarnes@vafwb.org](mailto:dbrucebarnes@vafwb.org)

| 757-407-1183

## Focus on Preaching, the Words, cont'd.

and often those influenced by them, state that someone's style is "not preaching." Quite frankly, none of the words for teaching or preaching in the New Testament indicate what we refer to as one's preaching style. Undoubtedly, one's approach to sharing biblical truth is crucial, and a preacher's development in this area is vital to effective communication. But Scripture emphasizes content (preaching the Word) and message development (rightly dividing through exposition, for example) instead of a currently accepted pattern of oratory (voice inflections, loudness, animations, or prompted crowd responses).

Something important about preaching is God's unique call upon unique people. Those who have answered God's call are personalities developed through life experiences, all orchestrated by God's will and design for them. And the best preachers will be those who allow God's Word and message to be filtered through them for the benefit of those who listen. Actual preaching is not following someone else's platform presence. It's allowing God's Spirit to energize the preacher's personality with the unchanging truth being revealed from Scripture. And that is something distinctive to the individual preacher. As such takes place, the proclaimer will indeed announce, herald, proclaim, discuss, utter, reason, communicate, and boldly speak God's Word!

The Lord knows the person He needs and where. And He has called each within their personalities and abilities to minister the Word as He alone desires for them. To suggest that one's biblically designed manner is not "preaching" is to step beyond Scripture and overstep one's authority.

*Next week's article will develop "The Concept of Preaching."*

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## Grateful for Your Ministry Among Us!

Rev. Martin Puckett serves on the executive board of the Virginia State Association and is the pastor of Mary's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Coeburn, VA. He is married to the love of his life, Tammy Perry Puckett, and they have two married daughters who live and work in Knoxville, TN. Marty and Tammy also have three grandchildren, ages twenty-three, sixteen, and nine.

Having been ordained in 1983, Marty served as the assistant pastor for seven years at Community FWB Church, pastor at Dungannon FWB Church for



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**Rev. Martin and Tammy Puckett**

## Rev. Marty Puckett, Cont'd.

ten years, and presently pastor of Mary's Chapel FWB Church for twenty-three years. His ministry also includes being a volunteer hospital chaplain for twenty-five years and is currently a volunteer chaplain for the Wise County Sheriff's Office. Marty's dedication to the work of Free Will Baptists extends to his twenty-year service to the Virginia State Association as an executive board member.

Pastor Puckett says, "God has truly been so good to me and blessed me beyond measure. This September 2nd, Tammy and I will celebrate our forty-fifth wedding anniversary, and we praise Him for all he has done and is presently doing in our lives. I am always excited to see what God is going to do next! It has been an honor to serve and belong to the Virginia Free Will Baptist organization."

I first met Marty over a decade ago when interviewing with the Virginia executive board concerning the state promotional director's position. In that meeting, I recall noting his gracious spirit; it was obvious to me then and is something still characteristic of him through these years. I count him as a close personal friend who has made himself friendly to me and everyone.

Marty, we are grateful for your ministry among us and for your sacrifice for the Lord's work in so many areas. Thank you for your faithful insight and leadership!

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- August 21: PR-DR AM Service, First FWB Church, Richmond, VA
  - September 11: PR-DR AM Service, Lifegate FWB Church, Winchester, VA
  - September 18-21: PR-DR Homecoming & Revival, Harmony FWB Church, Lake Butler, FL
  - October 16: PR-DR AM/PM Services, Hope FWB Church, Plymouth, NC
  - November 6-9, PR-DR, GRACE Outreach Revival, Grace FWB Church, Louisa, VA
  - November 13: PR-DR, AM Prayer Revival Service, Good News FWB Church, Chesterfield, VA



*VAFWB  
on the Road*

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## MINUTES OF THE 2022 VAFWB STATE ASSOCIATION MEETING

The minutes of the 2022 VAFWB State Association Meeting are now available on the state website. Go to the "Information" tab at [www.vafwb.org](http://www.vafwb.org). From the drop-down menu, look for "Minutes Archive." Then click on "2022 Minutes." Thanks to our state clerk, Brandon Baber, for writing, assembling, and scanning this information for the state association.

## WORDS TRANSLATED "PREACH" OR "PREACHING" IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Please use the following as a guide for further study on the use of these words within their contexts. Each begins with the Strong's number, Greek word, and basic definition.

2097, *euaggelizo*, "to announce good news ("evangelize") especially the gospel: --declare, bring (declare, show) glad (good) tidings, preach (the gospel)."

1229, *diaggello*, "to herald thoroughly: --declare, preach, signify."

2605, *kataggello*, "to proclaim, promulgate: --declare, preach, shew, speak of, teach."

4283, *proeuaggelizomai*, "to announce glad news in advance: --preach before the gospel."

2784, *kerusso*, "to herald (as a public crier), especially divine truth (the gospel): --preacher(-er), proclaim, publish."

4296, *prokerusso*, "to herald (i.e., proclaim) in advance: --before (first) preach."

1256, *dialegomai*, "to say thoroughly, i.e., discuss (in argument or exhortation): --dispute, preach (unto), reason (with), speak."

189, *akoe*, "hearing (the act, the sense or the thing heard): --preached, report, rumor."

2980, *laleo*, "to talk, i.e. utter words: --preach, say, speak (after), talk, tell, utter."

3056, *logos*, "something said (including the thought); by implication, a topic (subject of discourse), also reasoning (the mental faculty); communication, preaching."

3955, *parrhesiazomai*, "to be frank in utterance, or confident in spirit and demeanor: --be (wax) bold, (preach, speak) boldly."

4137, *pleroo*, "to make replete, fully preach, perfect, supply."

4400, *procheirizomai*, "to handle for oneself in advance, i.e. (figuratively) to purpose: --choose, make." (Translated "preached" in Act.3.20).