



2009  
A Biblical Vision For A Healthy  
Local Church

ABOUT HCC  
Against the backdrop of a rather spiritually dull, lifeless and  
desperately needy New England context...

WE ARE ALL CAUGHT UP WITH THIS JESUS!  
IN

- The God-centeredness of God
- The centrality and supremacy of Jesus Christ in all things
- A strong preaching & teaching (Jesus) ministry model
- Genuine Christian community and relational vitality
  - Creative cultural and civic involvement

1. The **Captain** of Preaching & Teaching

The magnitude and scope of the ministry  
of Jesus: God communicating God!

2. The Call to Preaching / Teaching

**The Divine Call**  
**(Jer 23 ...unfolding in Acts 3-6)**

**Because Jesus displayed God, therefore  
those He calls also preach God in Him!**

3. The **Content** of Preaching & Teaching

One God, One Savior, One message, Two Words

Law: always and only demands, never gives  
Gospel: always and only gives, never demands

4. The **Creation** of Preaching & Teaching

Law producing Repentance + Gospel  
creating faith = The New Birth!  
Here, the ultimate goal of all preaching &  
teaching is to bring people to worship God.

*“Preaching and Teaching Jesus exists  
because worship of Jesus doesn’t!”*

5. The **Connection** of Preaching & Teaching  
Effects of regeneration upon the soul unto  
obedience of faith and good works.

**Ephesians 2:8-10** *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (9) not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

*Jeremiah 23:1-8 "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD. (2) Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: "You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. (3) Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. (4) I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD.*

*(5) "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. (6) In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: **'The LORD is our righteousness.'***

*(7) "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' (8) but 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' Then they shall dwell in their own land."*

*Jeremiah 23:24-32 Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. (25) I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' (26) How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, (27) who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal?*

*(28) Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. (29) Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?*

*(30) Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who steal my words from one another. (31) Behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who use their tongues and declare, 'declares the LORD.' (32) Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the LORD, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, **when I did not send them or charge them.** So they do not profit this people at all, declares the LORD.*

**“Preaching exists  
because worship doesn’t.”**  
-a Piperism

*(14) But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, (15) and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. (16) And his name--by faith in his name--has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. (17) "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.*

*Acts 3:11-26 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. (12) And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? (13) The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.*

*(18) But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. (19) Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, (20) that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, (21) whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.*

(22) Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. (23) And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' (24) And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days.

(25) You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' (26) God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

***“If our preaching does not center on Jesus Christ--from Genesis to Revelation--no matter how good or helpful, it is not a proclamation of God's Word.”***

***- Michael S. Horton***

**Acts 4:1-4** And as they were **speaking to the people**, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, (2) greatly annoyed because they were **teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead**. (3) And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. (4) But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

**Acts 4:17-20** But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." (18) So they called them and charged them not to **speak or teach** at all in the name of Jesus. (19) But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, (20) for we cannot but **speak of what we have seen and heard**."

Act 5:40-42 and when they had called in the apostles, they **beat them** and charged them **not to speak** in the name of Jesus, and let them go. (41) Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. (42)

And every day, in the temple and from house to house, **they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.**

Like Jesus, like friends...

### **Apostolic priority of preaching & teaching**

Act 6:2-4 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "**It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.**" (3) Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.

(4) **But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."**

2Ti 2:2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

2Ti 4:1-5 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: (2) **Preach the Word**; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. (3) For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. (4) They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. (5) But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

***"Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words."***

- St. Francis of Assisi

Col 4:2-6 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. (3) At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word,

(WORD) to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison-- (4) that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

(ACTION) (5) Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. (6)

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

So... “Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

Jeremiah 23:28-29

AMEN!