The Church’s Responsibility in Preaching / Teaching
Romans 1:15-16

Introduction:
A. There is no greater work to be done than that of preaching or teaching the gospel – the power to save.
   1. The difference between “preaching” and “teaching” is technical, not practical.
      a. Seen from different accounts of the great commission (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16).
      b. Scriptural preaching includes teaching (2 Tim. 4:1-2 asv, nkj)
   2. The work of evangelists includes preaching to and teaching the church.
      a. Paul was ready to preach the gospel to the saints at Rome (1:7, 15)
      b. Timothy’s “work of an Evangelist” included preaching to Christians (2 Tim. 4:1-5)
      c. Evangelists were among those in the church that edified it (Eph. 4:11, 15-16)
B. We want to notice two things in this lesson.
   1. Three attributes of good preaching / teaching.
   2. The church’s responsibility in such preaching and teaching.

Discussion:
I. Three Attributes of Good Preaching (2 Tim. 4:1-5)
   A. **Biblical in content** (v. 2)
      1. The word is sufficient (2 Tim. 3:15-17; Gal. 1:8-9)
      2. The word is powerful (Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16; Jas. 1:21-22; cf. Acts 2:37)
   B. **Practical in application** (v. 2)
      1. Reproves (convinces) the unconviced.
      2. Rebukes the rebellious (cf. Titus 1:10-13)
      3. Exhorts the discouraged and striving.
   C. **Urgent in its need** – “in season, out of season”.
      1. Sinners are lost without it!
      2. Brethren must feed regularly on it or drift into error. (vv. 3-4)
      3. Must be received and supported now or “time will come”

II. The Church’s Responsibility in Preaching / Teaching.
   A. Strictly speaking, the church does not preach or teach – individuals do.
      1. Preachers (evangelists), teachers and all Christians to extent of ability (cf. Acts 8:4)
      2. Some use own resources to do it – others receive support to do it.
   B. The church provides the means for preachers and teachers to their work.
      1. Includes financial support – wages (Phil. 4:15-16; 2 Cor. 11:8; cf. 1 Cor. 9:3-13).
      2. Includes arranging events, facilities, tools selecting personnel for preaching the gospel.
      3. As such, the church is it’s own “missionary society.”
   C. The church sends the support directly to the preacher and not through another institution.
      1. No “sponsoring church” arrangement – opens door for absurdities and centralization.
      2. No “missionary organization”
      3. No church ever sent a dime to another church unless the receiving church was in need.
      4. No church ever sent to another church for work for which all churches were equally related.
         a. All congregations are equally related in evangelism – to whole word to extent of ability.
         b. All congregations are not equally related to the poor of a congregation.

Conclusion:
A. The preaching of the gospel is a great work shared by individuals and the church.
B. The churches need to be reaching out to support men who are willing to go “hard places.”