

## “The Primacy of the Pulpit Ministry”

Pastor Tim Allen

**Key Truth:** Both the Old and New Testaments extol the ministry of preaching and teaching in the gathered assembly as a way of bringing God’s people into spiritual alignment.

The Great Reformation (1500’s) restored the primacy of the preaching/teaching of God’s Word in the gathered assembly. The Word of God, rightly taught and the gospel rightly preached is the means by which God converts the unsaved, sanctifies his saints, and grows His church (see the Book of Acts). This starts with the pulpit ministry and then spreads throughout all other ministries of the congregation. The “pulpit ministry” is shorthand for the ministry of preaching and teaching in the weekly worship service. Not to build up the preacher, but it is to build up the Church. One of the ways the ministry of preaching and teaching builds up the church is by aligning its people around the exposition of Scripture and thus pointing its ministries in the same direction. When the people aren’t aligned around the common teaching of Scripture, the church experiences the problem faced by the Israelites in the Book of Judges: “Everyone doing what is right in his own eyes” (Judges 17:6; 21:25) – no oneness of mind, heart, and purpose. No ministry alignment.

### **DISCUSS**

Read **Nehemiah 8:1-12** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled “The Primacy of the Pulpit Ministry.”

### **DIG IN**

#### **1. An Old Testament Pattern** (Nehemiah 8:1-12)

Why was it important that the Israelites gather to read and understand the Law?

Describe the attitude of the people as they gathered and then understood the Law. What does that teach us today?

In what ways was the Book of the Law read and explained? Why is that important? What was the reaction of the people? Why?

What are some examples of the ways in which the people were Sent following the explanation of the Book of the Law?

What do you find significant about the pattern of Gathering, Explaining the Scriptures, and being Sent?

#### **2. A New Testament Priority**

Read the following passages: Luke 20:1-2; Acts 5:42; Acts 15:35; 1 Timothy 5:17: What do these passages teach us about the importance of the preaching and teaching ministry of the Church?

In what ways does the ministry of preaching and teaching God’s Word in the weekly gathered assembly bring the church into healthy alignment?

Do you agree that the Pulpit Ministry is the primary ministry of the church? Why or why not?

### **DO**

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?