

Preaching the gospel from the Gospels

- With all Bible passages, the preacher needs to trust that God's power lies in God's word and not in the preacher's brain or personality. See Isaiah 55:10, 11.

God Speaks; Jesus Speaks; and it is done.

- With the four Gospels: let's trust them in the form in which we have them. The Evangelists must be allowed to speak for themselves. Each Gospel has been put together in a carefully-ordered, purposeful way.
- The four Gospels teach us both the gospel and the way to respond to the gospel.
The gospel itself is objective; our response is subjective.
- The four Gospels each paint a portrait of Jesus, a portrait with a purpose ...

Taking John's Gospel as an example:-

- John's material is highly selective : see ch. 20v30 and ch. 21v25.
- John states his purpose in selecting his material : see ch. 20v31.
- John's big theme is testimony : testimony to the truth about Jesus.
The whole gospel is like a court scene in which witnesses come forward to offer their testimony to Jesus.
- The purpose of all this testimony is to create belief, which leads to life. See ch. 20v31.
- John at every point teaches that a person either belongs to Jesus or rejects him.
There are two alternatives only, no third.
- When we preach passages along the lines of John's intentions, we are preaching the gospel.