



## "Kerygma First"

Ephesians 6:4 (1-6:4)

Sunday | May 7, 2017 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

### CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

**Ephesians 6:4**  
(summary of chps. 1-2, 4-6; and concluding in chp. 3)

(See also Prov. 4:18-19, Rom. 1:18-32)

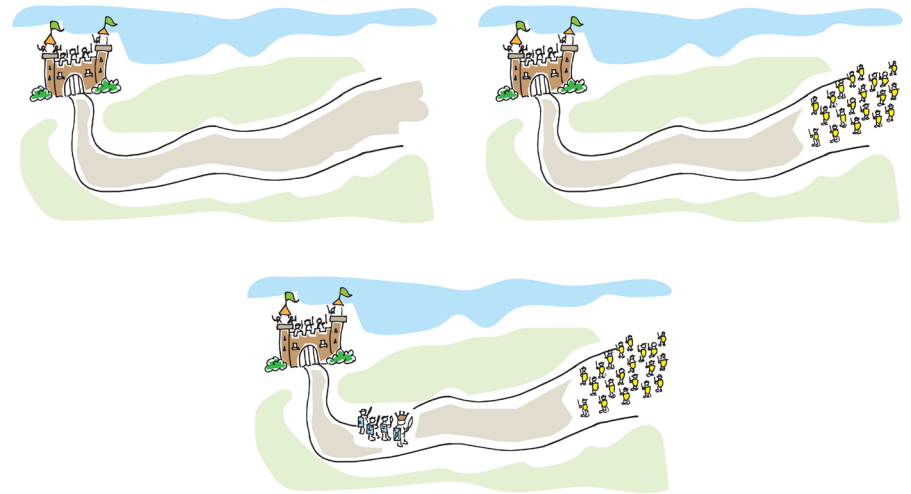
### CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[C. H. Dodd] "Kerygma properly means a public announcement or declaration whether by a town crier, or by an auctioneer commending his goods to the public, or by the herald of a sovereign state dispatched on a solemn mission, to present an ultimatum, it may be, or to announce terms of peace. The Christian 'preacher' thought of himself as an announcer of very important news. He called it quite simply 'the good news,' or in our traditional translation, 'the gospel.' It was the 'good news' that was embedded in the 'proclamation,' the kerygma..."

"Those who responded to this appeal and placed themselves under the judgment and mercy of God as declared in Jesus Christ, became members of the community, the Church, within which the new life could be lived. These members were then instructed in the ethical principles and obligations of the Christian life. This course of teaching of instruction in morals, as distinct from the proclamation of the gospel, is covered in the term 'teaching,' which in Greek is didache."

"This order of approach, first the proclamation, then the beginning of instruction in morals, first kerygma, then didache, seems to have been thoroughly characteristic of the Christian mission; it is precisely this order... which we have seen to be general in the New Testament writings."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>C. H. Dodd, *Preaching and Teaching in the Early Church* (Columbia University Press, 1951), p. 9



### DISCUSS

1. From an illustration originating with the Welsh preacher, Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones, describe the above progression of images. What is happening?<sup>2</sup>

2. Dr. M. L. Jones said that the outcome of the battle would determine what the king would send back to the city. If the king were to lose, he would send back advisors to help the city prepare to fight for themselves. But if he were to win, he would send back heralds to announce the news of victory. How does this relate to the Gospel and how is it different from every other religion in the world?

3. What does it mean to you that our Jesus, our King, has won?

4. Read the above segment from C. H. Dodd. Why is the order of the kerygma and the didache important? What happens if either is omitted?

5. The book of Ephesians follows Paul's typical pattern of kerygma first, didache second (chps. 1-3: kerygma, 4-6: didache). How does that inform Eph. 6:4? Read Eph. 3:8-10 and elaborate.

6. Pastor Patrick shared Larry Osborne's "Dimmer Switch Principle." What is the principle (see Prov. 4:18-19, Rom. 1:18-32)? How could it help in parenting (or in making disciples in general)?

7. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?

<sup>2</sup>Quite simply, a kingdom is under threat from an approaching army. The King, along with a small band, is heading out to defend the kingdom.