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## OUR LIVES ARE IN THE BIBLE

**“He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.”**

*Acts 10:42 (ESV)*

The activity of preaching the Bible (of which I take the public reading of Scripture to be part) unlocks the Bible to both mind and heart, and the activity of hearing Scripture preached, receiving what is said, meditating on the text as preaching has opened it up, and letting it apply itself to one's own thoughts and ways actually leads us into the Bible in terms of enabling us to comprehend and lay hold of what it, or better, God in and through it, is saying to us at this moment. Where such a personal relation to the Bible has not become part of one's life, though one may know much about its language, background, origins, and the historical significance of its contents, it remains in the deepest sense a closed book. And those who in this sense do not yet know what to make of the Bible will not know what to make of their own lives either.

One way to express this is to say that our lives are in the Bible, and we do not understand them until we find them there. But the quickest and most vivid way in which such understanding comes about is through being addressed by the Bible via someone for whom the Bible is alive and who knows and can articulate something of its life-changing power. This is a further reason why preaching is always needed in the church: Whenever preaching fails, understanding of Scripture in its relation to life will inevitably fail also.... AMEN.

**Dr. J. I. Packer**

*“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20*

