

## How to Preach and Teach Effectively from the Word of God

**1** To preach and teach God's word, we must have a firm commitment to the Bible as the Word of God.

**A** Unless we preach with the conviction that our message is God's own message, we won't be effective.

**B** Preaching needs Scriptural authority (we must drill the text)

**C** We must know the Bible is God's infallible word, sufficient for all matters of faith and practice 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

**D** Therefore we must preach the whole Bible as the word of God, Acts 20:27.

**E** If we are not accurately handling the Bible, we are not preaching God's truth, 2 Timothy 2:15;

**F** Therefore we must preach *expository* messages. Expository preaching...

- 1) Is the communication of a biblical concept
- 2) Derived from and transmitted through a historical, grammatical, and literary study of a passage in its context.
- 3) Which the Holy Spirit first applies to the personality and experience of the preacher.
- 4) Then through the preacher, applies to the hearers.

**G** The essence of biblical expository preaching.

- 1) Presents the true and exact meaning of the biblical author
- 2) In a manner that is relevant to the contemporary listener

**H** We must be convinced of the great necessity of preaching God's word, 2 Timothy 4:1-4; 1 Timothy 4:13-16; Mark 1:37-38.

**I** Preaching needs to have a Christ-centered priority (not moralism, personal agendas, or a "springboard"). It needs to conform to the Bible's main theme and purpose. The Bible is the story of how God is glorified in His plan of redemption in Jesus Christ to restore people to His image and bring in His kingdom.

**J** Keep in mind that the purpose of biblical preaching and

teaching the word of God is to transform hearers more and more into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Col. 1:28.

**K** Preaching that transforms hearers into Christ's likeness needs spiritual power applied through our own diligent effort, Col. 1:29; 1 Cor. 1:17-18; 2:4-5.

**L** Is there a difference between preaching and teaching? If so, what is it? (Col. 1:28; Mat. 4:23; 5:2; 9:35; Acts 15:35; 28:31)

**M** Effective preaching and teaching begins with effective study of the Bible.

## 2 How should we study the Bible?

**A** We must be sure we *see* what God's word *says* – observation.

**B** We must be sure we *interpret* what God's word *means* – interpretation.

**C** We must be sure we *understand* how God's word should work in our lives – application.

**D** We must be sure we *take to heart* how the scripture

applies to us – meditation.

### **3** Preparing an expository sermon

#### **A** Rules for good expository preaching

- 1) True
- 2) Clear
- 3) Interesting
- 4) Relevant

#### **B** Stages of sermon preparation

- 1) Study the passage in the surrounding context and gather your notes (what is God saying?)
- 2) Outline Biblical passage
  - i) Passage outline “what happened” – anchored to author
  - ii) Timeless, eternal truth “this happened”) – this is why God gave us this passage
  - iii) Sermon outline “it is happening”
- 3) State the Central Truth of the whole message – “take home truth” (subject /complement=Central Truth)
  - i) Subject (topic): what is the biblical writer talking about?
  - ii) Complement (assertion): what is the biblical

writer saying about what he is talking about?

- 4) Submit the outline points and Central Truth to the three Developmental Questions
  - i) Understanding – explain (what do I *need* to explain?)
  - ii) Belief – why is it true? Do we really believe it? (Can the listeners explain why it’s true?)
  - iii) Behavior – what does it look like? How does it show up in everyday life? The relevancy is in the details!
- 5) State the Central Truth in its final sermon form, the most exact and memorable sentence possible with life-change in view.
- 6) Decide where you will place the Central Truth in the final sermon outline. (Inductive or deductive).
- 7) Develop your final sermon outline to reflect the contemporary application as much as possible, to keep life-change prominent in the message.
- 8) Develop the content of the sermon: fill in the outline with supporting materials that explain, prove, apply, or amplify the points
  - i) Restatement (might use some *repetition*, but restatement means stating important ideas in different ways)
  - ii) Explanation and definition

- iii) Factual information
  - iv) Illustrations: to shine light on the truth in the text; they should help make the text more understandable. They should serve the text not dominate it.
  - v) Imagined narrative (example: describing potential arguments your hearers may have with the truth you are teaching, “But pastor, how can I love my wife as Christ loved the church, when she is so contentious?”)
- 9) Special focus on developing application: Study your passage and your people with life-change in mind
- i) What was this text intended to change in the original hearers’ lives?
    - 1) Put yourself in their place
    - 2) Watch for the imperatives (commands)
    - 3) If the passage is a narrative, distinguish between what are the timeless principles and what was specific to that time and context.
    - 4) Compare similar imperatives in other passages to be sure your application is in keeping with the overall teaching of Scripture.
  - ii) What should this text change in our lives?

- 1) What factors limit transferring how the passage applied to the original hearers to our lives today? (Context, old vs. new covenant, culture, historical circumstances)
- 2) What factors call for direct transfer of original hearers' application to our lives today?
  - (i) Application that is rooted in God's character
  - (ii) Application that addresses man's sinfulness
  - (iii) Application that reflects God's created order
  - (iv) Application that reflects the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan in Jesus Christ
- 3) What do you know about your hearers that helps focus your application for them?
  - (i) What do they have in common with the original audience?
  - (ii) In what areas do they differ from the original audience?
  - (iii) How are your hearers currently practicing the application?

- (iv) How are your hearers currently neglecting or abusing the application?
  - (v) What is the greatest need my hearers have in relation to this application?
  - (vi) What should my hearers know about this application?
  - (vii) How should my hearers specifically trust God in view of this application?
  - (viii) What should my hearers feel about this application?
  - (ix) What should my hearers do about this application?
- 4) Develop an Introduction that engages interest, focuses the message and transitions to the biblical passage.
- (i) Engage the hearers' interest in the message, starting out demonstrating the relevance of the message
  - (ii) Focus the message on either the Central Truth (deductive) or the topic/question (inductive)
  - (iii) Set the stage (background, context, setting) where this applies. This is especially needful for narratives.
  - (iv) Preview/overview (needed if points



are a progression, or only some inductive questions answered).

(v) Announce chapter and verse; give them time to find it.

- 5) Prepare a conclusion that communicates the urgency of the message. The conclusion can be a summary, a direct appeal, a question, a story, an illustration, or a quotation. It must express urgency that this sermon must be understood and responded without excuse or delay.
- 6) Prepare a title that provokes interest.

## 4 Spiritual power and passion in preaching

### A Spiritual power in preaching

- 1) The power of the Holy Spirit is indispensable to effective preaching.
- 2) The power of the Spirit is necessary because of human sin.
- 3) The power of the Spirit is necessary because of the preacher's weakness.
- 4) We must be dependent upon the Spirit and not on human wisdom or manipulation, or else we get man's results, not God's.

- 5) Since the primary role of the Holy Spirit is to reveal and magnify Christ, Christ-centered preaching is more likely to be empowered by the Spirit.
- 6) We must saturate our preparation with prayer; we must cry out to God for the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 7) The ambition of the preacher: the saving and sanctifying of sinners. *We can't accomplish these ourselves.* Only God can, through the message of His Son, through the power of the Spirit.
- 8) That we desperately rely on the power of the Holy Spirit doesn't mean we don't put forth intentional effort in preaching with passion.

## **B** Passion in preaching

- 1) Be consumed with the supremacy of God over all things and the lives of the people. Preach with a passion for the glory of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.
- 2) Come with your heart moved by both the joy and seriousness of the truths you preach. Joy is always appropriate to the grace and the gospel in every message. Seriousness is always appropriate to the weightiness of God's holiness and the nature of our sin.

- 3) Preach with conviction. Be convinced that this message (assuming we have properly observed, interpreted, applied and meditated upon the text) is God's word to His people.
- 4) Preach with compassion. Feel the struggles and burdens of the people to whom we are preaching.
- 5) Preach with authority. Believe the truth you are preaching and know you are sent as God's ambassador with His authority through His word.
- 6) Preach with urgency. Be able to passionately communicate the answer to this question about your message: "What is the price of ignoring this truth?" Be conscious of the realities of judgment, death, and hardness of heart.
- 7) Preach with brokenness. Be humbled by your own weaknesses – including the ways you have fallen short in living out the things you will preach. Preach with a sense of realism and soberness.
- 8) Preach with the whole body. Comes from preaching with passion in your heart. Be honest, be yourself, but put your body into your preaching. Make good eye contact. Vary your voice as you experience the emotion of what you are preaching.
- 9) Preach with imagination. Use powerful words, stories, illustrations.

## Building Your Ministry on the Gospel

**1** Build ministry on the gospel because it is central to the Christian faith

**A** The gospel is God's gospel, Mark 1:14; Rom. 1:1, 15:16; 2 Cor. 11:7; 1 Thess. 2:2, 9; 1 Tim. 1:11.

**B** The gospel is the gospel of Christ, Mark 1:1; Rom. 1:9, 15:19; 1 Cor. 9:12; 2 Cor. 2:12, 9:13, 10:14; Gal. 1:7; Phil. 1:27; 1 Thess. 3:2; 2 Thess. 1:18.

**C** The gospel is God's power for salvation, Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:17-8, 2:1-5; 1 Thess. 1:5

**D** The gospel is the gospel of the grace of God, Acts 20:24.

**E** The gospel is the gospel of the glory of Christ, 2 Cor. 4:4.

**F** The gospel is the proclamation of Christ's present and coming reign (the gospel of the kingdom), Matt. 4:23, 9:35,

24:14; Mark 1:15; Luke 16:16.

**G** The gospel is the central message of Christian preaching and ministry, Acts 20:24; Rom. 1:1, 9, 15; 1 Cor. 1:17; 9:14, 16, 23; 1 Thess. 2:4

**H** The gospel is the one way to know Christ and be saved, Rom. 1:16-17; Col. 1:23; 2 Thess. 1:8

**I** The gospel is the supreme standard of saving Christian truth, Gal. 1:6-9, 2:7, 14;

**2** What is NOT the gospel?

**A** The gospel needs to be defended from distortion.

1) Paul was appointed by God for the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

2) 2 Cor. 11:4; Gal. 1:6-9; 2:5;

**B** The gospel is not a result of human religious searching or religious effort, Gal. 1:11

**C** The gospel is *not* that God promises to bless us with material things if we claim His word.

**D** The gospel is not that God is love.

**E** The gospel is not that Jesus wants to be my friend.

**F** The gospel is not that God does His part and I do my part and I am saved.

**G** The gospel is not to just try to do the best you can and God will save you.

**H** The gospel is not clean up your life, come to church and you will go to heaven.

**I** The gospel is not about my faith in God, much less coming forward or raising my hand.

### 3 What is the gospel?

**A** The gospel had to be revealed by God (it isn't knowable by human wisdom), Rom. 1:16-17; Gal. 1:11; 2 Tim. 1:10; 1 Pet. 1:12

**B** The gospel is about the saving work of Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15:1-8; Rom. 3:21-26; 4:24-25; 6:3-5; 10:9-10; 2 Cor. 5:21; Col. 2:12-15; 1 Pet. 2:24.

1) God made people in His image to know Him. But they sinned, losing their relationship with Him, for-

feiting life and righteousness.

- 2) To save us, God became a man in Jesus, lived a perfect life, died on the cross. In doing this, He fulfilled the law Himself and took God's punishment of all who would ever turn and trust in Him and His saving work to save them.
- 3) Jesus rose from the dead, proving He was the Son of God, and that God accepted His sacrifice and that His wrath against our sin had been satisfied.
- 4) Christ's death and resurrection confirmed His victory over sin, death and the devil on our behalf.
- 5) God calls us to repent of our sins and trust in Christ alone for forgiveness and eternal life. As we trust Christ this way, He causes us to be born again into eternal life, and grants us righteousness in His sight.

**C** The gospel saves people from sin, not in sin, Luke 16:16; Rom. 2:12-16; 1 Tim. 1:8-11.

**D** The gospel of the kingdom. The emphasis on what Christ has done, is doing, and will do to establish His redemptive reign among the nations. Matt. 4:23; 9:35; 24:14; Mark 1:15; Rom. 1:1-6; 15:16-18; 16:25-26; Rev. 14:6-7.

- 1) The gospel of the kingdom declares and displays God's triumph over the three enemies that have been

the ruin of people throughout history: death, Satan and sin.

- 2) The gospel of the kingdom announces what God has already done, and is now continuing to do to conquer the enemies of sin, death, and the devil.
- 3) The gospel is about Jesus Christ; we are to be His witnesses; to be His witnesses is to preach, teach and live the kingdom of God, Acts 1:1-8; 28:23, 31.

#### **4** What kind of response to the gospel is saving?

**A** Hearing and believing, Acts 15:7; Eph. 1:13

**B** Repenting and believing, Mark 1:15; Acts 14:15; 1 Thess. 1:5, 9-10

**C** Persevering in believing, 1 Cor. 15:1-2; Col. 1:23

**D** Suffering for Christ/the gospel, Mark 8:35, 10:29; Phil. 1:27-30; 2 Tim. 1:8

**E** Obeying the gospel, 2 Cor. 9:23 (evidenced by how they gave); Phil. 1:27; 2 Thess. 2:14; 1 Pet. 4:17



**F** Bearing fruit from the gospel, Col. 1:5-6; 2 Thess. 1:8, 11-12; 2: 13-14.

**5** Building your ministry on gospel-centered teaching and preaching

**A** The gospel has always been the aim of God's saving promises, Mark 1:15; Rom. 16:25; Gal. 3:8; Eph. 3:6; 1 Pet. 1:12

**B** Gospel preaching must not rely upon human techniques of appeal or persuasion, 1 Cor. 1:17; 2:1-5; Eph. 6:19.

**C** Preaching the gospel must drive our ministry, Acts 20:24; Rom. 1:1, 9, 15; 15:16; 1 Cor. 1:17; 9:16; 1 Thess. 2:4

**D** We must preach the gospel whether it is accepted or not, Luke 20:1; 1 Thess. 2:2

**6** Building your ministry on gospel-centered mercy ministry, Matt. 9:35; Luke 4:18; 7:22; 9:6; 2 Cor. 9:13; Gal. 2:7, 10

**7** Building your ministry on gospel-centered counseling

**A** Counseling the Christ-centered word is the way to healing and freedom from bondage, Luke 4:18; 7:22; Gal. 5:1-26; Col. 2:6-23.

**B** Counseling the gospel involves calling people away from vain things to serve the living God, Acts 14:15; 1 Thess. 1:5, 9-10.

**C** People in temptation, crisis or great discouragement might accept another gospel, 2 Cor. 11:2-4; Gal. 1:6-9.

**D** Gospel-centered counseling means applying the saving work of Christ to issues of spiritual growth, (this is the issue!), Eph. 4:17-24; Phil. 3:8-14; Col. 3:1-17.

## 8 Building your ministry on gospel-centered evangelism

**A** Only God can open hearts to believe the gospel, 2 Cor. 4:3-4

**B** God open doors for the gospel, Acts 16:10; 2 Cor. 2:12

**C** God calls people through the gospel, 1 Thess. 1:5; 2 Thess. 1:11

**D** Don't set up unnecessary barriers to the gospel, 1Cor. 9:12, 23

**9** Building your ministry on gospel-centered discipleship

**A** We should harvest and cultivate disciples from spreading the seed of the gospel, Acts 14:21

**B** Discipleship in the gospel is valuing it even in the hardships, Mark 8:35, 10:29

**C** Discipleship in the gospel is being ready with it in spiritual warfare, Eph. 6:15

**10** Building your ministry on gospel-centered relationships/partnerships, Phil. 1:5, 7, 27; 2:22; 4:3, 15; 1 Thess. 2:8, 3:2

**11** Building your ministry on gospel-centered leadership

**A** Know your calling in the service of the gospel, Acts 20:24; Rom. 1:5, 9; Phil. 1:16

**B** We need leaders who are known for faithfulness and

fervency in the gospel, Acts 8:40; 1 Cor. 4:15; 2 Cor. 8:18;  
1 Thess. 2:8-9; 3:2

**12** Building your ministry on gospel-centered living, 1  
Cor. 9:23; 2 Cor.9:13; Phil 1:27; Col. 1:23.

**13** Building your ministry on gospel-centered mission

**A** We must spread the gospel freely and fully, Luke 9:6;  
Acts 8:25, 40; 14:7, 21; 16:10; 2 Cor. 10:16

**B** We must seek to call out from unreached peoples a  
people for God through the gospel, Matt. 24:14; 28:19-  
20; Mark 13:10; Rom. 15:16-20;

**C** We must endure hardship for the spread of the gospel,  
Phil. 1:12; 1 Thess. 2:2, 9; 2 Tim. 1:8; 2:8-9; Philem. 13

