

Proclaiming the Truth, Guides to Scriptural Preaching by Donald E. Demaray, Francis Asbury Press; Anderson, IN: 2001 (15 Quotes selected by Doug Nichols)

1. Divine Empowerment

"E. Stanley Jones once commented: 'It has always been part of my life resources and my life plans to be taking up things that I could not do - and then by God's grace doing them' (*The Divine Yes*, p. 25)." [p. 15]

2. Effective Techniques of Preaching

"The challenge in preaching is not merely to develop techniques, but the most effective techniques. Techniques for capturing the best ideas for sermons, gathering the most interesting data, arranging materials into memorable outlines, starting sermons with captivating issues, and concluding messages with driving urgency; techniques to insure both audible and winsome speech, including acceptable English grammar and the selection of words and phrases which will be readily understood; techniques for the mastery and execution of body language that appeals to the eye and expresses the intended communication. Here, then, we face three areas of challenge: [a] homiletics, [b] linguistics, and [c] kinetics (body language)." [p. 20]

3. Leaders with Life-changing Convictions

"The preacher's strong belief that Christ meets the actual needs of men and women in crisis provides enormous support to people of shaky belief. Stalwart conviction, born of firm faith, marks the great preachers of all time. It is, in fact, a significant component of leadership; people follow guides possessed of life-changing convictions." [p. 22]

4. More Self-centered; Less Christ-centered

"... let us not be deceived into referring to ourselves overmuch in a kind of desperate attempt to 'prove' the sufficiency of our experience for preaching on a given subject. Barclay rightly declares, 'As for the pulpit, the more a man draws attention to himself, the less he draws attention to Jesus Christ' (*Daily Celebration*, vol. 2, p. 69)."

"Of his last illness, E. Stanley Jones declared, I haven't had a blue or discouraging hour in the months of this period of adjustment since the stroke. I accept the limitations because the limitations are opening the door for me to possess the Kingdom and let the Kingdom possess me' (*The Divine Yes*, p. 141)." [p. 23]

5. Planned Preaching Builds

"Systematic, planned preaching builds our people, as von Allmen observes, 'on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.'" [p. 25]

6. Teach through Preaching

"Both Richard Baxter and Charles Spurgeon believed strongly that teaching greatly enriches preaching. Said Baxter, 'If you would not teach men, what would you do in the pulpit?' Spurgeon declared, 'Tell your hearers something, dear brethren whenever you preach, tell them something, tell them something, tell them something.'"

"Ronald Bainton shows the relation of teaching and preaching, and their balance, in Luther's ministry: 'As Luther's sermons were often didactic, so were his lectures commonly sermonic. He was always teaching, whether in the classroom or the pulpit; and he was always preaching, whether in the pulpit or in the classroom' (*Here I Stand*, p. 355)." [p. 27]

7. Keep on Learning Continually

"Barclay throws out warnings, more or less related to beginning this study procedure, and worth noting. He warns against too much light reading -for example, devotional commentaries. He admonishes us to keep on our desks a minimum of 'one great difficult' volume, something to stretch the mind. Not that we read great and difficult books to parade our learning (art lies in concealing art, Barclay observes), but that we extend our knowledge, broaden our perspectives, and learn to master material so well we can relate it with per feet lucidity."

"Learn. Keep on learning. The genius of learning is like the genius of putting money in the bank: when occasion demands, there is substantial resource from which to draw."
"William Barclay says forthrightly, "The preacher cannot assume intelligibility; he must battle for it." [p. 28]

8. Contemporary Language Usage in Sermons

"The use of Elizabethan speech in modern-day sermons is not in harmony with the language of the Greek New Testament. That Greek we call *koine* (common, marketplace). 'Anything which makes the New Testament sound other than contemporary mistranslates it.'" [p. 30]

9. Are Evangelical Fundamentalists?

"John R. W. Stott, referring to James Barr's book, *Fundamentalism*, admits flatly, 'We evangelicals have always been much better at defending the authority of the Bible than at wrestling with its interpretation' ('Are Evangelicals Fundamentalists?' *CHRISTIANITY TODAY*, 8 September 1978, p.45)." [p. 35]

10. How to Read

"Mortimer Adier's ideas about how to read helps the interpreter-at-work. For example, 'you should mark a book, underscore passages, go back and forth, raise all sorts of questions.' Again, 'the amount of intellectual activity that we put into reading a book is a measure of how well we are reading it' ('Conversation with an Author,' *Book Digest*, May 1978, p. 24)." [p. 37]

11. Two-fold Theme of the Bible

"Be cognizant, of the entire Bible. Its twofold theme, running like parallel scarlet threads throughout, is man's sin and God's remedy. Ultimately you must address this theme, in one way or another, whatever book of the Bible you are working from, and whatever literary unit within a book you aim to interpret." [p. 42]

12. Preaching to Reveal Christ

"The purpose of the Bible is to reveal Christ. That truth must function as a working principle of all sound interpretation of Scripture. In Christ the Christian finds the unity of Scripture. Because Jesus Christ is the essence of our faith, true preaching must enrich knowledge of Him." [p. 43]

13. Know Your Passage Thoroughly

"George A. Turner reminds us that 'the expositor's prime task is not only to understand the meaning of the passage but to enter empathetically into the historical situation and into his own existential situation so completely that he can translate the message of the Scripture from that idiom to one meaningful to his own contemporaries', ('The Interpreter's Task,' *Asbury Seminarian*, April 1968, p. 6)."

"John Henry Newman encouraged the preacher to write his sermons out in full, not only for the purpose of mastering the material, but also for interpretative reasons; the preacher does not know what he knows, nor does he know his subject, until he actually writes out his material. Newman goes on to say writing keeps the preacher from wandering. See *The Idea of a University*, p. 341." [p. 44]

14. Work within the Culture, but Speak Clearly from the Lord

"... every minister must work within the culture in which he finds himself. But use of the culture in such a way as to avoid prophetic utterance results in loss of integrity. People sense this; indeed, they sense the credibility gap in the church with every bit as much insight as they sense it in government and politics. Down deep, no man or woman, boy or girl, wants the preacher to play to the galleries. What they desperately cry for in this age of unparalleled crisis is a word sharp and clear, a word from the Lord." [p. 48]

15. Solid, Credible Reputation

"A solid, righteous reputation takes time to build. We would not want it to come quickly. People look up to a minister who has come through the rough and tumble of life with victory, through the glories and honors with humility, through the humdrum with purpose."

"One must be especially careful when introducing new perspectives. Couched in biblical terms, fresh material comes across creditably enough; but radical questioning coupled with vivid language can stir up problems. One safeguard is simply to take your outline directly from the scriptural passage in view. Ideas clearly rooted in Scripture can open the door to astonishing new perspectives." [p. 50]

Index to Proclaiming the Truth, Guides to Scriptural Preaching By Donald E. Demaray

A	H
Are Evangelical Fundamentalists? 2	How to Read 2
C	K
Contemporary Language Usage in Sermons..... 2	Keep on Learning Continually 2
D	Know Your Passage Thoroughly 3
Divine Empowerment.....1	L
E	Leaders with Life-changing Convictions 1
Effective Techniques of Preaching.....1	M
	More Self-centered Less Christ-centered..... 1

P

Planned Preaching Builds1

Preaching to Reveal Christ... 3

S

Solid, Credible Reputation... 4

T

Teach through Preaching.....1

Two-fold Theme of the Bible 2

W

**Work within the Culture, but
Speak Clearly from the Lord
..... 4**

