

# Preaching Workshop

## Organizational Tips

### 1. Identify Your Purpose

This is a crucial element of sermon preparation. Often preachers jump into a passage or theme without pausing to ask, “What is the purpose of my message?” “What am I trying to accomplish?”

\*Your purpose must be more than “to do a sermon” or “to fill 30 minutes” or “to not look like a dufus.”

\*Remember all those combined hours being given to you—you can change all those lives if you hit the nail on the head.

\*Here are some key questions to ask to help you develop your purpose:

What are the needs? Write out a “needs sheet” and see what leaps off the page. For example: Faith

What do you want to accomplish? For example: To show how we can grow in our faith.

What mood do you want to create? For example: Inspiring

\*Then, you must express your purpose in one pregnant sentence beginning with an infinitive: TO... “To inspire everyone to increase their faith & show them how to do so.”

### 2. Select a Topic

Next, come up with one topic, one passage, or one launching idea.

Topic: Faith

Passage: Luke 17      Idea: Increase Our Faith

\*The sooner you do this step, the better your sermon will be... “the flypaper approach.” Identifying your topic & passage well in advance allows ideas to “stick” to it over time.

### 3. Create an Outline

This is the next step and is probably the second greatest weakness in our fellowship.

Advantages to a great outline

- \*Gives greater clarity and confidence to you
- \*Allows greater freedom to connect with audience
- \*Keeps you from drifting from your purpose
- \*Promotes greater understanding and remembering
- \*Allows for easier reproduction by you or your audience

Keys to a great outline

- \*Create mutually exclusive points
- \*Make sure all points are unified with the purpose
- \*Make the points memorable—be a wordsmith
- \*Spell a word with the 1<sup>st</sup> letter of each point (BENT)

- \*Similar sounding points (unity, purity, humility)
- \*Repetitive word or phrase (Love bible, Respect Bible, Obey Bible)
- \*Rhyming (See the Conqueror, Be the Conqueror)
- \*Common initial letter (Purpose, Priority, Passion)
- \*Similar meter (Remember the Past, Envision the Future)
- \*Create an effective title (catchy, brief, intriguing, memorable)
- \*Make sure the outline has glance value—enough not too much

#### 4. Develop the Content

The next step is to develop the content or to fill in the outline. Again, this is a huge weakness, as many get bogged down and ramble within a given point. Each point must be clearly developed and able to stand alone as a lesson in and of itself.

- \*Point
  - \*Scripture...usually one is enough; only more if helpful
  - \*Illustration...poem, movie, news article, song, quote, story, example, personal sharing (weakness if you)
  - \*Application...get into their head; challenge or encourage, but it has to be “real & relatable” to them.
  - \*Transition sentences should be clear and well planned.
  - \*Summarize often
  - \*Create a sticky statement in most sermons—and put them on a slide so they can be further impressed upon the audience. *Examples:*
    - “The Bible is not a road map, but a compass.”
    - “Are you wondering if God is working or are you watching him working wonders?”
    - “Church goers just want the good that comes from Jesus; True Christians just want Jesus.”

#### 5. Script the Introduction and Conclusion

- \*Intro should be clear and captivating
- \*Conclusion should tie back into intro and also be clear and captivating. Perhaps use a closing illustration, but no other new material in the conclusion.
- \*Write out both and *almost* memorize them

#### **Extra Directions for Expository Preaching**

Purpose is to expose or reveal the meaning of a passage.  
 Study the appropriate introductory material in commentaries.  
 Read the passage or book through until the message is understood  
 Create an overall outline of the passage or book.  
 Write a syllabus to the class, if preparing a series...usually 6-8 weeks max  
 Fully develop each individual class, repeating steps A, B, and C above for that specific material.