

SECTION 3 - THE PREPARATION OF THE MESSAGE  
Chapter 8 - Steps to Preparing Your Message

4/10/92

I. Introduction and Review

A. Review of the Process

1. The Preparation of the Messenger - A Clean Vessel  
Qualifications for Ministry
2. The Preparation of the Text - Pure Food  
The Science of Exegesis
3. The Preparation of the Message - Well Cooked  
The Art of Sermon Preparation
4. Delivering the Goods - Nicely Presented  
Presentation Skills

B. The Importance of Sermon Preparation

1. Form is Nearly as Important as Content.  
Your Work is NOT Done when the Exegesis is Complete
2. Your Goal is to Produce a Set of Notes to be Used to Make Your Message.
  - a. Clear (Purpose)
  - b. Memorable (Variety)
  - c. Relevant (Application)In Addition to Exegeting Your Text, You Must "Exegete" Your Hearers

II. Step 1 - Review and Organize Your Study Notes (1 Hour)

A. Rewrite if Necessary

B. Write Out All of the Key Points You Want to Make.

III. Step 2 - Write a Clear Statement of Purpose (1/2 Hour)

(See Introduction to Section 2)

A. The Difference between "Purpose" and "Theme" or "Idea"

1. Theme/Idea Deals with the Abstract Principle Contained in the Text.
2. The Purpose is what God is Seeking to do in the Lives of His People through this Passage.

B. How is the Purpose of Your Sermon Related to the Purpose of Your Text?

1. Differences in Life Settings or Epochs.
2. Your Preaching Purpose Must be Derived from the Purpose of the Your Text.

C. Your Purpose Statement Must be Specific

D. Types of Purpose

1. Inform - to Explain an Idea
2. Persuade/Convince - to Prove a Proposition
3. Motivate - to Apply a Principle  
Are We Limited to **one** of these?

IV. Step 3 - Write a Skeleton Outline of Your Main Points (1 Hour)

A. How Many Points Should there be?

1. The Traditional 3 Point Sermon
2. Let Your Purpose Determine the Number of Points. Don't force your text.
3. General Rule - 2-5 points

B. Each Main Point

1. Must be a Subset of the Purpose of the Message.  
Neither All Inclusive of, nor Beyond the Overall Purpose
2. Must be Independent of the Other Main Points.  
Is There no Room for Overlap?

C. What Type of Structure Should be Used?

1. Must Message Structure Follow the Order of the Text?
  - a. All preaching is "reconstructive"  
i.e. translating poetry or narrative into a preaching or teaching format.
  - b. Some texts lend themselves better than others to a preaching structure.
  - c. So long as your purpose and major points flow from the text, you have a great deal of freedom in arranging your structure.
2. Message Preparation is as Much an Art as a Science  
Creativity is Required - "A Silver Hammer"
  - a. The text

- b. The speaker
  - c. The audience
3. Design Your Structure in Order to Serve Your Purpose
    - a. Classification
    - b. Induction to a Climax
    - c. Deduction from an agreed principle
    - d. Exploring aspects of a topic (facets of a diamond)
    - e. Narrative
    - f. Others
  4. Beware of:
    - a. Manipulating the message into a man-made structure
    - b. Forced Alliteration
    - c. Bony outlines
    - d. Jellyfish outlines(?)
- D. "Stance" in Outlining (Adams)
1. Don't Use a Lecture Stance
    - a. About the Bible, Third Person (the Amalekites they...)
      - b. Long ago and far away, Abstract
      - c. i.e. the source, nature, and purpose of...
  2. Instead Use the Preaching Stance
    - a. About the Congregation from the Bible, Second Person  
(try to use "God" and "You" in main points),
    - b. Here and Now, Concrete, Involved.
    - c. What about the use of the first person plural (We)
  3. Examples
  4. Do All Main Points Need to be in the Second Person?
- E. Characteristics of a Good Skeleton
1. Unity - One Purpose
  2. Order- Logical
  3. Proportion - Symmetry
 

Does each point need to be of the exactly same length?  
*Not all points are of equal importance!*
  4. Progress - Builds
  5. Clarity

Assignment: Section 3, Chapter 8

1. For the Text You Have Already Exegeted (to be turned in next meeting)
  - A. State the Purpose of Your Text, and the Purpose of Your Sermon.
  - B. Write a Skeleton of Your Main Points
2. Evaluate the Structure of Two Sermons You Hear.
  - A. Is the Purpose Clear?
  - B. Are the Main Points All Related to the Purpose?
  - C. Does the Structure Lecture or Preach?
  - D. How is the Structure of the Sermon Related to the Structure of the Text?

Book to Buy

Greidanus, The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text