

Baptist Basics University
Truth Must Be Preserved For Future Generations

Homiletics 101:
An Introduction To Preaching
Lecture Notes

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Lesson 1

What is Preaching?

In a traditional Baptist church service, the sermon is the centerpiece. The entire order of events revolves around it. The song service prepares the congregation. Special music trains their attention. Then, with full attention of the audience the preacher stands to deliver the message God has given Him. An altar call is given to allow time for personal work and prayer. Everything is centered on that delivery of the sermon.

So what is preaching? It is more than a speech. It is more than teaching, though that may be a portion of it. It is the expounding of a Bible-based truth that is delivered so as to press its hearer for a decision and action.

Let us consider the necessary ingredients of preaching:

I. The Man - Romans 10:14

Preaching is when a man of God stands to deliver God's message. A preacher is a man that God has called and gifted for the task of sermon delivery. Sermons are not spontaneously created, they are borne and delivered by men.

II. The Message – Romans 10:15

What is the man of God to say? It is not his duty to entertain or impress. He is to have a message given to him by God for the people. The Holy Spirit works through study and prayer to guide the preparation of the sermon.

III. The Method – Acts 8:35

Preaching is quite different than any other form of speech. It presses for a decision and action based on a truth. It may include other elements, such as teaching or motivation, but in the end it brings to hearer to the point of decision.

IV. The Motivation – Acts 8:5-6

There may be different goals in preaching, but the result is technically the same: bring people to action. This may be in bringing the lost to accept Christ as Saviour, inspiring workers to faithfulness, strengthening a believer's walk by application of principles, or any other action. In the end, there should be action. Sermons are not just to fill time, they are to accomplish things.

V. The Mandate – II Timothy 4:2

God has chosen to work in this day through preaching, not through angels or miracles. We have the Bible as a foundation and we have the Spirit to guide and empower. We are to take the message of the Gospel to the lost and to strengthen the brethren. We do both of these through preaching.

Let me close with a few of my favorite quotes describing preaching:

- “Truth through personality is our description of real preaching.” - Phillips Brooks
- “Preaching is the communication of truth by man to men.” - Phillips Brooks
- “Preaching is truth set on fire” - Jack Hyles
- “What is preaching? Logic on fire!” - D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Lesson 2

The Purpose of Preaching

Preaching has a special purpose in the plan of God. It is the means He has chosen to reach the lost and to grow the believer. I once heard that preaching should do four things: stretch the mind, warm the heart, challenge the will, and tan the hide. We're going to take things a little deeper than that...

I. Preaching is to define the Faith

Probably the foremost purpose in preaching is to proclaim the truths of the Scripture. Every sermon should convey the truths of the Scripture in such a way that the audience gains a greater understanding of doctrine.

II. Preaching is to defend the Faith

It is not enough to just expound the truths of God's Word; we must also defend them. Satan, the World, and the Flesh constantly on the attack against the Truth.

III. Preaching is to evangelize the lost.

The greatest task of the preacher is to proclaim the Gospel to the lost. They must hear the truth presented on their level and guided into a saving knowledge of Christ. Rarely do men seek the truth of the Gospel on their own. The vast majority are reached by someone who had compassion for their souls.

IV. Preaching is to point out sin.

If you look at the sermons in the New Testament, you will see that there is never one that handles sin lightly. Christ was bold in exposing the Pharisees, John the Baptist in denouncing Herod's immorality, and Peter in implicating the Jews on Christ's death. We cannot show the way to the light without pointing out the darkness.

V. Preaching is to challenge the Christian.

Preaching should aid the Christian in growing in grace. It should not only warn of or expose sin; it should also inspire and challenge to reach greater heights.

VI. Preaching is to meet the needs of the audience

A sermon is only effective if it is received and if it meets a need. A preacher should take great care to make sure he is on the level of his audience. He must also be diligent in ensuring that the sermon meets some need of the hearer.

Lesson 3
The Call to Preach

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Lesson 4
The Preacher's Testimony

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Lesson 5

Types of Sermons

Sermons can be divided into different categories based on their structure. There are three basic types of sermons: Topical, Textual, and Expository.

I. Topical Sermons

Topical sermons are based on a topic or theme. They are usually based on many Scripture passages instead of one. The emphasis of the sermon therefore is on the theme and not a single verse or passage.

Example Outline:

II. Textual Sermons

Textual sermons are based on one verse or a portion of a verse. This single source is then analyzed and expounded upon. The emphasis of the sermon is the truth of that one text.

Example Outline:

III. Expository Sermons

Expository sermons are based on a passage of Scripture. Truths are brought by analyzing the passage, usually in reading order. The emphasis of the sermon is the broad truth that the passage teaches.

Example Outline:

Lesson 6
Sermon Preparation

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Lesson 7

Getting and Keeping Their Attention

Lesson 8

Preaching to Different Groups

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Lesson 9

The Art of Preaching

Lesson 10

Drawing The Net

Lesson 11

Just for Preacher Boys