

A PROCESS FOR EFFECTIVE PREACHING
First Coast Quarterly Celebration
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INTRODUCTIONS: Three assumptions about effective preaching:

- Effective preaching is TEXT DRIVEN.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. – 2 Timothy 4:1-2

- Effective preaching is has a CLEAR MESSAGE.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- Effective preaching is HARD WORK.

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. – 2 Timothy 2:15

There are some preachers you can listen to, some preachers you can't listen to, and some preachers you must listen to. – Anonymous

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- I. CHOOSE THE TEXT STRATEGICALLY.

Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. – 1 Timothy 4:13

A. Think TEXT, not TOPICS.

B. Think SERIES, not SERMONS.

- II. STUDY THE TEXT DILIGENTLY.

A. Schedule your TIME. (STUDY WHEN YOU ARE AT YOUR BEST.)

B. Consecrate your SPACE. (STUDY WHERE YOU CONNECT W/ GOD.)

"A PASSION TO PREACH WITHOUT A COMMITMENT TO STUDY IS A DESIRE TO PERFORM."
H. B. CHARLES

- C. Gather your TOOLS. (DON'T COLLECT BOOKS. COLLECT TOOLS.)
- D. Master your PROCESS. (YOU NEED A SYSTEM THAT WORKS FOR YOU.)

III. APPROACH THE TEXT PRAYERFULLY.

Sermon preparation is twenty hours of prayer. It is humble, holy critical thinking. It is repeatedly asking the Holy Spirit for insight. It is the harrowing of your soul. It is ongoing repentance. It is utter dependence. It is a singing heart. – R. Kent Hughes

- A. Pray for ILLUMINATION.

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. – Psalm 119:18

- B. Pray for SUBMISSION.

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.
– Psalm 119:34

- C. Pray for OBEDIENCE.

(TELL GOD OF YOUR PRE-COMMITMENT TO DO WHAT HE SAYS.)

For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel. – Ezra 7:10

IV. READ THE TEXT DEVOTIONALLY.

- A. Read REPEATEDLY.

- B. Record INTENTIONALLY. (WHAT ARE YOU LEARNING?)

- C. Reflect PRAYERFULLY.

The preacher who neglects to preach to himself has forgotten a very important part of his audience. He who never in his silent privacy speaketh a word to his own soul, doth not know where to begin his preaching. We must first address our own soul. – Charles Spurgeon

V. INTERPRET THE TEXT ACCURATELY.

(THERE ARE ONLY 2 WAYS TO PREACH. EXPOSITION OR IMPOSITION. JOHN STOTT)

They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. – Nehemiah 8:8

- A. WHAT'S BEHIND the Text.

"THE TEXT CAN'T MEAN WHAT IT NEVER MEANT." HB

B. WHAT'S IN the Text.

C. WHAT'S AHEAD OF the Text. (WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE TEXT?)

VI. APPLY THE TEXT PASTORALLY. (THE GOAL OF EXPOSITION IS APPLICATION.)

Interpretation without application is abortion. – Haddon Robinson

A. DUTY: WHAT SHOULD I DO?

B. CHARACTER: WHO AM I? WHAT IS GOING ON IN MY HEART?

C. GOALS: WHERE SHOULD WE BE GOING IN LIGHT OF THIS TEXT?

D. DISCERNMENT: HOW SHOULD I THINK?

VII. CRAFT THE TEXT SERMONICALLY.

Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth. The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. – Ecclesiastes 12:9-11

A. State the sermon IN A SENTENCE. (A CLEAR, PRESENT TENSE, ACTIVE STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE TEXT.)

B. Form a sermon SKELETON.

1. The Dominating THEME

2. The Integrating THOUGHTS

3. The Motivating THRUST

C. Write a sermon MANUSCRIPT.

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WELL
DRIVEN
NAILS!

Not all preachers write out their sermons, nor do preachers who write out sermons write out every sermon, but the discipline of preparing a manuscript improves preaching. Writing scrapes the fungus off our thought, arranges our ideas in order, and underlines the important ideas. – Haddon Robinson,

VIII. PRESENT THE TEXT CLEARLY.

Clarity is the most important aim of the preacher's life. This is because of the nature of Scripture itself. Scripture is designed to reveal. It claims its own clarity. Therefore, the most foundational element of any biblical communication is clarity. Nothing happens without clarity. – John MacArthur

"CLARITY IS ITS OWN STYLE."

- A. PURPOSE.
- B. UNITY.
- C. MOVEMENT.

For the sermon, as a living word from God to his people, should make its impact on them then and there. They will not remember the details. We should not expect them to do so. But they should remember the dominant thought, because all the sermon's details have been marshaled to help them grasp its message and feel its power. – John R.W. Stott

IX. DECLARE THE TEXT PASSIONATELY.

- A. ETHOS: THE INTEGRITY OF THE SPEAKER.

"POSSESS PERSONAL CREDIBILITY"

Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. – 1 Timothy 4:16

- B. LOGOS: THE TRUTHFULNESS OF THE CONTENT.

"HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY."

Preaching is compelling to young secular adults not if preachers use video clips from their favorite movies and dress informally and sound sophisticated, but if the preachers understand their hearts and culture so well that listeners feel the force of the sermon's reasoning, even if in the end they don't agree with it. – Tim Keller

- C. PATHOS: PASSION "PREACH LIKE A SATISFIED CUSTOMER, NOT A PAID ADVERTISER." HB

X. PREACH THE TEXT FAITHFULLY.

- A. Preach CONFIDENTLY.

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar. – Proverbs 30:5-6

- B. Preach SIMPLY.

(PUT COOKIES ON THE BOTTOM SHELF)

- C. Preach MISSIONALLY.

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. – Colossians 1:28

D. Preach APoloGETICALLY. (WHAT AND WHY)

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect. – 1 Peter 3:15

E. Preach BOLDLY.

And also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. – Ephesians 6:19-20

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