

The Priority and Practice of Apostolic Preaching



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What is Preaching?

Lesson in Review

1. How did Phillips Brooks define preaching?

The communication of divine truth through human personality.

- 2. What three things must preaching contain or do?
 - A. Must contain divine truth.
 - B. Must communicate truth.
 - C. Must come through human beings.
- 3. What is the constant that connects each generation throughout the ages?

The preaching of the Word of God.

- 4. Whenever Christianity has made substantial progress great preaching has led the way.
- 5. Quote I Corinthians 1:18.

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God"

6. People still respond when the Word of God is preached. If you want to affect people's lives, preach the Word. If you want to build a great church, grow a great youth group, or have a great ministry, commit yourself to preach the Word.

- 7. Preaching is a spiritual event but it is also a skill that can be learned and improved.
- 8. In the history of Christianity there have been five great centuries of growth and development. List the centuries and those who preached.
 - A. 1st century, the apostles.
 - B. 4th century, Chrysostom and Augustine.
 - C. 13th century, Francis of Assisi and Dominic.
 - D. 16th century, Luther and Calvin.
 - E. 19th century, Spurgeon and Maclaren.

The Theology of Preaching

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- 1. Early apostolic preachers would have been influenced by what three things?
 - A. Old Testament prophecy and preaching.
 - B. Greek oratory.
 - C. The preaching of Jesus and John.
- 2. The prophets were **preachers** with extraordinary **impact** upon their nations.
- 3. The prophets preached with the purpose of getting a response from their hearers. Through what means did they accomplish this? List five ways.
 - A. Psalms
 - **B.** Proverbs
 - C. Accounts of visions and dreams.
 - D. Illustrations.
 - E. Metaphors.
 - F. Instruction.
 - G. Explanation.
 - H. Personification.
- 4. Aristotle taught that only three technical means of persuasion are possible, the speaker must prove his case by appealing to what three things?
 - A. Character of the speaker.
 - B. Emotions of the hearer.
 - C. Traditional proofs.

- 5. The most common verb used for preaching in the New Testament is kerysso and it means to proclaim or to herald.
- 6. *Euangelizo* means the same thing as *kerysso*, that is "to preach." However, *euangelizo* carries with it the added emphasis that the message that is preached is the good news of the gospel, that is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
- 7. Define martyreo. To witness.
- 8. Quote Acts 1:8.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

9. Preaching is still God's method for proclaiming the gospel and, as in the first century, this means persuasive, passionate, and powerful proclamation.

Saved by Preaching

Lesson in Review

- 1. The central purpose of evangelical preaching is to win an intermediate commitment to Jesus Christ.
- 2. You preach to those that are lost. They are the slaves of sin, victims of its deception, entrapped by the call of the world. They are ruled by fear, doubt, hurt, worry. But preaching changes all of that. It liberates, frees, changes, empowers. It produces new hope, new confidence, new life.
- 3. Salvation is the basic theme of Romans, it also the basic theme of Paul's entire work and ministry.
- 4. Quote Romans 10:14.

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

- 5. There are five actions taking place in this passage:
 - A. Sending
 - **B.** Proclaiming
 - C. Hearing
 - D. Believing
 - E. Calling

- 6. Of the five actions listed above, the first is done by God, the second action is done by the one called, the last three by the one who would be saved.
- 7. Preaching is part of the salvation process but the process starts with what?

Hearing

- 8. Gospel preaching challenges those who hear to respond to the good news with faith and obedience, and this response brings salvation. In this way, preaching is a vital part of the salvation process.
- 9. In coming to salvation, we all need a guide. That is the job of preaching.

Part Two

The Preacher



Lesson in Review

- 1. You need the anointing of God and the power of the Word in order to have an eternal effect on those who hear you.
- 2. The beginning of every true ministry is the call of God.
- 3. It is absolutely vital to remember that God does the calling. God does the choosing. Our only choice is to obey or not to obey.
- 4. Quote Romans 11:29

"For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance."

5. God does not rescind His call, even though we may refuse it, abuse it, or even disqualify ourselves from following it.

- 6. After Jesus, the greatest preacher of all time was Paul. His ministry has affected the world as no other, yet even he sometimes marveled that such a responsibility as preaching the only saving gospel was placed on the shoulders of human beings.
- 7. To enter the ministry with plans for exiting doesn't work. It doesn't work for a marriage; it won't work for a ministry. You will get discouraged, you will feel like quitting, but if you are truly called, and completely committed, you will make it through, simply because there is no choice.
- 8. It is important to realize the call is just that—a call. It doesn't make you a man or woman of God. It is what you do with that call that makes you a man or woman of God. The call is the starting point, the foundation. It must be built upon.
- 9. One of the qualifications for a preacher is "not a novice." A novice is a beginner, one who lacks experience. Experience comes only with time and involvement. You need experience—not at preaching—at living, at praying, at witnessing.

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The Preacher's Qualifications

- 1. What four things play a part in whether you are qualified to preach or not?
 - A. Your choices in life.
 - B. Your character.
 - C. How you spend your time.
 - D. Who you hang out with.
- 2. List five of the seven qualifications to become a preacher.
- A. Discipline
- **B.** Moderation
- C. Honesty
- D. Stewardship
- E. Sincerity
- F. Morality
- G. Faithfulness

3. Why must we have these qualifications?

So that we will be able to effectively handle the Word of God.

4. Who is worthy to handle such a powerful thing as the Word of God, which is life or death to those that hear it?

Sincere men and women.

5. Define "convictions."

Our unshakable core beliefs.

- 6. David K. Bernard identifies three categories of core values: apostolic identity, apostolic unity, and apostolic revival. Within these categories are the basic beliefs that form the foundation of our Christianity.
- 7. What convictions are necessary to form the foundation of a preacher's ministry?
 - A. Conviction about God.
 - B. Conviction about the Word.
 - C. Conviction about the church.
- 8. Quote Titus 1:5

"Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

6 Preach the Word

Lesson in Review

1. Quote II Timothy 2:15

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2. What is our authority found in?

The content of our preaching.

3. What was the success of the disciples based on?

Their preaching and teaching of the doctrine.

4. Why did God give the church in Jerusalem revival?

They would not quit proclaiming the doctrine.

- 5. Our foundation is the Jesus of the Scriptures.
- 6. Doctrine is not just our introduction to God, it is the basis of our continuing relationship with Him.

- 7. Doctrine is powerful as the engine of real revival and essential as the foundation of life for a simple reason: it *is* the truth.
- 8. What four characteristics of truth are important for us to keep at the forefront of our thinking?
 - A. Truth is absolute.
 - B. Truth is powerful.
 - C. Truth opens the way to God.
 - D. Truth alone will judge us.
- 9. Quote Psalm 96:13

"Before the Lord: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth."

Part Three

The Sermon: Preparation



- 1. What are the four steps to preparing a sermon?
 - A. Decide what you are going to preach.
 - B. Write a purpose statement.
 - C. Gather data.
 - D. Honing of materials.
- 2. Daily Bible reading is vital for?
 - A. Personal Devotion
 - **B.** Sermon Preparation

3. What is the purpose of preaching?

To convince your hearers of the truth and importance of what you say.

- 4. The **Bible** is at the **heart** of the preacher's craft.
- 5. It should be your goal to know as much or more about the Word of God than anyone else in your congregation, in your community, in your state. How can this be accomplished?

This can only be accomplished by hard, consistent study.

- 6. In order to avoid easily made mistakes, you should ask yourself a few questions about every passage of Scripture you plan to use in your sermon, what are those six question's?
 - A. Who is the speaker?
 - B. Who is being spoken to?
 - C. What is the occasion?
 - D. Where is all this happening?
 - E. Why?
 - F. What is the application for us?
- 7. Preaching requires careful use of your materials to provide a sermon that moves quickly without haste, covers the subject adequately without bogging down, and moves people to respond in prayer and worship at the end.

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What Type of Sermon Is It?

Lesson in Review

1. What does a purpose statement do?

Helps keep you focused on those who will hear your sermon, not just on the sermon itself.

2. When you are preaching to the lost you must assume their knowledge of the Bible is limited. What should you avoid?

Difficult theological terms, church jargon, and other language with which they may be unfamiliar.

- 3. What are the three types of preaching discussed in this lesson?
 - A. Expository Preaching
 - **B.** Topical Preaching
 - C. Evangelistic Preaching
- 4. Define Expository Preaching.

Revealing the meaning of a Scripture passage and applying that meaning to the hearer's life.

- 5. What are the four benefits of expository preaching?
 - A. Expository preaching offers endless material for the preacher to preach.
 - B. Expository preaching keeps preachers on guard against their own biases.
 - C. Expository sermons encourage those who hear us to study the Bible for themselves.
 - D. A preacher cannot dodge the difficult when preaching systematically through a portion of the Word.
- 6. What does topical preaching do?

Focuses the Word of God on the challenges and struggles of everyday life in a thoughtprovoking and inspirational way.

7. What is evangelism?

The proclamation of the gospel.

- 8. What are the four jobs of an evangelist?
 - A. Point out the need of a sinner.
 - B. To tell sinners about our God.
 - C. To lift up Jesus.
 - D. To preach for a response.
- 9. Quote II Timothy 4:5.

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

9 Putting It All Together

- 1. What are the three basic parts of a sermon?
 - A. Introduction
 - B. Body
 - C. Closing
- 2. What three purposes should an introduction fulfill?
 - A. Arouse interest
 - B. Secure favor
 - C. Prepare to lead
- 3. Humor is a great tool to gain favor but must be used carefully and sparingly.
- 4. List three ways that you can introduce a sermon.
 - A. Textual method
 - B. Begin with an illustration
 - C. Using an understated story
 - D. Statement of your purpose
 - E. Dramatic statement

- 5. What are three questions you can ask yourself about potential titles to help keep you on track?
 - A. Is it arresting?
 - B. Is it clear?
 - C. Is it brief?
 - D. Is it suitable?
 - E. Is it relevant?
- 6. There are three considerations you must keep in mind as you craft the body of the sermon: the flow of the theme, the flow of the narrative, and the flow of emotional impact. While each requires different arrangements, and one or the other can be more or less important depending on the sermon, they must be harmonized, fitted together to move the sermon intellectually and emotionally toward its goal.
- 7. Never summarize as an ending to your sermon. You close a sermon in the same way a salesman closes a deal: you want them to sign on the dotted line. The difference is you are offering the greatest deal ever offered in history: a new beginning, a fresh start, a brand new life. Your job is to convince them it isn't too good to be true, it's just true, and available now.
- 8. The notes are what you will take to the pulpit with you. While in the pulpit you need to be able to easily find your place once it is lost. Learn to create notes that keep what you need to know before your eyes, so you can find what you need when you need it.

Part Four

In the Pulpit: Presentation

10 Getting and Keeping Attention

- 1. What three silent communicators are very important if you want to improve your preaching?
 - A. Mannerisms
 - **B.** Facial expressions
 - C. Body language
- 2. List the five characteristics that are the source of powerful preaching? A. Character
 - B. Freedom from self-consciousness
 - C. Enjoyment of the work
 - D. Gravity
 - E. Courage

- 3. How do you banish self-consciousness from your preaching?
 - A. By focusing on the needs of those who will hear you.
 - B. To see yourself as what you are a representative of God.
- 4. Every congregation or audience need to know that the preacher or speaker is (1) a person of competence, a person "who knows what he is talking about;" (2) a person of integrity, a person who can be trusted, not a manipulator or exploiter; and (3) a person of vitality, a preacher who communicates a deep sense of belief in all that is said. The messenger's credibility with the congregation is critical in preaching.
- 5. The courage to preach is found in preaching the Word of God, regardless of whether it is popular.
- 6. If you do not have true courage what two types of preaching will you do?
 - A. You will "avoid the controversial, even if it's biblical," and "strive to make people feel good."
 - **B.** You will just discharge your duty and end up preaching powerless sermons because you expect no power can change those who hear them.
- 7. Preaching boring sermons is not acceptable.
- 8. Words are the basic building blocks of sermons. Words can inform us; they can also inspire us. Words can cause us to know more; they can also cause us to *be* more. The careful choice of words is vital to good preaching.
- 9. Repetition is the only tool a preacher has to offer the hearer a chance to catch up. And while repetition is an effective tool, it is better to hold their attention in the first place. Attention cannot be demanded; it must be coaxed, carefully held, and nurtured, or it is lost.

11 The Anointing

- 1. Never be satisfied with anything less than the supernatural.
- 2. We cannot manufacture this synergy with the Holy Spirit, we can only do those things that invite His coming, make ourselves available, and be able to recognize and seize the opportunity when it comes.
- 3. Let the inspiration of the crowd and the anointing of the Spirit open your thought, inspire your language, engage your imagination, but always stay grounded in what you know to be so.
- 4. God uses the synergy between speaker and hearer to:
 - A. Implant truth in the human heart.
 - B. Move the needy to do that which can meet their need.
 - C. Save them that believe.
- 5. The written notes from which we preach are not designed to stifle this inspiration of the moment, but to complement it.
- 6. You will see that when the anointing comes, it elevates the preacher, the sermon and the congregation into a higher realm.
- 7. The most brilliantly constructed, incredibly learned sermon is a waste of time, unless it is accompanied by the anointing. Seek the anointing, open your heart to it, allow it to move into the service. You don't have to finish the sermon, but you must have a move of God.

- 8. We preach with knowledge: faithful to the Word of God, rightly dividing it; but we also preach with anointing: the powerful, supernatural presence of God. By doing this, our trust rests, not with rhetorical technique, nor in superstition, but in God alone.
- 9. What is the purpose of the anointing?
 - A. To meet the needs of the people who are there.