

# **CLASS NOTES - HOMILETICS II**

**Taught By Robert Stapleton**



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## **HOMILETICS II**

### **Robert Stapleton**

#### **CLASS DESCRIPTION:**

1. The main aim of this course is to better understand how to prepare a sermon outline.
  - A. We will work on putting together several outlines during the course of this study.

#### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. Each student is to download and read the book *Communicating the Word of God Publically* by Gene Taylor (<http://www.padfield.com/acrobat/taylor/communicating.pdf>).
  - A. Keep a typewritten log of your reading, with dates and pages read.
    1. Your log should be turned in to instructor no later than the beginning of class day during finals week - late papers count one grade per day off.
2. Each student is to download and read the book *The Art of Sermon Construction* by T.H. Scambler (<http://www.gravelhillchurchofchrist.com/ebooks/Scambler%20-%20Art%20of%20Sermon%20Construction.pdf>).
  - A. Keep a typewritten log of your reading, with dates and pages read.
    1. Your log should be turned in to instructor no later than the beginning of class day during finals week - late papers count one grade per day off.
3. Each student is to turn in five sermon outlines.
  - A. You are at liberty to choose which subject or text you wish to develop.
  - B. Outlines should be three to five pages in length, Times New Roman 12 Font, and should follow the school requirements when it comes to outlines.
  - C. Outlines will count for 30% of your total course grade (6% each outline).
  - D. Your outlines should be turned in to instructor no later than the beginning of class day during the finals week – late papers count one grade per day off.
4. Tests:
  - A. One scheduled test will be administered.
    1. It will account for 40% of your total score.
    2. Any additional credit will be at the instructor's discretion.
5. Each student is to keep a notebook with handwritten notes of class, handouts, etc.
  - A. During class time we will develop a number of sermon outlines for inclusion in your notebook.
    1. Outlines/notebook will count for 30% of your total course grade.
  - B. Your notebook should be turned in to instructor no later than the beginning of class day during the finals week – late papers count one grade per day off.

## **HOMILETICS - HOW TO PREPARE A SERMON**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. Generally speaking, most preachers learn the basics on how to prepare a sermon in school.
  - A. This is done as they study the science of homiletics.
2. Most preachers, though, fine-tune their sermon preparation once they enter full time work.
  - A. When you have two or three sermons to prepare every week, you will quickly learn the art of sermon preparation.
3. Sermons may be delivered in many different ways.
  - A. However, technically there are only three ways to prepare a sermon, deductively, inductively and a combination of both.
    1. When speaking of this, we are not talking about the type of sermons, but ways to prepare them as every type will be from one of these three categories.

### **BODY:**

#### **1. SERMONS HAVE THREE PARTS**

- A. If you understand this point, sermon preparation will become much easier.
  1. Once you get past the title and scripture reference, the three parts of a sermon are: the introduction, the body and the conclusion.
    - A. The introduction introduces the body of your sermon or the main preaching point of your sermon.
    - B. The body of your sermon is your sermon outline or what you are going to talk about in your sermon.
    - C. The conclusion concludes the sermon and reinforces the main points of your sermon.
  2. It is amazing how many preachers get this wrong.

#### **2. SERMONS HAVE STRUCTURE**

- A. After having completed the study of the text of Scripture that you are going to preach, you will need to decide how you are going to structure your sermon.
  1. Are you going structure your sermon deductively?
    - A. As a general rule, deductive preaching begins with a general conclusion and then deduces certain points or exhortations from that conclusion.
  2. Are you going to structure your sermon inductively?
    - A. In contrast, an inductive sermon starts with the particulars of human experience and moves toward the conclusions of the gospel.
      1. As the sermon unfolds, the listeners become active participants, moving with the preacher toward the conclusion.
  3. Are you going to structure your sermon with a combination of the two - deduction and induction?
- B. Deductive preaching goes from general to particular.
  1. Inductive preaching goes from particular to general.
  2. Deductive preaching offers the congregation propositions to apply to their lives.
  3. Inductive preaching invites the congregation to participate in a journey to a certain destination where they can make their own conclusions.

1. Once you have decided how you are going to structure your sermon, you will need to develop a sermon outline.

### **3. SERMONS HAVE SERMON OUTLINES**

- A. The sermon outline is your road map for your sermon.
  1. It gives it directions and keeps you on track.
- B. The sermon outline will help you stick to the theme or object of your sermon.
  1. A deductive sermon outline.
    - A. Writing the Introduction to your deductive sermon outline.
      1. Often, one writes their Introduction after they have constructed their deductive sermon outline.
        - A. However, I prefer to do so at the beginning.
      2. The Introduction introduces the theme of your sermon.
        - A. We may use an illustration or story to highlight the theme of the sermon.
        - B. Or we may simply set the stage for the lesson by informing the audience of the subject at hand.
    - B. A deductive sermon outline begins with the theme followed by the main points and sub-points.
    - C. A deductive sermon outline reveals the theme near the beginning of the sermon with the introduction.
    - D. For example, if you were to preach from Romans 1:1-7, you would need to determine the theme of the lesson.
      1. The theme of Romans 1:1-7 could be: Sharing Christ with Great Enthusiasm.
    - E. Once you have determined the theme, you will need to develop the main points.
      1. Your main points could be:
        - A. We need to have the right heart - Romans 1:1.
        - B. We need to have the right goal - Romans 1:2-4.
        - C. We need to have the right challenge - Romans 1:5-7.
    - F. Your deductive sermon outline is starting to take shape in so far as its main points are concerned.
      1. There are three ways for sharing Christ with great enthusiasm.
      2. They are...
        - A. We need to have the right heart - Romans 1:1
        - B. We need to have the right goal - Romans 1:2-4
        - C. We need to have the right challenge - Romans 1:5-7
      3. Notice that these points expand and explain the theme of the sermon.
    - F. Once you have your theme and your main points, you will need to expand and explain your main points with the use of sub points.
      1. The deductive sermon outline may look like this.
        - A. There are three ways for sharing Christ with great enthusiasm.
        - B. They are...
          1. Three examples of having the right heart
            - A. Paul knew he belonged to Christ - Romans 1:1a.
            - B. Paul knew he was sent by Christ - Romans 1:1b.
            - C. Paul knew he was set apart to preach the gospel - Romans 1:1c.

2. Two goals of having the right goal - Romans 1:2-4.
  - A. Paul's goal was to make Christ known - Romans 1:2-4.
  - B. Paul's goal was to make Christ known through the preaching of the gospel - Romans 1:3, 4.
3. Two challenges in having the right challenge - Romans 1:5-7
  - A. For Paul, the challenge was to bring people to faith - Romans 1:5.
  - B. For us, the challenge is the same - Romans 1:6, 7.
- G. Now that we are finished with that, we have our basic deductive sermon outline, and it is time to construct the conclusion.
  1. The conclusion of the sermon may sum up the main preaching point of the sermon and must bring the sermon to a close with a challenge.
    - A. The challenge is designed to encourage the audience to take action.
2. An inductive sermon outline.
  - A. To write an inductive sermon outline requires an understanding of the difference between deductive sermon outlines and inductive sermon outlines.
  - B. What is the difference?
    1. A deductive sermon outline reveals the subject or theme near the beginning of the sermon; whereas, an inductive sermon outline reveals the theme near the end of the sermon.
  - C. An inductive sermon outline.
    1. An inductive sermon outline begins with the incidental sub-points and proceeds to the main preaching point.
    2. For example, you may preach the story of Abraham and Isaac, as seen in Genesis 22:1-19, inductively.
      - A. Your main preaching point of this story may be, God wants you to put Him first in all things.
      - B. As such, the sermon very much unfolds like a story.
  - D. Your inductive sermon outline may look like this:
    1. What happens when your stability in life is shattered?
    2. Abraham's stability was shattered by one request - Genesis 22:1, 2.
    3. Nevertheless, he obeyed God immediately without question - Genesis 22:3-8.
    4. In fact, he put God first in his life even before his son, Isaac - Genesis 22:9, 10.
    5. But God intervened and saved the day by providing a needed sacrifice - Genesis 22:11-14.
    6. So God greatly blessed Abraham and his descendants in light of his act of obedience - Genesis 22:15-19.
  - E. Notice the incidental sub-points moved to the main preaching points.
    1. In fact, the inductive sermon outline becomes a narrative story that unfolds scene by scene.
      - A. It has cohesion and sequence.
      - B. This is very important because the audience can follow the sermon and understand what is happening in the sermon.
  - F. The history of this style of preaching indicates that it began with the work of

William Rainey Harper and especially the work of his student and associate, Wilbert Webster White, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

3. Deductive and Inductive Sermon Outline combined.
  - A. The following sermon outline from Romans 10:14-21 is mainly an inductive sermon outline but there is also deduction in the sermon outline.
    1. The gospel is a message that no reasonable person could refuse - Romans 10:15b.
    2. Yet, many people do refuse to heed it - Romans 10:16-21.
    3. Why did Israel not obey the message of the gospel?
      - A. It was not because they did not hear it - Romans 10:18.
      - B. It was not because they did not understand it - Romans 10:19.
      - C. It was not because God did not love them - Romans 10:21.
      - D. It seems they simply refused to respond to the message of the gospel - Romans 10:16.
    4. We must not give up preaching the gospel in spite of people refusing to respond to it.
    5. It is through the preaching of the gospel that we give people an opportunity to respond to it by faith - Romans 10:14, 15, 17.

#### **4. HOW TO PREPARE A SERMON**

- A. If the church is to maintain an aggressive appearance in this generation and if believers in Christ are to grow and develop into mature and effectively functioning Christians, then it is of utmost importance that preachers provide the “sincere milk of the Word” through Bible-centered and Bible-derived messages or sermons for their people - 1 Peter 2:2.
- B. The role of the preacher when it comes to preaching.
  1. It needs to be understood that the most important factor in the preparation of sermons is the preparation of the preacher’s heart.
    - A. No amount of knowledge, learning or natural endowments can take the place of a fervent, humble, devoted heart which longs for more and more of Christ, and for others to have the same in their lives.
    - B. Only the man who walks with God and who lives a holy life can inspire others to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ.
      1. Such a man will spend much time in study, holding daily, uninterrupted, unhurried sessions in His Word.
- C. The preacher must be a man of prayer.
  1. Like Daniel, the preacher must have the habit of prayer and make the time to pray daily and regularly - Daniel 6:10; 9:3, 17, 21.
  2. Someone has said, “Prayer puts the preacher’s sermon into the preacher’s heart; and prayer puts the preacher’s heart into the preacher’s sermon.”
    - A. Another has said, “The preachers who are the mightiest in their closets with God are the mightiest in their pulpits with men.”
      1. <http://www.williswired.com/2011/12/16/preacher-prayer/>
- D. The man who is to preach the message of the Book must be a man of the Book.
  1. He must study the Scriptures not just to get a message for the congregation.

- A. He must study so as to know how to live the Book - 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Timothy 4:15, 16.
- 2. The Word of God must become his meat and drink - Matthew 4:4.
  - A. Throughout his life he must spend hours every week in diligent study of the Bible.
- 3. He must saturate himself with it until it grips his heart and soul so that with Jeremiah he may say, "His Word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay" - Jeremiah 20:9.

## 5. PRINCIPLE TYPES OF SERMONS

- A. There are many kinds of sermons and various ways of classifying them.
  - 1. The least complicated method is to classify them as topical, textual, and expository.
- B. The topical sermon:
  - 1. Definition of a topical sermon: A topical sermon is one in which the main points are derived from the topic, independently of a text.
    - A. This means that they serve as the frame for building the lesson.
      - 1. The topical sermon begins with a topic or theme and the main parts of the sermon consist of ideas which come from that topic.
      - 2. It does not require a text as the basis of its message.
        - A. The reason for this is a certain text is not the source of the topical sermon, although it is all based on the Word of God.
      - 3. To prepare a topical sermon we start with a Biblical topic.
        - A. The main points of the sermon outline must be drawn from this Biblical topic, and each main point should be supported by a Scripture reference.
      - B. The topical sermon demands unity of thought.
        - 1. The topical sermon contains one central idea.
        - 2. There is but one theme, not many.
        - 3. In a topical sermon we must limit the entire outline to the one idea contained in the topic and the aim of the message itself.
  - B. Example of a topical sermon.
    - A. Satan's Attack on the Family - Ephesians 6:10-18
      - 1. Introduction:
        - A. There can be no doubt, Satan is attacking the family.
        - B. Because of this, we need to recognize the aspects of his attack.
      - 2. Body:
        - A. His Goal is to Devour - 1 Peter 5:8, 9
        - B. His Desire is to Sift as Wheat - Luke 22:31, 32
        - C. His Method is to Build a Stronghold - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
        - D. His Purpose is to Bring Us Into Total Bondage to Sin - 2 Timothy 2:24-26
      - 3. Conclusion:
        - A. Now that we have seen Satan's attack on the family, let us take care that we not be overtaken by his wiles.
          - 1. It is up to us to take up the armor so as to stay strong against him.
- 2. Various kinds of topics
  - A. The Scriptures deal with every conceivable phase of human life and activity -



- 2 Peter 1:3.
- B. They reveal God's purposes in grace toward men in time and eternity.
  - C. Thus the Bible contains an inexhaustible storehouse of topics from which the preacher may obtain materials for topical messages suited for every occasion and condition in which men find themselves.
  - D. Through constant and diligent study of the Word of God, the preacher will enrich his own soul with precious nuggets of divine truth.
    - 1. He will then share those nuggets with others.
  - E. There are many themes, such as: God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, the church, the Christian graces, spiritual blessings, faith, results of the lack of faith, prayer, meaning of prayer, methods of prayer, the power of prayer, the results of prayer, Satan, the cross, characteristics of a Christian, heaven, hell, moral issues, love, etc.
3. Choice of topics
- A. If we are to know the topic to select, we must seek to determine what the congregation needs.
  - B. The choice may be determined by the theme on which the preacher is asked to speak or by the specific occasion on which the message is to be delivered.
  - C. Certain conditions within the congregation may indicate the need for selecting a topic suited to the circumstances, such as would be done in preparation for the installation of elders.
4. Basic principles for the preparation of a topical outline.
- A. The main points should be in logical or chronological order.
    - 1. Example outline: The Believer's Hope
      - A. Introduction:
        - 1. From the New Testament we are able to see characteristics of the believer's hope.
      - B. Body:
        - 1. It is a living hope - 1 Peter 1:3
        - 2. It is a saving hope - 1 Thessalonians 5:8
        - 3. It is a sure hope - Hebrews 6:19
        - 4. It is a good hope - 2 Thessalonians 2:16
        - 5. It is an unseen hope - Romans 8:24
        - 6. It is a blessed hope - Titus 2:13
        - 7. It is an eternal hope - Titus 3:7
  - B. The main points may be an analysis of the topic.
    - 1. Each part of the outline contributes to the completeness of the discussion of the topic.
  - C. The main points may present the various proofs of a topic.
    - 1. Example outline: Knowing God's Word
      - A. Introduction:
        - 1. The Bible reveals a number of results of knowing the Word of God.
      - B. Body:
        - 1. Knowing God's Word makes one wise unto salvation - 2 Timothy

- 3:15.
2. Knowing God's Word keeps us from sin - Psalm 119:11
3. Knowing God's Word produces spiritual growth - 1 Peter 2:2.
4. Knowing God's Word results in successful living - Joshua 2:7, 8, Psalm 1.
- D. The main points may treat a subject by comparison or contrast with something else in Scripture.
  1. Example outline: Like Salt, the Believer's Life . . .
    - A. Introduction:
      1. From study of the New Testament we may make a comparison between the believer's life and salt.
    - B. Body:
      1. Like salt, the believer's life should season - Colossians 4:6.
      2. Like salt, the believer's life should purify - 1 Thessalonians 4:4.
      3. Like salt, the believer's life should not lose its savor - Matthew 5:13.
      4. Like salt, the believer's life should create thirst - 2 Peter 2:2.
- E. The main points may be expressed by a certain word or phrase of Scripture which is repeated though out the outline.
  1. Example outline - The Ability of God
    - A. Introduction:
      1. From study of the New Testament we can see some things which God is able to do.
    - B. Body:
      1. He is able to save - Hebrews 7:25.
      2. He is able to keep - Jude 24.
      3. He is able to help - Hebrews 2:18.
      4. He is able to subdue - Philippians 3:21.
      5. He is able to give grace - 2 Corinthians 9:8.
      6. He is able to do beyond what we ask or think - Ephesians 3:20.
    - C. Conclusion:
      1. We have been able to consider things relative to the ability of God.
        - A. Let us acknowledge them for what they are, and live accordingly.
- F. The main points may be supported by an identical word or phrase of Scripture throughout the outline.
- G. The main points may consist of a word study showing the various meanings of a certain word or words in Scripture.
  1. Such as a study of the names of Christ, or the names of God, etc.
5. Various ideas about topical messages
  - A. The topical message is suited to the construction of the doctrinal sermon.
  - B. You may choose to work on a series of topical sermons such as the Love of Jesus, the life of Jesus, the death of Jesus, the sayings of Jesus, the Cross of Jesus, the Precious Blood of Jesus, etc.
  - C. A study of major subjects in a book or a group of books in the Bible will also suggest a series of discourses in topical form.

6. Exercises
  - A. Prepare a topical outline on The Precious Blood of Christ (Appendix, pp. 26, 27).
  - B. Prepare a topical outline using your own topic, support each main division with appropriate Scripture.
    1. Be careful to follow the principles suggested above.
  - C. List seven suitable topics for evangelistic messages.
  - D. Find a significant word or phrase which occurs repeatedly in a book of the New Testament and develop a topical outline from the repetitions of that word or phrase.
    1. Such as the word, walk in Ephesians chapters 4, 5, 6.
- C. The Textual Sermon
  1. Definition of a textual sermon - A textual sermon is one in which the main points are derived from a text consisting of a brief portion of Scripture.
    - A. Each of these points is then used as a line of suggestion, and the text provides the theme of the sermon.
      1. The main lines of development are drawn from the text itself.
        - A. In this way the main outline is kept strictly within the limits of the text.
        - B. It may consist of one line of a verse, or a whole verse, or two or three verses.
  2. The main points are derived from the text.
    - A. The main points suggest the features to be shared in the message.
    - B. Sometimes the text is so rich and full that we may obtain many truths or features from it which will serve as a development of the thoughts contained in the outline.
    - C. At other times it may be necessary to draw from other portions of Scripture to develop the main points.
  3. The definition further states that the text provides the theme of the sermon.
    - A. This is in contrast to the topical sermon, in which we begin with a topic or theme; we now begin with a text, which will indicate the dominant idea of the message.
      1. Example Outline - God's Power to the Faint - Isaiah 40:28-31
        - A. Introduction:
          1. In this lesson we want to consider what God is like.
        - B. Body:
          1. He is never discouraged - Isaiah 40:28.
            - A. He never faints nor is weary.
            - B. He is never short of wisdom.
          2. What God offers - Isaiah 40:29, 30.
            - A. He gives power to the faint.
            - B. He increases our strength.
          3. What God wants to do for us - Isaiah 40:31.
            - A. He gives us power to rise above our problems (as eagles).
            - B. He enables us to run and not be weary.
            - C. He strengthens us to walk, and not faint.
        - C. Conclusion:
          1. Even the faint of heart find great help from God.

- A. May we never forget, the promise of such help from God.
- 4. Basic principles for the preparation of textual outlines
  - A. The textual outline should be centered on the main thought in the text and the main points may be derived from the text so as to amplify or develop that one theme.
    - 1. Example Outline - The Body - a Sacrifice - Romans 12:1, 2
      - A. Introduction:
        - 1. From the writings of Paul to the Romans we see the body described as a sacrifice.
        - A. We want to explore that in our lesson.
      - B. Body:
        - 1. The reason for sacrifice, I beseech you ... by the mercies of God.
        - 2. The thing to be sacrificed, present your body.
        - 3. The conditions of sacrifice, a living sacrifice ... unto God.
        - 4. The obligation of sacrifice, which is your reasonable service.
    - B. The main points may consist of the truths or principles suggested by the text as can be seen in Psalm 32 or Psalm 51.
    - C. It may be possible to find more than one theme or dominant thought in a text, depending upon the point of view from which we regard the text, but only one central idea should be developed in any one outline, such as would be the case with John 3:16.
      - 1. Example Outline - God's Great Gift, Eternal Life - John 3:16
        - A. Introduction:
          - 1. From the words of Jesus found in John 3:16 we can learn much.
          - 2. With this lesson we want to center in on God's great gift, eternal life
        - B. Body:
          - 1. It is a love gift, "God so loved."
            - A. The One who gave it was God.
          - 2. It is a sacrificial gift in that He gave.
            - A. The reason He gave it is because He so loved.
          - 3. It is an eternal gift.
            - A. Everlasting life.
          - 4. It is a universal gift, given to whosoever.
            - A. The part we have in it is to believe.
          - 5. It is a conditional gift, to those that believe.
          - 6. The certainty of our possessing it, seen in the believer not perishing, but having eternal life.
        - C. Conclusion:
          - 1. God's great gift of eternal life is easily seen in the text we have just considered.
            - A. Having seen it as we have, let it encourage us to love Him in turn.
      - D. The main points should be in logical or chronological sequence.
      - E. The words of the text may form the main points of the outline, provided that these points are gathered around one main thought.

- F. The context from which the text is taken must be carefully observed and related to the text.
  - G. Some texts contain comparisons or contrasts which can be treated best by pointing out their purposeful similarities or differences, such as Matthew 7:24-27, building a house on the sand or on the rock.
    - 1. In Psalm 1, notice the contrast between the godly person and the worldly person.
  - H. Two or three verses, each taken from different parts of Scripture, may be put together and treated as though they are one text.
4. Suggestions of series of textual sermons.
- A. The parables of Christ.
  - B. The seven statements of Christ from the cross.
  - C. Places where the Lord addressed individuals by their names twice in succession.
    - 1. Repetition in Scripture is a means of emphasis as seen in Genesis 22:11, 12; Exodus 3:4, 5; Luke 10:41, 42; Acts 9:4; etc.
  - D. The “I Am’s of Jesus” as found in the gospel accounts, especially in the gospel of John.
5. Exercises:
- A. Prepare a textual outline from Psalm 1:1-3, or Psalm 23.
  - B. Prepare a textual outline on Titus 2:11-13, giving the title, central thought, and main divisions.
  - C. Find your own text and develop one outline from the same text.
    - 1. Write out your outline fully, and indicate the title, the theme and the main points in each outline.
  - D. Develop a sermon outline from Isaiah 1:18.
    - 1. Give it a title, main points, etc.
  - E. Determine a suitable text for the following subjects:
    - 1. An evangelistic message - Mark 8:36, 37.
    - 2. A funeral sermon - Psalm 23.
    - 3. A wedding service - Ephesians 5:22-33.
    - 4. A missionary message - Mark 16:15, 16.
    - 5. A young people’s service - Ecclesiastes 12:1.
    - 6. A Thanksgiving message - Philippians 4:6.
    - 7. A Father’s Day message - Ephesians 6:4.
    - 8. A Mother’s Day message - Proverbs 31:10-31.
    - 9. A New Year’s Day message - Joshua 3:4.
- D. The expository sermon
- 1. Definition of the expository sermon - “It is the exposing of the thought of a passage of Scripture taken as a unit through the application of the grammatical, historical, and textual principles. The theme, thesis, major, and minor divisions are taken from the passage and are made relevant to life today by proper organization, argumentation, illustration, application and appeal.” F. B. Meyer
  - 2. An expository sermon is one in which an extended portion of Scripture is interpreted in relation to one theme or central idea.

- A. The bulk of the material for the sermon is drawn directly from the passage and the outline consists of a series of progressive ideas centered around that one main idea.
- 3. As we examine this definition, we note in the first place that an expository sermon is based:
  - A. On an extended portion of Scripture.
    - 1. The passage may consist of a few verses or it may extend through a whole chapter or even further.
  - B. What often determines the length is the relation of the passages to one theme or central idea.
    - 1. It is an expository unit consisting of a number of verses out of which a central idea emerges.
  - C. The bulk of the material for the sermon is drawn directly from the passage.
    - 1. Not only should the leading ideas of the passage be brought out in an expository discourse, but the details should also be suitably explained and made to furnish the chief materials for the sermon.
- 4. The theme of the passage must ever be kept in mind throughout an expository sermon, and as that one main idea is developed out of the passage there should follow in the outline a series of progressive ideas all related to the central thought.
  - A. In an expository sermon we are to unfold the meaning or make the passage clearly understood.
  - B. In comparison to the textual sermon, in the expository sermon the preacher is to form all the subdivisions, as well as the main division, from the same unit of Scripture which he proposes to preach from.
    - 1. Example of Expository Sermon - The Christian's Spiritual Warfare - Ephesians 6:10-18
      - A. Introduction:
        - 1. The Christian is in a battle for his soul.
          - A. With this lesson we want to give thought to Ephesians 6:10-18 so as to better understand our spiritual warfare.
      - B. Body:
        - 1. The Christian's Moral - Ephesians 6:10-13
          - A. It should be high - Ephesians 6:10
          - B. It should be steadfast - Ephesians 6:11-13
        - 2. The Christian's Armor - Ephesians 6:14-17
          - A. It should be defensive in character - Ephesians 6:14-17a
          - B. It should be offensive in character - Ephesians 6:17b
        - 3. The Christian's Prayer Life - Ephesians 6:18
          - A. It should be persistent - Ephesians 6:18a
          - B. It should be intercessory - Ephesians 6:18b
      - C. Conclusion:
        - 1. Without doubt, we are in a battle for our souls.
          - A. Whether we "win" or lose that battle will determine where we will be for eternity.

5. Basic principles for the preparation of expository outlines
  - A. Any passage under consideration should be carefully studied to understand its meaning and to obtain the central thought of the text.
  - B. Significant words or phrases in the text may indicate or form the main points of the outline.
  - C. The outline should be drawn from the expository unit in a chronological way.
  - D. The important truths suggested by the passage may form the main points of the outline.
  - E. Two or three passages from various parts of Scripture may be put together to form the basis of an expository outline.
  - F. By means of the method of multiple approach, we may treat a passage of Scripture in various ways and thus have two or more entirely different outlines on the same text.
  - G. We should, in study, note the context.
  - H. In study we should also note the historical background of the passage, whenever possible.
  - I. The details of the text should be treated properly, but not necessarily exhaustively.
    1. Don't spend too much time on the details.
  - J. The truths contained in the text must be related to the present day through application of truths to present needs.
6. A series of expository sermons could include the following:
  - A. From the book of Hebrews, chapter 11
    1. "Abel - The Sacrifice of Faith" - Hebrews 11:4; Genesis 4:1-5
    2. "Enoch - The Walk of Faith" - Hebrews 11:5, 6; Genesis 5:21-24
    3. "Abraham - The Obedience of Faith" - Hebrews 11:8-10; Genesis chapters 12-18
    4. "Isaac - The Vision of Faith" - Hebrews 11:20; Genesis chapters 26, 27
    5. "Jacob - The Discernment of Faith" - Hebrews 11:21; Genesis chapters 27-35
    6. "Joseph - The Assurance of Faith" - Hebrews 11:22; Genesis chapters 37-50
  - B. One could share a series on the "Hallelujah Psalms"
    1. Psalms 106, 111, 112, 113, 135 and especially Psalm 146-150
  - C. A series from Revelation chapters 2, 3 about the seven messages to the seven churches could include the following:
    1. "The Busy Church" - Revelation 2:1-7
    2. "The Suffering Church" - Revelation 2:8-11
    3. "The Compromising Church" - Revelation 2:12-17
    4. "The Corrupt Church" - Revelation 2:18-29
    5. "The Dead Church" - Revelation 3:1-6
    6. "The Missionary Church" - Revelation 3:7-13
    7. "The Indifferent, Apostate Church" - Revelation 3:14-22
7. Exercises:
  - A. Prepare an expository outline on 1 Corinthians 13:1-8, giving the title, central thought, and main points of the text.

- B. Prepare an expository outline on John 15:1-8, giving the title, central thought or theme and main divisions of the passage.
- C. Prepare an evangelistic, expository message from John 3:25-28, giving the title, central thought or theme, and main divisions of the passage.
- D. Make a biographical sermon outline on Lot while noticing all the portions that deal with his life in Genesis 13, 14, and 19.
  1. Give the title, central idea, and main divisions, and indicate the references which relate to each main division.
- E. Prepare an evangelistic sermon from Ephesians 2:1-9, giving the title, theme and main divisions of the text.
- F. Prepare an expository outline on I Corinthians 3:1-8, giving the title, central thought, and main divisions of the passage.
  1. Indicate the verses which relate to each main division.

## 6. THE MECHANICS OF SERMON CONSTRUCTION

- A. A sermon is intended to be heard and to have an immediate impact upon the listeners.
- B. Formal outline of a sermon.
  1. An outline should cover the necessary information needed to present the material in such a way that listeners may benefit from it.

**Title .....**\_\_\_\_\_

**Text: .....**\_\_\_\_\_

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

### **BODY:**

1. First Main Point \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. 1st Sub Point \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. 2nd Sub Point \_\_\_\_\_
2. Second Main Point \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. 1st Sub Point \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. 2nd Sub Point \_\_\_\_\_
3. Continued on as above through the outline, illustrations are placed throughout the message as desired and needed.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## C. The title of a sermon

1. The title is the expression of the specific feature to be presented in the sermon, stated in a manner which may be suitable for advertising the sermon.
  - A. The title should be pertinent to the text or to the message.
  - B. The title should be interesting.
  - C. The title should be in keeping with the dignity of the pulpit.
  - D. The title should generally be brief.



- E. The title may be stated in the form of facts, questions, or exclamation.
- D. Introduction to a sermon
  - 1. The introduction is the process by which the preacher endeavors to prepare the minds and secure the interest of his hearers in the message he has to proclaim.
  - 2. The purpose is:
    - A. To secure the good will of the hearers.
      - 1. The introduction then must be presented in such a way as to win the favorable attention of the entire congregation if at all possible.
    - B. To arouse interest in the theme.
      - 1. People may not seem interested at first or may be preoccupied with other things, or indifferent to biblical truth.
      - 2. Other conditions may distract them such as a poorly ventilated building, insufficient lighting, the slamming of doors, or other sounds outside.
  - 3. Principles for a good introduction.
    - A. It generally should be brief.
    - B. It should be interesting.
      - 1. The first few minutes of a sermon are crucial.
      - 2. How can we stimulate interest as we begin the sermon? -
        - A. By arousing curiosity, by means of variety, by the use of illustrations, by a captivating title, by relating the sermon to life situations.
    - C. It should lead to the dominant idea or central thought of the sermon or message.
- E. Making the main points (i.e. the Body)
  - 1. The main points are the main sections of an orderly sermon.
  - 2. What is the value of the main points to the preacher?
    - A. The main points promote clarity of thought.
      - 1. To be clear to the hearer, the sermon cannot be built on vague ideas or indefinite expressions.
    - B. The main points promote unity of thought.
    - C. The main points assist the preacher in the proper treatment of a subject.
    - D. The main points enable the preacher to remember the points of emphasis of his sermon.
      - 1. The preacher should know the message well enough to be able to look at his congregation, and not at his notes.
  - 3. What is the value of the main points to the congregation?
    - A. They make the theme or subject of the sermon clear.
    - B. They assist the memory in recalling the main features of the sermon.
    - C. They make listening more enjoyable with anticipation and expectation.
- F. Principles for the preparation of the main points.
  - 1. The main points should grow out of the topic of the lesson, with each main point contributing to the development of the sermon.
    - A. The main points are the unfolding of the topic.
  - 2. The main points should be arranged in some form of progression.
  - 3. The main points develop the sermon.
  - 4. Each point division should contain a single idea.

5. The main points should be stated clearly, with each one expressing a complete idea.
  6. The main points should be as few as possible.
    - A. Generally speaking, three, four, or five points will be sufficient to develop the aim or proposition of the message in relation to the Scripture text.
  7. The sermon plan should be presented with variety from week to week.
  8. The main points should be in parallel structure.
    - A. The outline should be arranged in such a form that the divisions are properly balanced and matched with one another.
    - B. Example:
      1. Title: "When God Justifies a Sinner"
      2. Text: Romans 5:1-11
      3. Introduction: Justification produces results in those who believe.
        - A. Our text reveals several results of justification in those who believe.
      4. Body:
        1. Peace with God - Romans 5:1
        2. Access to God - Romans 5:2
        3. Joy in God - Romans 5:2
        4. Triumph in Christ - Romans 5:3, 4
        5. The witness of the Holy Spirit - Romans 5:5
        6. Security in Christ - Romans 5:6-11
- G. Principles for the preparation of sub points.
1. The sub points are derived from their respective main points and should be a logical development of them.
    - A. The primary function of a sub point is to develop the thought contained in the main point.
    - B. The points should be directly related to the main point.
    - C. Sub points are subordinate to the main points.
    - D. Subheadings are developed from the respective main headings.
      1. Example:
        - A. Title: "The Psalm of Contentment"
        - B. Text: Psalm 23
        - C. Introduction:
          1. The believer is likened in Scripture to a sheep which belongs to the Lord.
          2. In this lesson we want to consider what the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm teaches in relation to the Lord's sheep.
          3. There are three main facts which we may learn in this Psalm in regard to the Lord's sheep.
        - D. Body:
          1. The sheep's Shepherd - Psalm 23:1
            - A. An omnipotent Shepherd - Psalm 23:1
            - B. A personal Shepherd - Psalm 23:1
          2. The sheep's provision - Psalm 23:2-5
            - A. Rest - Psalm 23:2

- B. Guidance - Psalm 23:3
    - C. Comfort - Psalm 23:4
    - D. Satisfaction - Psalm 23:5
  - 3. The sheep's prospect - Psalm 23:6
    - A. A bright prospect for this life - Psalm 23:6
    - B. A blessed prospect for the hereafter - Psalm 23:6
  - 2. The sub points should be in parallel structure.
  - 3. The sub points should be limited in number.
  - 4. Like the main points, the sub points do not have to be in the order of the text.
- 2. Exercise:
  - A. Construct a textual outline on Ephesians 1:1-8, with main points and sub points.
  - B. Construct a textual outline on Isaiah 41:10, with main points and sub points.
  - C. Construct a textual outline on John 3:1-7 with main points and sub points.
- H. The body of the sermon
  - 1. Definition: The body is the proper unfolding of the ideas contained in the divisions.
    - A. It is at this point that the preacher needs to study well to prepare the body of the sermon thoroughly.
      - 1. He must enlarge or expand his outline so that it will result in a well-rounded and vital message and accomplish the objective that he has in mind.
    - B. The preacher must introduce, select, and arrange his materials so they will effectively develop each of the main points and sub points.
  - 2. Qualities he must develop in the content of the sermon.
    - A. He must strive for unity.
    - B. He must strive to have balance and proportion.
    - C. He must have progression in the message.
    - D. He must work at brevity.
      - 1. Every word he says should count.
      - 2. Each idea he expresses should be pertinent.
    - E. He must strive to have clarity in content, words, outline, and approach.
    - F. He will want to have vitality, the sermon must be alive, and with variety.
      - 1. Some carefully chosen humor is good.
  - 3. Sources of material for the body of the message.
    - A. The preacher will draw materials for the body of the message from five principal sources.
      - 1. The Word of God, which is the most important source and resource.
        - A. Parallel passages play an important part in this connection and the preacher should not hesitate to use these Scriptures, no matter how familiar they may be.
        - B. The Bible contains illustrations suitable for almost any and every occasion.
      - 2. Other forms of literature.
        - A. Critical and devotional commentaries
        - B. Devotional books and hymnals
        - C. Christian biography

- D. Bible handbooks and Bible dictionaries.
- E. Books on archaeology, Bible customs, and times, and Bible lands, etc.
- F. Current literature, newspapers, current events, magazines, etc.
- 3. Experience
  - A. A preacher's personal experience is a valuable source for the expansion of the message.
  - B. Sharing personal stories of what he has lived through.
  - C. Speaking with personal convictions and vividness will leave a lasting impression.
  - D. However, he must be careful not to draw undue attention to himself; his sole purpose must be to glorify God and to give the people a clearer understanding of the text which he seeks to interpret.
- 4. Observation
  - A. Life abounds with things, some of them seeming trivial in character, which may add greatly to the interest of a sermon.
  - B. The preacher must have eyes to see and a mind to perceive the relationship of the commonplace to spiritual truths contained in the Word of God.
  - C. Jesus used as object lessons the lilies of the field, the birds of the air, the seed on the ground, the fish in the sea, and even the hairs of men's heads.
- 5. Imagination
  - A. Such ideas will create an element of originality and surprise and add a fresh approach to the treatment of the subject.
  - B. The use of the imagination in a sermon can be a valuable ally to the preacher if he is careful how he uses it.
    - 1. It can make portions live as imaginative aspects are briefly shared.
    - 2. A warning must be heeded here.
      - A. He must be sure he does not allow his imagination to go to extremes.
      - B. He must avoid the creation of mental pictures which are unlikely or beyond all reason.
      - C. His descriptions should be stated as mere ideas and not given as fact.
      - D. Imagination should be exercised in moderation and should always be used in good taste.

## **7. RHETORICAL PROCESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SERMON OUTLINE**

- A. There are several rhetorical processes which are used in the expansion or development of the sermon outline: namely, explanation, argumentation, quotation, illustration, and application.
- B. The use of explanation:
  - 1. One of the most important features of a sermon is the explanation of the text.
    - A. The message is based on the Word of God, and the portion or portions of the sacred text used should be explained clearly and properly.
  - 2. There must be the study of the context.

- A. Both the immediate and the more remote.
- B. Observing the context often helps the hearer, as well as the preacher, to recognize the limitations in the meaning of a word or statement and prevents misconstruing the proper sense of the text such as seen in Philippians 2:12 which must be viewed with the entire Book of Philippians in mind.
- C. A proper study (exegesis) of the text will also include the correlation of the text with other Scriptures.
  - 1. Frequent use of parallel passages, comparing and contrasting should take place as he seeks to explain the Word of God.
- D. Sound interpretation of Scripture also depends upon an application of the laws of language.
- E. Studying various translations may be helpful, but care should be given in this as well.
- F. The writings of many learned and devote scholars are the results of biblical research and contain spiritual treasures helpful in the preparation of sermons.
- G. The historical and cultural background of the text may also have an important bearing upon its interpretation and hence the sermon content.
- C. The use of argumentation.
  - 1. This is the first and foremost method in the use of the Scripture.
    - A. The preacher is concerned about presenting the “thus saith the Lord”, clearly and with forcefulness.
      - 1. He must always remember he is declaring Divine declarations.
  - 2. Another method of argumentation is reasoning, that is, the use of logical processes to arrive at a conclusion or to bring men to a decision.
    - A. Argument from cause to effect, from effect to cause, or from cumulative evidence, as well as from induction and deduction are various forms of persuasive rhetoric.
  - 3. Another form of argumentation is by means of testimony.
    - A. The Bible speaks of the witness of Christ.
      - 1. Care needs to be used here, though, to not make this broader than its actual meaning.
        - A. There are no modern day witnesses that can “witness” to the events of the New Testament.
    - B. The orderly arrangement of a sermon outline in logical sequence may also be a means of persuasion.
- D. The use of quotations.
  - 1. Quotations can add greatly to the development of the sermon outline.
    - A. They can give force to a message.
  - 2. Several sources of quotations may be used.
    - A. The use of Scriptures portions memorized and shared.
    - B. Brief thought provoking sayings, like the proverbs.
    - C. Statements from authoritative sources.
      - 1. Be sure they are accurate and true.
- E. The use of poetry.

1. Be sure that it is fitting, not too long and of benefit.

F. Exercises:

1. Make a list of five proverbs and state under what circumstances you would use them in a sermon.
2. Make a listing of various biblical statements, etc., that you could use as illustrations, or as quotations to prove a point.

**8. THE USE OF ILLUSTRATIONS IN SERMONS**

A. An illustration has often been said to be to the sermon what a window is to a building.

1. They admit light.
2. Thus a good illustration makes a message clear.

B. An illustration is a means of throwing light upon a sermon by the use of an example.

1. An illustration may take one of several forms.
2. It may consist of a parable, an analogy, an allegory, a story, an account of a personal experience, an event in history or an incident from biography.

C. The use of illustrations:

1. They are used to explain.
2. They adorn the truth and make it interesting.
3. They help to arouse attention and help people to be remain attentive.
4. They render a subject impressive.
5. They appeal to the emotions.
6. They aide the listener to retain the lesson of the sermon.

D. The value of illustrations.

1. The most important aspect of a sermon is not the illustration, but the explanation of the text.
2. The interpretation, which must carry with it the burden of the preacher's message, is all-important.
3. Illustrations, no matter how vivid or interesting, are only of secondary importance.

A. They give clarity to the sermon.

1. Truth sometimes is so profound or abstruse (difficult to understand) that regardless of how the preacher labors to explain a text, those listening may be unable to grasp the meaning until he puts it into word pictures.

B. They make the sermon interesting.

1. The message may be dry, uninteresting until dressed up with illustrations.
2. The preacher must, if he is to sustain interest, introduce into the message that which is both interesting and challenging to the mind of the listener.
4. Illustrations relax the mind, serve to arouse flagging attention, enliven the message and prepare the hearer to listen thoughtfully to what follows.
5. They give vivid witness to truth.
  - A. Good illustrations impress the mind by the forcefulness of the examples which they portray.
6. They give emphasis to truth.
  - A. Illustrations can bring truth home to the heart of the hearer in a powerful way.

E. Principles to be observed in the use of illustrations

1. Use apt illustrations.

- A. It must be obvious, clear and used effectively to illuminate the text or the truth to be made clear.
    - 2. Use illustrations that are credible.
      - A. Not far-fetched or exaggerated, but that which has credence.
    - 3. State the facts of the illustration accurately.
      - A. It should be told truthfully, and told well.
      - B. If you forget part of it the illustration that will detract it will be ruined.
    - 4. As a general rule, use illustrations that are fairly brief.
      - A. Avoid illustrations that are so prominent that they rob the message of its importance.
      - B. Remember, the purpose of an illustration is to clarify, it is not the message.
    - 5. Use discrimination in the selection of illustrations.
      - A. Do not use the bizarre, the coarse or the grotesque for they have no place in preaching.
      - B. Do not use so many that the message is just a series of illustrations.
        - 1. Usually one illustration under each main point or sub point is ample.
      - C. Caution in the use of illustration.
        - 1. Do not use every illustration that occurs to you.
        - 2. Seek for great variety in illustrations.
        - 3. Don't talk about the illustration, just illustrate.
      - D. Avoid turning attention from the subject to bring an illustration which does not explain the text, but just entertains.
  - F. The accumulation of illustrations.
    - 1. In order to avoid repetition of illustrations, it is necessary for the preacher to find new illustrations constantly.
      - A. They are not always easy to find.
      - B. He needs to accumulate materials whenever he comes across that which is of value and which might be put to use in future sermons.
      - C. You can set up a file; using whatever means is best for filing.
  - G. Exercise:
    - 1. State how you would illustrate the following texts:
      - A. Romans 6:23
      - B. John 3:30
      - C. Psalm 23:3
      - D. Isaiah 55:6.
    - 2. Use your imagination to illustrate the "I Am's of Jesus."
- 9. THE APPLICATION OF THE SERMON**
- A. Application is one of the most important elements of the sermon.
    - 1. By this process the claims of the Word of God are focused upon the individual in order that he may respond favorably to the message.
  - B. Application should show the relevancy of Scripture to a person's everyday life.
    - 1. The kind of response will differ from message to message.
    - 2. The purpose may be to change an attitude, to foster a decision, or to encourage the embracing of truth.

- C. The time for the application to be made.
  - 1. This must be determined by the contents of the message.
  - 2. Generally the preacher will want to make application in connection with each spiritual truth discussed or presented, point by point.
- D. The appeal is thus interwoven with the entire fabric of the sermon and the truths are applied as the message progresses.
- E. At times it might be best to omit the appeal entirely from the body of the sermon and to reserve the personal impact of the message until the end of the sermon itself.
  - 1. Sermons of an evangelistic character are often under this category.
- F. In expository sermons it is best to make application along the way lest the sermon become weighty and difficult for the average person to follow.
- G. The amount of time given in the sermon to application will also vary.
  - 1. Beginning preachers are apt to be overbearing a bit in application.
  - 2. There is a happy medium between too much and too little application.
- H. Prerequisites to effective application.
  - 1. It is of vital importance that the preacher be a man who lives close to God.
    - A. Preaching which warms the heart and stirs the soul is not born in the cold atmosphere of intellectualism, but in intimate and continual fellowship with the Lord.
    - B. The preacher must get close to the heart of God until the glow of His great heart fills the preacher's being and radiates through his person.
  - 2. In order to be successful in relating the Bible to the present, the man of God must be well educated.
    - A. If he is to apply the truth effectively to the congregation he must be a diligent student of the Word of God.
      - 1. He cannot preach or teach what he does not know!
    - B. He must be a constant and earnest Bible student.
    - C. Also he needs to be well read and have a solid foundation of general knowledge.
  - 3. Another qualification which a preacher should possess if he is to apply the truth effectively is an understanding of human nature.
    - A. He needs to have a sensitive understanding of the basic needs of various age groups including the needs of the older people, middle aged, young people, single men and women, teens, young children as well as young married.
      - 1. I've heard sermons preached to "senior citizens" that would have gone over well at youth camp, but not in the setting where they were preached.
    - B. The preacher needs to relate well to the needs and burdens people have.
      - 1. He needs to understand their spiritual needs, cares, and emotional problems as well as sin problems and to understand the sin nature in particular.
    - C. The preacher needs to be able to relate the truths of Scripture to the problems and circumstances of his listeners.
      - 1. He must acquaint himself with their conditions and involvement.
  - 4. Finally, for the preacher to obtain the right response to his messages, he must be completely dependent upon the Word of God, which is of utmost importance.
- I. Principles for making the Truth relevant.



1. "As long as sin is prevalent, the Bible will be relevant!"
2. In order to make it relevant, we must follow these principles:
  - A. Relate the sermon to basic human problems and needs.
  - B. As a general rule, make the application specific or definite.
  - C. Relate the truth to the times.
    1. Relate to the society and needs where people find themselves.
    2. Relate to the fact of Christ's coming.
    3. Relate to the kind of stress, impact of world affairs to which people are subjected on a daily basis.
    4. Relate to the place God has for us in the whole worldwide scheme of things in regard to world evangelism.
    5. Relate to the events that are taking place.

**J. Exercise:**

1. Give four titles for a series of messages on evangelism.
  - A. Select one of these titles and prepare a sermon on it.
  - B. Use all the foregoing things taught in application to the work done on the sermon.
2. Prepare a topical message suitable to preach to young couples in regard to their home, marriage or personal relationships.
  - A. Follow through with all the steps as given in the foregoing materials in sermon preparation.

**10. THE CONCLUSION OF A SERMON**

- A. We have learned that every sermon needs unity and purpose.
  1. At the beginning the preacher sets out to accomplish one aim in the sermon.
    - A. That aim must always be clear and distinct and must control all the minister says in his discourse so that the various parts of the message move toward the same definite, specific end.
- B. The conclusion is the climax of the whole sermon in which the preacher's one constant aim reaches its goal in the form of a forceful impression.
- C. The conclusion is not a mere appendage to the body of the sermon nor a series of afterthoughts unrelated to the message.
  1. It is an integral part of the sermon.
  2. It is the final portion of the sermon in which all that has been previously related is concentrated in force or intensity to produce a vigorous impact upon the congregation.
  3. It should not contain any new arguments because its purpose is to emphasize, reaffirm, establish, or finalize that which has already been declared in the sermon with the object of bringing the hearers to heed the message given.
- D. Some preachers forget the importance of the conclusion with the result that their sermons, which otherwise are carefully and thoroughly prepared, fall at the crucial point.
  1. Instead of concentrating their material into a burning and powerful focus, they allow the current of thought to be dissipated by common place or feeble remarks at the close.
- E. A good conclusion can even make up for deficiencies of some other parts of the sermon or else serve to heighten the impression which the previous portions of the sermon may

have made on the congregation.

F. Because of the importance of the conclusion the preacher should give the utmost care to its preparation and seek in every possible way to make the final impression powerful and decisive.

G. Forms of the conclusion.

1. Recapitulation

A. The restatement of the main points of the sermon at the close serves to remind them of the basic features of the message and prepares them for the final thrust of the message.

B. It is not a mere redundancy, but a reemphasis of the impression given during the message so as to bring the one main truth of the sermon to a focal point.

2. Illustration

A. Here the preacher uses a powerful and apt illustration as the conclusion.

B. By this means the great spiritual truth of the messages is brought vividly to the congregation.

C. When the preacher uses an illustration of this kind it should be unnecessary for him to add many more words, if any, to the conclusion.

1. The illustration, forceful and meaningful in itself, should generally be a sufficient conclusion.

3. Appeal or application.

A. Most sermons end with a direct application or appeal in which a call is made for a response to the truths delivered in the message.

1. A moral obligation is imposed upon the individual or an incentive is given for him to respond personally to the challenge which is presented.

B. A simple, quiet, natural ending is usually far more impressive and effective than an emotional or pathetic appeal in which the preacher works himself into a fever of excitement or strong feelings.

C. Rebukes or solemn warnings are more apt to be received by the congregation if they are spoken in loving tenderness rather than with thundering denunciation and vehemence.

H. Principles for the preparation of the conclusion.

1. It should usually be reasonably brief.

2. The conclusion should be simple.

3. The final words of the conclusion should be carefully and thoughtfully chosen.

4. The words should be appropriate, fitting the content of the message, its purpose or aim and for the desired effect on the congregation.

5. It should include the invitation!

## **11. THE PREACHER**

A. Areas of which the preacher must possess.

1. He must be saved and know it - 1 John 5:13.

2. He must feel the compulsion such as Paul - 1 Corinthians 9:16.

3. He must have an intense desire for the work - 2 Timothy 4:5.

4. He must have the ability to teach - 1 Timothy 1:2-7.

5. He must be acceptable to people of God - 1 Timothy 4:12.

6. He must have knowledge of the Word of God - 2 Timothy 2:15.
  - A. If the preaching is the center of our ministry, and the Word of God is at the center of our preaching, then the study of the Word of God ought to be at the center of our lives.
7. He must have convictions based on Scripture - 2 Timothy 2:2.
8. He must love God's people - 1 Timothy 6:11.
9. He must have common sense, being able to first analyze a program or need and then to make a decision.
10. He must have a consistent prayer life - 1 Timothy 2:1-3.
11. He must be patient - 2 Timothy 2:24.
- B. Perils of the preacher
  1. Undue familiarity with divine things - Leviticus 10:1, 2.
    - A. This manifests itself in treating God's things lightly.
  2. Inconsistent living - Romans 2:21, 22.
  3. Neglecting spiritual development - 1 Timothy 4:14, 15.
  4. Callousness to the needs of others, manifested in a lack of concern for others - 1 Timothy 4:16.
  5. Professionalism, seen in a number of different ways:
    - A. Just doing things out of a sense of duty
    - B. Thinking you are too good for others
    - C. Getting beyond the suggestions of your people
  6. Compromise, which manifests itself in several areas.
    - A. With sin in your own life
    - B. With sin in the lives of your people
    - C. With the opposite sex.
    - D. Business dealings, manifesting itself in not paying one's debts.
    - E. With the Truth.
- C. The preacher and his message, proper preaching pointers to consider, the need of:
  1. Biblical convictions
  2. Aggressively standing for the Truth
  3. Growth - soul winning
  4. Unity of Purpose
  5. Morally Clean

“The greatest compliment you can pay a sermon is that it moved souls to the kingdom of His Righteousness”

## **THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST**

### **1 Peter 1:18, 19**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. With this lesson we will study our third lesson in the series on precious things.
  - A. So far we have studied the precious Word and the precious Christ.
2. With this lesson we will study the precious blood of Christ.
  - A. In regards to the preciousness of the blood of Christ, one can easily see the value of the blood by a simple reading of the text - 1 Peter 1:18, 19.
    1. According to Peter, we are not redeemed by those things which men value.
    2. But by the one redeeming power - the blood of Christ.
3. In the text, Peter uses the figure of a lamb, without spot, to show the preciousness of the blood of Christ.
  - A. The Passover lamb, of which Peter had in mind, typifies the Lamb of God.
    1. John the Baptist, in speaking of Christ, as he drew near, stated, "Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world." - John 1:29.
  - B. The eunuch was reading of the "lamb" when Phillip came to him - Acts 8:32, 33.
4. Before we give thought to the precious blood of Christ, let us note some things concerning blood.

#### **BODY:**

##### **1. THE IMPORTANCE OF BLOOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

- A. The first recorded sacrifice was that of blood - Genesis 4:3-5.
- B. Noah, as soon as he left the ark, offered a blood sacrifice - Genesis 8:20.
- C. According to the Hebrew writer, the Law of Moses was sealed with blood - Hebrews 9:19.
- D. There are many other such passage that we could consider, but these should suffice to give us an idea of the importance of blood.

##### **2. WHY PETER EXCLAIMED WHAT HE DID IN 1 PETER 1:18**

- A. When we study the subject of the blood of Christ in the New Testament we see why Peter exclaimed what he did in 1 Peter 1:18.
- B. In a study of the New Testament we see that it begins with the story of God's gift to the world, which gift was the Son of God - John 3:16, 17.
- C. From this moment on it is not long until the revelation of the idea of the blood sacrifice comes about.
- D. The whole history of this blood sacrifice centers in the cross of Calvary.

##### **3. THINGS REVEALED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

- A. Number one, it stands for vindication of God's law.
  1. As all laws, the law of God also has or had a penalty.
  2. The blood of Christ vindicated this law - Romans 6:23.
- B. Number two, the blood sacrifice of the New Testament shows the great value of man.
  1. It answers the question of the Psalmist "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" - Psalm 8:4.

- 2. In light of this question, Calvary is God's evidence of His estimate of man.
- C. Number three, it pictures the immeasurable degree of divine love.
  - 1. The Apostle John showed this to be the case - 1 John 4:10.
  - 2. The sacrifice of the blood of Christ shows how much God loved us.

#### **4. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IS PRECIOUS BECAUSE:**

- A. It stands for the cost of the redemption of man - 1 Peter 1:18, 19; Hebrews 9:22.
  - 1. If it were not for the blood that was shed we would have no hope of salvation.
  - 2. It is only through the shedding of the blood of Christ that we might be saved - Hebrews 9:12-14.
  - 3. John writes that those in sin may have their sins washed away by the blood of Christ - Revelation 1:5.
  - 4. Thus the blood of Christ should be precious to each of us.
- B. The blood of Christ should be precious because with it the New Testament is sealed - Hebrews 9:16, 17.
  - 1. Had it not been for the shedding of the precious blood of Christ there would have been no new covenant.
- C. The blood of Jesus should be precious because the church was purchased by it - Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:23-25.
  - 1. Because of this, if for no other reason, the blood of Christ should be very precious to us.
  - 2. If it is not precious to us, then the church means nothing to us.
  - 3. It is utterly impossible to esteem the church and not hold the blood of Christ as precious.

#### **5. HOW THE BLESSINGS OF THE BLOOD ARE APPLIED TO US**

- A. First let us realize that it is applied differently, according to our relationship to God.
  - 1. To the alien sinner it is applied in the manner that Paul wrote of - Romans 6:1-5.
  - 2. For the faithful Christian it is a continual process - 1 John 1:7.
  - 3. To the erring Child of God it is applied as in the case of Simon - Acts 8:22.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

- 1. There are sufficient reasons as to why the blood of Christ should be precious to us.
  - A. There is no doubt that it should be, but is it?