

“TAKE HEED HOW YOU HEAR”: HOW TO HEAR A SERMON (pt. 2)

FROM LAST WEEK...

- A. Introduction: Back to Basics. This series, cf. Luke 8:18. Format.
- B. Last Week. “What is Preaching?”
 - 1. The Difference Between Teaching & Preaching. a. *Teaching*: Communicating truth for instruction. b. *Preaching*: Communicating truth for transformation.
 - 2. A Functional Definition of Preaching: *The official proclamation of the Word of God as it focuses on Christ in His person, offices, and work, with the goal of forming disciples of Christ the King by regeneration and sanctification.*
 - 3. Some Basic Texts: Rom. 10:8-17; I Pet. 1:22 – 2:3. Worship = Holy Spirit’s workshop....
 - 4. The Unique Character of Preaching: *Rom. 10:14. *Eph. 2:17. *II Cor. 5:20
 - 5. Some Contemporary Challenges to Preaching: *Low views of public address. Low views of the Church. Low views of the Christian Ministry. Ministerial low views of preaching.*
- C. This Week: “What Goes Into a Sermon?” Recipe!

I. FOUR TYPES OF “FINISHED PRODUCTS”, i.e. TYPES OF SERMONS.

- A. Consecutive Expository: *The consecutive exposition and application of an entire book chapter, or larger grouping of Scripture, e.g. Calvin, MLJ, John MacArthur. Series on Luke.*
- B. Textual: *A specific verse, group of verses, or even a chapter is opened up and applied w.out going outside of that text for any major component of the sermon, e.g. Psalm 77.*
- C. Topical: *A biblical doctrine, duty, or other subject is expounded and applied without being limited to one major text of Scripture, cf. Acts 7. e.g. “The Peril of Pornography”*
- D. Occasional (a form of Topical or Textual Sermon): *The Word of God is proclaimed with particular reference to an event that, for whatever reason, is the dominant thought in the minds of a congregation at the time of the preaching, e.g. Christmas & Easter. Will Crouch’s death. Reflections on a National Tragedy, i.e. Crash of TWA flight 800 on 7/17/’96, cf. Luke 13:1-5*

II. THREE MAIN INGREDIENTS:

- A. The Man: cf. *Acts 6:4. *I Tim. 4:12-16.
NOTE: For the man to preach effectively he must possess *piety, natural gifts, knowledge, & skill*. All of these contribute to the *man* as first ingredient, cf. *I Cor. 2:1-5. *II Cor. 12:9f.
- B. The Text(s) cf. *II T.2:15. 1. Words. 2. Theology. 3. “Genre”. (This infl. *form* of sermon)
- C. The Congregation: *I Cor. 3:1-3, *Heb. 5:12-14.

NOTE: These three ingredients form the *unique* character of pastoral preaching.

III. THREE STAGES OF PREPARATION:

- NOTE: Technically, a minister’s whole life is a preparation for each sermon.
- A. “Turf Work”, i.e. Getting all the ingredients, e.g. *Translation, definition(s), interpretation(s), illumination*. e.g. Greek/Hebrew texts, Lexicons, Commentaries, Other materials.
 - B. Meditation, i.e. Letting the ingredients sit, etc. e.g. *Prayer. Self-examination. Correlative reading*, e.g. other sermons, related materials, pastoral work.
 - 1. Out of this must come a *theme* for the message, i.e. a major point.
e.g. The challenge of this week’s message on the Rich Young Ruler.
 - 2. Goal is that the material become a part of the preacher, i.e. *‘Out of the abundance of the heart...’* NOTE: A minister cannot stop at this step....
 - C. Organization, i.e. What kind of pan are you going to cook & serve this in? e.g. *Points* (for progression). *Sub-points* (for development). *Illustrations & Illuminating devices*, i.e. windows, *Introduction. Conclusion*. e.g. Plane ride!

CONCLUSION: When this all comes... *You may be surprised!!! Remember: Weakness!

- A. Even this is not the sermon! *What happens in the pulpit is the sermon....*
- B. Next Week: How to profit from preaching. ...

