

Gilcomston Preaching Seminar 2

Part 1: Sermon Preparation – General Comments

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
2 Timothy 2:15

PREPARING THE PREACHER

The Heart

Your attitude to preaching – aims and convictions

Your attitude to the people

Your attitude to the Lord

The Study

Place and time. Faith and works

PREPARING THE SERMON

From text ... ('What on earth is this passage about?')

Reading and listening skills

Understanding the text

Genre – what kind of literature is this?

Three Contexts – immediate, wider, social

Structure – what are the main blocks of thought?

Vocabulary – what do the key words actually mean here?

Point – what's the point that the Spirit is making to the recipients?

Questions that open the passage

What problems are being addressed? (e.g. in the epistles)

What's going on in the story? (e.g. in Old Testament narrative)

Who are the key players? (e.g. Sanhedrin, Edomites, etc.)

What does the imagery mean? (esp. in Revelation)

What's the crunch? (Is there a punch-line here?)

... To sermon ('What was today's sermon about, darling?')

Connect - What Does God have to say to us now, in this passage?

Putting it together: structure

Beginning

Middle

End

Make it

understandable – could you explain it to the children?

interesting – dull, duller and totally dull! Boring people is a sin

informative – 'Well, I never understood that bit before'

inspiring – WOW!

Preach for a result – 'all scripture is ... useful!' (2Timothy 3:16)

Do it with integrity and love

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Part 2: Delving Deeper into the Text

FIRST THINGS FIRST: GENRE

GENRE – WHAT KIND OF LITERATURE IS THIS?

- 1. Narrative** **story**
plot, setting, characters, events
speech
irony and humour
repetitions
contrasts
what is unusual
structures in texts
wordplays
characterizations
pace, flow, suspense
- 2. Law** **instruction**
Moral, Civil and Ceremonial distinction
law and grace
law and promise
- 3. Poetry** **expression**
structure
mood and mood changes
imagery, simile, metaphor, hyperbole
impact – what does the poem do to me?
- 4. Wisdom** **training**
Comments on life
Imagery
Riddles
'behavioural outcomes' (consequences)
- 5. Gospel** **Jesus' life**
grouping of events/teaching
sayings
juxtapositions
dialogues and disputes
teaching the disciples and the crowds
interpretations
- 6. Epistle** **teaching**
occasion – problem in the church
relationship with the church
development of an argument
overall point
doctrine and practice
- 7. Apocalyptic** **visions**
imagery – numbers, colours, objects etc.
structure – parallels and series
main point for the recipients

FIVE FURTHER FEATURES

1. THREE CONTEXTS

- Immediate paragraph, section, book
- Wider whole Bible
- Setting Social and historical situation

2. STRUCTURE

- What are the main blocks of thought?

3. VOCABULARY

- What do the key words actually mean here?

4. IMAGERY

- What do the word pictures point to?

5. POINT

- What's the point that the Spirit is making to the recipients?