

Homiletics: How to preach the Word of God

Date: _____

Study Course: Dr. Manuel Fernandez Student _____ Semester: _____

REQUIRED READING: *How to Study the Bible*, R.A. Torrey, 1903, public domain.

Introduction:

If you are taking this course it is because you wish to further your knowledge in preaching the Word of God. This course will help you in areas that are common to all preachers:

- What is preaching?
- Why preach in the first place?
- What should the preacher preach about?
- Understanding your audience
- Mistakes to avoid
- How to effectively communicate
- Preaching in someone else's church
- Different styles of preaching

We pray that your journey as a preacher brings you to new spiritual heights and that this course can more effectively help you to see more people saved and going to the altar in prayer.

1. What is Preaching?

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”—2 Timothy 4:2.

_____. Paul told his young protégé Timothy, a pastor, to preach the_____.

It is the will of God that His Word be preached throughout the whole world, to the end that sinners might be saved, and God's people may become holy and separated unto Him. The word preach is defined in Webster's 1828 dictionary as:

“PREACH, v.i. [L. proeco, a crier; precor.]

1. To pronounce a public discourse on a religious subject, or from a subject, or from a text of Scripture. The word is usually applied to such discourses as are formed from a text of Scripture. This is the modern sense of preach.

2. To discourse on the gospel way of salvation and exhort to repentance; to discourse on evangelical truths and exhort to a belief of them and acceptance of the terms of salvation. This was the extemporaneous manner of preaching pursued by Christ and his apostles. Mat 4:10. Acts 10:14.

PREACH, v.t. To proclaim; to publish in religious discourses. What ye hear in the ear, that preach ye on the house-tops. Mat 10. The Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings to the meek. Isa 61.

1. To inculcate in public discourses.

I have preached righteousness in the great congregations. Psa 40. He oft to them preach'd Conversion and repentance.

To preach Christ or Christ crucified, to announce Christ as the only Savior, and his atonement as the only ground of acceptance with God. 1 Cor 1. To preach up, to discourse in favor of. Can they preach up equality of birth? PREACH, n. A religious discourse. [Not used.]”

Preaching and teaching are different, but good _____ involves good _____. Teaching is giving the _____ of the Bible. Preaching is _____ the _____ or the _____ to _____ that knowledge in a _____ way, to the end that they may somehow be closer to Christ. As we said before preaching is reaching. Teaching is aimed at the _____, while preaching is aimed at the _____. A good preacher is also a good teacher. Paul told young Timothy to preach with “all longsuffering and _____.”

“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”—2 Timothy 3:14-17. Good doctrine is _____ to good preaching. If the _____ is wrong, the Spirit of God will not be in it. **(Read: Acts 18:24-28)**. It is possible to have a _____ for God, but not preach the right message. You want to make sure about what you believe and why you believe it. If you are unsure about what you are saying, _____. It is better to leave the subject alone and preach about something you know and are sure about than to mess up someone’s faith by saying the wrong thing.

What you have to say can either help someone make the right decisions in life and help them, or it can do great damage to their lives. What you have to say can have either positive or negative effects. People will listen to you and they will take what you have to say to heart. That is why it is vitally important that you preach only that which God teaches you, nothing more, nothing less. **(READ: Jeremiah 1:7, 17; 26:2)**. God told Jeremiah to preach all that He commanded him to preach, not to preach any more or less. **“What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.”**—Matthew 10:27.

If you are to preach the right message, you are going to have to hear that message from God. Hearing a message from God comes from:

- READING AND STUDYING THE WORD OF GOD (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- PRIVATE PRAYER, COMMUNING WITH GOD (Matthew 6:5-7)
- AN OPEN AND OBEDIENT HEART OF FAITH (John 10:27)

_____. **(READ: 2 Timothy 2:22-26)**. Sometimes is possible to get into a battle of wits, and you may end up looking foolish. Someone may ask you foolish questions in order to _____ your faith because they are looking for reasons to reject God and the Bible. “Did Adam have a belly button?” “Where did Cain get his wife?” “The earth is really flat, but the Bible says its round.” The Sadducees tried to do this to Jesus. **(READ:**

Luke 20:27-38). Their question came from their _____ in the resurrection. They sought to make a _____ question to Jesus so that he would be forced to come up with some kind of messed up answer that they can use to accuse him. **(READ: Matthew 22:15-22)**. Scorners do not want to be convinced into believing the truth. They do not have _____ questions. They formulate theories and questions in their minds that help them not to believe and to trip up someone's faith. They seek to make God's people look foolish and make themselves look smarter. **(Read: Romans 1:28-32; Proverbs 9:7-8; 13:1; 14:6; 15:12; 22:10; 24:9; Matthew 7:6)**. Your job as a preacher is not to contend and _____ with fools who will not listen. Your job is to deliver one simple message to them, the message of the cross. If they should reject that message, they will not believe you concerning the deeper things of God **(READ: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; 2:14; Romans 8:7; Mark 6:7-13)**. Apologetics has its place, but it will not be the venue of winning lost souls to Christ. Apologetics is logical and teaches good knowledge, but preaching the cross is how we see people saved. **“For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”**—1 Corinthians 1:21.

Preaching can be done from any place. We have limited our minds into believing that preaching is only to be done from the pulpit. The pulpit is where God's people go to get right with God. The church is meant for saved people to grow in their faith and pray for one another **(Hebrews 10:24-25; Romans 10:17)**. However, it is the job of the church and the pastor to go and preach the gospel to people where they are. **(Mark 6:7-13; Luke 14:23)**. Preaching is not a profession, it is a _____. It is something that God calls every believer to in order to win the lost **(READ: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15)**. Pastors, evangelists, and teachers are all _____. However, everyone is called to preach the _____ **(READ: Ephesians 4:11-13; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 1:26-27)**. It is vitally important to know whether you are called to be a _____. Do not try to be a gift to the church if God has not called you to be one. How can you tell if you are called to be one of these gifts?

- _____ (Acts 13:1-3)
- A _____ to preach is laid upon you (Jeremiah 20:9)
- _____ (1 Corinthians 4:2)
- _____ (Jeremiah 1:4-10)
- You meet the _____ God set forth (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:1-9)
- A willingness to _____ the truth and to follow Christ (Galatians 1:15-18; 1 Timothy 4:8-13)
- A willingness to bear the _____ of Christ (Luke 9:23)

DO NOT GET _____! Sometimes you can preach your heart out and it is not well received, or it is rejected, or it seems to not penetrate the hearts of those who you sought to

reach. This is not your fault. It is the fault of the _____ not the _____ **(READ: Acts 28:23-24; Romans 10:14-17; Acts 13:40-41; Jeremiah 7:13, 25; 26:5; 32:33; 35:15)**. The world may not like what you have to say, but if you are preaching and teaching the _____ of God and the _____ of Jesus Christ, you have nothing to worry about **(READ: John 15:18-25; Matthew 5:11-16)**. Sometimes preachers can get discouraged because they are not seeing the _____ they think they should be seeing **(READ: 1 Kings 19)**. _____ was a man who saw great miracles from God, and those miracles should have convinced the people to believe in God. Elijah got very discouraged and wanted to give up on God. But the Lord _____ him and gave him clear instructions to continue on in his ministry. **(READ: 1 Samuel 30:6; John 15:1-8)**. It is vitally important as a preacher that you stay close to God and get your _____ from Him. Men will burn you out in the ministry, but with God's Spirit, you will be an effective preacher and have a purposeful ministry **(1 Thessalonians 5:24; Psalms 127:1; Revelation 2:1-5)**.

ARE YOU _____ TO PREACH?

- Do you have a burden to reach the lost? **YES / NO**
- Do you have a heart to see growth in your own life and in the lives of others? **YES / NO**
- Do you feel that God has placed a burden on you to pastor, or to be one of His gifts to the church? **YES / NO**
- Have you sought counsel from your pastor about this subject? **YES / NO**
- Do you feel that you cannot be silent about what you believe about Christ? **YES / NO**

These are some basic questions you need to answer if you are going to preach the Word of God. My suggestion is to be honest with yourself in answering these questions. There are no right or wrong answers. These are things that need to be prayed about and understood before preaching.

Short Essay: *What has God called me to do and why?* Use another sheet of paper if necessary:

MEMORY VERSE: **“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”—2 Timothy 4:2.**

Test Questions:

1. From what you have learned, and in your own words, what is the basic definition of preaching?

2. What does good preaching involve? _____

3. What is key to good preaching? _____

4. Who are you not to debate with and why?

5. Whose fault is it if the people do not respond in faith? _____

6. Name one preacher who got very discouraged for not seeing the results in his ministry?

7. How did this preacher recover from his slump?

8. How can we ensure as preachers that we will not be discouraged in the ministry?

9. Name three ways that a man can tell if he is called of God to preach:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

10. Preaching is not a profession, it is a _____

11. What does apologetics reach? How is it different from preaching?

12. Teaching is aimed at the _____, but preaching is aimed at the _____

2. Understanding your audience (Acts 17: 16-34):

The Apostle Paul and the other disciples lived in a day where they preached the gospel to many different people. They had different cultures, languages, _____, ethnic origins, and religious backgrounds. With that said, there is not, nor ever was a one size fits all way to present the gospel and preach. In order to effectively communicate the message of the Cross and preach the Word of God, you must understand your _____. Understanding your audience means:

- Understanding any cultural influences that might interfere with their understanding of your message.
- Understanding their level of education and age group, where they are in life
- Understanding their religious background
- Understanding their past hurts and feelings toward preachers and churches

I. Understanding Cultural influences:

Cultural influence plays a big role in how people _____ what you are saying to them. For example, when this author was younger, he lived in the city. He was not familiar with southern slang or talk. One time he had to live with a family for one year in Tennessee as a young teen. He asked where the Pop Tarts were and they said, “Over yonder.” He asked them what the word “yonder” meant. His cultural upbringing was not southern. He remembers going to church for the very first time, and the preacher gave an invitation at the end of the service and said that if we wanted to be saved we can go to an old fashioned altar and talk to God. He stayed in his seat. He was confused. He did not know what an altar was. The preacher wanted to provoke a response from him to go to the front steps and kneel down to accept Christ as his Savior. However, his lack of Bible or church jargon prevented him from knowing what he meant.

Understanding the culture you are ministering to will help you to be a much more effective preacher. Those who preach the Word in Hawaii preach the same message as those who preach in Puerto Rico, but because the culture is different, the delivery of that message and the way it is presented is different. Traditions within the churches are different. Christmas is celebrated all over the United States on December 25th, but did you know that there are other cultures that celebrate Christmas in different ways and on different days? Some cultures are steeped into voodoo and witchcraft, others in idolatry, others in philosophy, and still others in ancestor worship. You must know the culture in order to more effectively present the Gospel and the messages God lays on your heart.

II. Understanding their level of Education, age group:

Knowing the _____ of your group is important. You might have a group of teens or young minors. They need to learn at their level and at their stage in life. Choosing messages from the book of proverbs might be a good place to start with them. You might have a group of working class adults, elderly, widows, etc. Each are at different stages in life and have different education levels.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF HEARERS (Mark 4:1-9):

Jesus said, **“He that hath ears to hear, let him hear”**. The word “Audience” deals with hearing, _____, sound. Jesus was speaking to a wide range of people as his audience. Jesus employed a technique to get his audience to use another learning tool called their _____. Imagination carries the idea of an “_____ of the mind”. Jesus used a technique called a “_____”. He wanted His audience to both hear the words and picture the story in their minds so that they might better understand. When speaking to a large group of people, you will have different kinds of learners:

- _____ (Hearing)
- _____ (Seeing visual aids)
- _____ (Hands on)
- _____

When preaching to a large group, you generally do not want to use an _____ approach as some preachers might. Within every congregation, you will have a good mix of learning styles. Therefore, you will only reach _____ of your congregation if you are employing an audio only technique. If you wish to reach your entire congregation, you will need to be creative and engage them. For example, The Apostle Paul used an object lesson with THE UNKNOWN GOD on Mars’ Hill to show visually what he was trying to convey audibly. Using whiteboards, object lessons, puppets, handouts for people to write, note pads, underlining words in their Bibles, etc. all have their place and can be very useful in reaching the _____ of your church.

With any audio message you preach, even to audio learners, the best you can hope for is that they will take in and process about _____ of what you say to them during that hour. They will only remember about _____ the next day, _____ of it in a few days, and they probably won’t remember what the subject was by the next Sunday service. That is why less is more. By keeping your points concise and limited to no more than three or four alliterated items, it will help them to remember more. Many times, I may have seven points in my outline, but I only preach about one or two at a time. Doing this helps ensure that the hearers recall the subject and the content better. When we read Romans 10:17, **“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”** Understand that hearing comes in the form of reading/writing, visual aids, and hands on as well as hearing with the ear. For example, a deaf man must see someone’s hands move in order to hear. He can read the Bible and hear the voice of God in his heart. As he writes in his devotional journal, he starts to think of many other verses and reads and writes them down. He hears, but not with his ears. Your congregation may be sitting in the pews and listening

you, but are the _____ you? Some will not hear or learn what you have to say because they are not hearing through their hands, or writing down, or reading. Seeing is hearing to some people. Ultimately, if they cannot hear the voice of God, hearing your voice does them very little good at all.

There are those who go to your church, and when they sit in the pews they are either _____, or _____. Active listeners are purposeful in what they hear. They pay close attention and do not let things distract them. However, most of your audience will probably be PASSIVE LISTENERS. They are distracted in their minds, daydream, or “_____”. It is important that you make sure to use “_____” regularly during your preaching service in order to engage them. For example, some preachers clap once or twice, or snap their fingers during their message regularly while they are trying to make a point. The sudden noise will help get those people who have zoned out or gotten distracted to focus, even if it’s just for a few more minutes. We live in a day where people’s attention spans are very short. They get this from playing on their _____ and constantly switching from one thing to another. This filters into your service. If you do not think it does, then you are only kidding yourself. A habit is a habit. When people form a habit like that it will filter into every area of their lives. That is why it is important to find ways to keep their attention. Some preachers will walk back and forth on the stage near the pulpit, or walk down the steps. It helps to keep the people’s mind active and not go into a passive state.

At the end of the day it is all about who heard you and how much did they learn. Communication is only as effective as how the hearer interprets the message. The more effective you can be at understanding the learning needs of your congregation, the more they will take in. You have one goal, to preach in a way THEY will understand, not necessarily how YOU will understand it. You already know the material, now they need to know it. How can you convey to them the message God has laid on your heart in a way that will both honor God and be absorbed into their hearts?

III. _____ :

Religious beliefs and cultures play a big role in how people interpret the Bible _____ and _____ you present to them. For example, when you tell a Catholic person that they must be born again, they probably will say things like, “I am born again”, or “I am a Christian”. Their view of being born again includes _____, and their view of being a Christian means that they do many _____. You will have to dig a little deeper into what they mean by what they say in their answers. When preaching to a Catholic in your church, you will not have a chance to ask them, you are simply preaching. You will have to be sensitive to the Spirit of God. You may have to pause and explain for a while what it means to be born again by _____ so that they are not confusing it with the Catholic meaning. It is also good not to _____ the Catholic Church from the pulpit. It is better to let the Holy Spirit convince someone that their church is really a synagogue of Satan than for you to do it and drive them away. God has to be the one to convince someone. If you do it, they will not be back (**READ: _____**). Jesus and the Apostles dealt with people of all different religious backgrounds. There was the Jewish faith, some were self-righteous and works oriented, and some were more faith oriented. There were Greeks and Romans, people who worshipped Caesar, witches, sorcerers, Samaritans, etc. Jesus and the Apostles always sought to reach them where they were at and help them to interpret the Word of God correctly (**READ: Matthew 22:33-32; _____**).

IV. Understanding _____ to learning, walls, past hurts and feelings toward preachers and churches:

“A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city; and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.”—Proverbs 18:19.

One of things you will have to remember is that everyone is different. There are people who are skeptical about even going to church because they have been hurt by preachers in the past, or molested so that they no longer trust men. These are _____, _____, and _____ that take a lot of time to get past, but those people still need to hear the Word of God and understand God’s message for them. Within every congregation, you will have at least some women and even some men who have been molested, raped, or sexually assaulted in some way. It is important that you do not cause another wall to be put up in their life by not being cautious enough around them. You may not do anything wrong, but the woman or girl may interpret what you do the wrong way based on their past hurts. You are paying for someone else’s mistakes.

“But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. ¶Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!”—Matthew 18:6-7.

With that said, not everyone will want to come to your church, but if you have a ladies meeting, or special event, they might like to come. They may watch you for a while on a live service before they become comfortable enough to walk into your service. They are skittish, and need to feel safe. They need a gentle approach and need to know that you care about them. **“And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”—Jude 1:22-23.** Each person is different. You will have to find out if there are any barriers or walls in a person’s life to learning. Some barriers can include:

- **Learning disabilities**
- **Dyslexia**
- _____
- **Obsessive-Compulsive tendencies**
- **Lack of education**
- **Loss of brain tissue**
- _____
- **Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs**
- **Satanic possession**
- **Distracted easily**

It is up to you to understand who you are speaking to and how to break down any barriers that might hinder the message of God being preached from your pulpit.

MEMORY VERSE: “And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”—Jude 1:22-23

1. What are four influences that may influence the way people interpret your message?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
2. How does one’s culture influence their understanding of God’s Word?
 - a. _____

3. What are the four ways people learn?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
4. What example do we have from the life of Paul that shows his use of an object lesson?
 - a. _____
5. What are some things we can use to reach the full range of people within our church?
 - a. _____

6. What are the two ways people will hear or listen when they sit in the pews?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
7. What are some ways to engage a passive audience?
 - a. _____

8. How does a religious background affect someone’s view of what you are saying?
 - a. _____

9. What are three walls or barriers to someone’s learning in your church?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
10. Communication is only as effective as how the hearer _____ the message.

3. **Different Styles of Preaching (Philippians 1:15-18):**

There are different ways to preach the Bible. In this example, we see that there are some who preach it “_____”. Although Paul did not condone this behavior, he said that he could rejoice knowing that at least someone was preaching Christ. The way to preach the gospel is always to be in _____ and _____ for the person’s soul that is hearing the message. Too many preachers are like hurricanes. They rant and rave and throw temper tantrums from the pulpits and cause a lot of damage that other pastors have to clean up. **“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”**—Ephesians 4:15.

“Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”—Jude 1:21-23. While there are those who would like to justify throwing a temper tantrum from the pulpit, because the Bible tells us that some need to be saved “with fear”, yet it is to be done in the most loving manner possible. “Keep yourselves in the love of God”. _____ was a man who sought to see people saved with a great urgency, yet he is known as the _____ prophet. **(Read: 1 Kings 19)**. Elijah had to learn that God was not in the great displays of power, but in that still small voice. The voice of _____ could do more to see people saved than all the miracles he could show from God.

The primary goal in preaching the gospel or any message from the Bible is to lift up _____, who exemplified the love of God always. Therefore, if you are seeking to be a good preacher, seek to preach like Jesus Himself. **“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”**—Hebrews 12:1-3. This author has been to many Bible colleges and churches. He has heard many good, solid preachers. He has also heard many preacher boys sound exactly like their pastor or favorite preacher. They think sometimes that if they sound like them, or walk like them, or carry the same mannerisms that they will have a successful ministry, or many people will want to hear them preach. That is not so at all. A successful ministry is wholly dependent upon the Spirit of God and His _____. It is measured by _____, not someone else’s. Do not try to preach like someone else, or be someone else. Be who God made you to be. Singers who use their natural voice, as opposed to trying to imitate other voices sing better and clearer. Preachers who try to imitate other preachers look awkward and sometimes makes people feel uncomfortable. If you imitate anyone, let it be the Lord Jesus Himself. He is the only one you need to be modeling yourself after in life.

Different Ways of Presenting a Message or Teaching:

There are many ways to present a message in the church.

1. _____ Expository

Preaching on _____ in the Bible. For example, the Bible may teach on the subject of marriage. In this way, the sermon may have five or six alliterated points about the subject of marriage. Marriage is the theme of the preaching and the sermon may last several weeks or months, because each point may take a half hour or more to cover. This is a way to help preach the whole counsel of God's Word. Themes are presented throughout different books in the Bible. Marriage throughout different dispensations, cultures, etc. You may choose to go to a specific book in the Bible such as, the book of Hosea, and specifically cover that book so that your people may learn it better. All expository style preaching involves a lot of teaching. This is a good way to teach your people, to get them grounded in the Word of God. Many churches may have special conferences using Thematic Expository style preaching.

2. _____ Expository

This presents the Scriptures in _____ from start to finish. For example, "Jesus healed the lepers", or "Jesus feeds the five thousand". In this way, you can follow the life of Jesus in short, easy to follow stories that will give you a full picture of His life when complete. You may choose the life of Daniel, and specifically be preaching on "Daniel in the Lion's Den.". You may look at the life of David and specifically speak on "David and Goliath". This is a good way to help your people grow.

3. _____

Topical preaching involves teaching on certain "topics" such as a July 4th message, or Veteran's day message. The topic may be "Becoming a man" or "living as a teen in a corrupt world". You can take one verse of Scripture and use that as your launching pad to preach what you want and build the Bible proof texts around what you are trying to say. This can be dangerous in the hands of a preacher who is not solid in his Bible theology. It's like handing a loaded weapon to a kid. You start off with an idea, and build your message around it. Most preachers will use this the least, but it has its place. For example, if you wish to preach on the topic of Salvation, or Baptism, a topical study is in order. It is a sword that needs to be wielded by a skilled swordsman.

4. _____

This is exactly how it sounds. You start from Genesis or any specific book and read the Bible verse by verse, expounding on it as you read it. This author suggests studying it out and writing many cross references _____ expounding verse by verse from the pulpit. What can happen is that you may know what you are saying, but there are other verses or words that will correlate with it. For example, First and Second Kings correspond to First and Second Chronicles. The Life of Hezekiah is sprinkled throughout the books of Kings, Chronicles, and Isaiah. Reading a text about Jesus in Matthew may correlate with one found in the book of Mark, giving a bigger picture or more details in the account. Verse by verse is a good way to teach the Bible, but it should be studied out prior to getting behind the pulpit. Do not just rely on your prior knowledge. Rely on what God gives you that day or week.

Choosing a way:

Find a way that feels comfortable for each specific message. Do not try to fit a square block into a round hole. You may choose to have a norm of Sunday mornings using a narrative style, Sunday nights using a thematic style, and Wednesday nights using a verse by verse style. Understanding your audience and their needs will help you determine what best to do. Each week you preach will require _____. Remember what Jesus said in John 15:5c “**...without me ye can do nothing.**” Choose what feels comfortable for the message. Do not lock yourself into any one way of preaching, thinking that it must be preached this way or it cannot be preached at all. You have to let God’s Spirit do the speaking for you and you will have your message. If it does not speak to your heart, it will not speak to theirs. **(READ: 1 Timothy 4).**

_____! Look for Christ on every page of the Bible **(Read Hebrews 10:7)**. There may be a text that is very difficult to understand, and you ask yourself why it is there. You may tell yourself that these events do not make much sense. Look for Christ. Many times, you will find pictures of salvation, the cross, the rapture, the second coming, the first coming, the life of Christ, etc. If you look at a text in light of Christ, you may find its _____ meaning **“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”—John 5:39.** The Bible is all about Jesus. It points toward his death, burial and resurrection. When you look at the way God created the world in Genesis 1:1-5, it does not seem to make sense until you look at it in the light of the way God saves our souls. We were created by God, being without form and void in our hearts. God’s Spirit had to move upon the face of our hearts before we could be saved. When God’s Spirit moved and we respond to Jesus the Living Word, He puts the light of Christ in our hearts, leaving us with two natures, light (the new nature) and darkness (the old nature). That was the first day of our salvation **(Read John 1:1-5)**. Jesus is there. Salvation is there. If it doesn’t make sense, look for the Lord, He is there.

Alliterations and outlines:

A good tool to use when preparing messages to preach is an alliterated outline. Alliterated outlines are used by most preachers. They can help you in dissecting a verse, or portion of text and preach it in an orderly way so that people will be able to remember it easier. There are many ways to alliterate an outline:

1. _____ words

Rhyming words is a creative way to alliterate an outline. Sometimes when you cannot illiterate it any other way, this may be the only way to do it. While outlines do not have to be alliterated, as many times they are not, yet it would be helpful to you to use it to order the text.

EXAMPLE:

BEING HATED BY THE WORLD, TEXT: JOHN 15:17-27

- I. A refusal of Jesus' light yoke (vv.18-21)
- II. A removal of sin's dark cloak (vv.22-25)
- III. A reminding of God's truth to spiritual folk (vv.26-27)

2. Words that start with the _____ letters

More than likely, this will be your main source of alliteration. It is the most common because it is the most natural. Many times, you will read the text and there will be a natural alliterated outline. Sometimes you will really have to think about it. Do what comes natural. If God used the outline, then it is good enough for you to preach.

EXAMPLE:

JOB, A GOOD FATHER, TEXT: JOB 1:1-5

- I. He feared the LORD (v.1)
- II. He was fruitful (vv.2-3)
 - a. With his wife
 - b. With his business
- III. His family had fellowship (v.4)
- IV. He faithfully prayed for his children (v.5)

3. Sentences that _____ the same, but carry _____

In our example here, the word “_____” is the common denominator. It is what ties the ideas together to help preach a gospel message.

EXAMPLE:

JOSIAH’S SALVATION, TEXT: 2 KINGS 22

- I. He had the right upbringing (vv.1-2)
- II. He had the right attitude and people (vv.3-7)
- III. He was in the right place (vv.8-10)
- IV. He had the right reaction (vv.11-13)
- V. He had the right message of hope (vv.14-20)

HOW TO FIND THE WORDS TO USE:

If you want to find words to use in an alliteration, you should get yourself a good thesaurus. A thesaurus will give you common words that start with different letters for the word you have looked up. For example, if I wanted to find different words for the word puzzle, I would open a thesaurus and find these similar words associated with it:

mystery	secret	matter
enigma	puzzlement	brainteaser
riddle	mystification	perplexity
conundrum	closed book	poser
problem	challenge	trouble
why	head-scratcher	stumper

You may need to find an alliteration that begins with the letter “R”. You have two points that begin with that letter and you are having trouble thinking of an “R” word that can be used in the place of the word Puzzle, which begins with the letter “P”. You find that the thesaurus uses the word “Riddle” and you believe it is perfect for your outline. Now all of your letters are alliterated with the letter “R”. You may also use a dictionary and look at other words that are associated with that definition. Finding a word can sometime be time consuming, but it can be worth it if find the right one.

Whatever you decide to do, the more you practice the better you will get at it. You may find over time that alliterations will be one of your favorite things to do in preparing a message.

MEMORY VERSE: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”—2 Timothy 2:15.

1. Although there may be different styles of preaching, what is the one element that you must always have when preaching God’s Word? _____
2. What is the primary goal in preaching the Bible? _____
3. Which prophet in the Bible preached hard in tears? _____
4. Which prophet in the Bible had to learn that people will only be converted by God’s Spirit? _____
5. What are the four methods of presenting your message in church?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
6. What is the least desirable way to preach a message? _____
7. What should you do prior to preaching a verse by verse study? _____
8. No matter how you choose to preach, each week will require you to do three things. What are those three things?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
9. If you have trouble understanding why a text is written the way it is, what should you do?
 - a. _____
10. What is a good tool to use when preparing a message for church?

11. What are three ways you can alliterate an outline?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
12. How can you find words to use to help you alliterate your outline?
 - a. _____
13. **ASSIGNMENT:** Pick a text of Scripture to study and illiterate it using one of the three methods you’ve learned:

Mistakes to Avoid During Preaching:

“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”—Matthew 10:16.

Someone once said that you can either make your own mistakes and pay for them, or you can learn from the mistakes of others. In this chapter, we will look at some pitfalls and common mistakes people make while preaching in their church. These mistakes will generally hurt your delivery of the message or it will harden someone’s heart to the message.

Mistake #1: Do not put the people on edge before you preach.

Do not scare the people you are about to preach to into believing that they will be uncomfortable for the rest of the message. Phrases like, “You might get mad at me for preaching this, but you need to hear it”, or “Don’t shoot the messenger for what I am about to say.” These are phrases that will generally get people’s hearts racing and make them nervous. When a kid knows he’s about to be spanked, he hides. That is not a good place for them to be before you preach.

A doctor will ease his patient’s minds and hearts before giving them a shot. A dentist will calm a kid down before working on his teeth. He does not scare the kid by saying, “Now this is going to hurt.” He does what he can to keep the kid at ease while doing what he needs to do. Will it hurt? Yes, but does he need to scare the kid? No. Likewise, it is your job as a preacher to make sure that the congregation will pay attention to what you are saying and that they are not scared of what you are about to tell them. The best way to preach the a hard message is just to preach it in the most loving and general way that you can so that someone does not feel you are targeting or isolating them. Otherwise, someone will feel embarrassed or feel you are bullying them from the pulpit.

Mistake #2: Environmental distractions:

People already have a hard enough time paying attention in church without being distracted by the environment around them. The quieter your auditorium is the better. Loud noises, music, babies crying, phones ringing during the invitation, all are environmental distractions that happen every day. Some people have to wear hearing aids, and the AC or heating unit may be very loud and distract from the message. Doing what you can to stop the distractions before they happen and thinking ahead of time can be the difference between someone getting saved or someone leaving lost.

Mistake #3: Not projecting your voice:

You may be preaching a message, but if the people cannot hear you speaking, then you are not communicating effectively. It is very important that you purposefully project your voice so that everyone in the auditorium can hear what you are saying. Whispering for effect is not desirable at all, especially when some people are hard of hearing. **“He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”**—Matthew 11:15. When Jesus preached to the multitudes, do you think He whispered? No, He projected his voice for everyone to hear. Good preaching means projecting your voice.

Mistake #4: Not being prepared

The one thing you never want to do is fumble around. You want to know your material. You want to make sure you are absolutely prepared for what you are about to preach. All your notes, illustrations, handouts, etc, all need to be checked and double checked before leaving the house to go preach at church. You need to prepare yourself by prayer, Bible study, and spending time with God. Going to preach without the power of God will mean you are preaching in the power of the flesh. You need to be sensitive to the Spirit of God and give God your best. Look your best, shave, iron your clothes, wear a tie, and be sharp.

Mistake #5: Taking too much time

The better you can get at keeping a schedule the better your attendance will be. If people believe you will keep them an hour late all the time and they are hungry for lunch, or some other thing is going on in the back of their minds, then they may not want to come all the time or at all. In American culture, many people live by a schedule. You should be happy and honored that they came to hear you preach at all. Sticking to the schedule is only respectful toward the people who you are preaching to, especially if you are a missionary at another pastor’s church. Yes, sometimes it is necessary to go overtime, but do not make it normal to do so.

Mistake #6: Having too much for the people to process

When preaching the Bible, you need to keep it between one to three points. You do not want to give information overload or the people will not remember it. They will only be able to process some of what you say. If you keep it to just a few short points, they will remember much more about what you have to say.

Mistake #7: Not preaching the Cross (1 Corinthians 9:16)

The whole point about preaching should be to bring people to Jesus. If you do not make an application of the gospel in every message, then you are not preaching right. Keep the main thing, the main thing.

MEMORY VERSE: **“For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”**—1 Corinthians 9:16.

1. Why is it important to make sure people are at ease before you preach?

2. What are some environmental distractions that can take people’s attention away from your message?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

3. Why must you project your voice when preaching?

a. _____

4. How should you get prepared to preach?

a. _____

5. Why is it important to stick to a schedule?

a. _____

6. Critical Thinking: What would you do to preach a message that had seven points?

a. _____

7. What should always be the main focus of your preaching?

8. Essay: Have you ever made any mistakes while preaching a message? What are one or two of them? What have you learned?

Assignments:

Each week, you will be responsible to carry out the weekly assignment. These are designed to help you practice your homiletics.

Assignment #1:

1. Look up the definition for the word “Homiletics” in Webster’s 1828 dictionary and write it down verbatim:
 - a. _____

2. Prepare a Bible message about Jesus Healing the ten Lepers. You can make this as long as you would like, but make sure that the study is long enough to preach at least one twenty to thirty minute message. Turn in the outline the day you preach the message. You must use an outline. Outline will be in a template as follows:

Text:	Date:
Title of Message:	Name:
 <u>EXAMPLE OUTLINE</u> I. Point 1 (v.1) II. Point 2 (vv.2-3) III. Point 3 (v.4) IV. Point 4 (v.5)	

Assignment #2: Prepare a message outline about salvation that can be preached in a half hour, no more, no less. Each minute under or over will be one point deducted from your overall grade. The key to this is to practice preaching the message before you present it. The outline is due the day of preaching the message.

Assignment #3: Prepare a message about Christ from the Old Testament. You are to look for a picture of Christ and apply it to your message. Use outline form in any style you wish. A copy of the outline will be turned in the day of preaching the message. You can have between fifteen and thirty minutes to preach. No more than thirty minutes. Anything above thirty minutes will be one point deduction per minute from your overall grade.

Book Critique: *How to Study the Bible*, R.A. Torrey

Give a short synopsis and review of chapter one:

Give a short synopsis and review of chapter two:

Give a short synopsis and review of chapter three:

Book Critique: *How to Study the Bible*, R.A. Torrey

Give a short synopsis and review of chapter four:

Give a short synopsis and review of chapter five:

Give a short synopsis and review of chapter six:

Book Critique: *How to Study the Bible*, R.A. Torrey

Give a short synopsis and review of chapter seven:

Give a short synopsis and review of chapter eight:

Give a short synopsis and review of chapter nine:

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. What is the key to good preaching? _____
2. How can you tell if you are called to preach?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
3. How does apologetics differ from preaching?

4. Name a preacher in the Bible that got discouraged in his ministry? _____
5. How can we keep from getting discouraged in our ministry?

6. What are some ways to engage a passive audience?

7. What are four influences that may influence the way people interpret your message?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
8. What three things do you need to do each week to prepare to preach?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
9. What are three ways you can alliterate an outline?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
10. What are the four styles of preaching a message?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
11. Name two mistakes to avoid in preaching:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
12. What should you do prior to a verse-by verse Bible study? _____
13. What is the primary goal in preaching the Bible? _____
14. What should you look for if you have trouble understanding a passage of Scripture?

FINAL EXAM:

1. What is the key to good preaching? _____
 2. How can you tell if you are called to preach?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 3. How does apologetics differ from preaching?

 4. Name a preacher in the Bible that got discouraged in his ministry? _____
 5. How can we keep from getting discouraged in our ministry?

 6. What are some ways to engage a passive audience?

 7. What are four influences that may influence the way people interpret your message?
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 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 11. Name two mistakes to avoid in preaching:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 12. What should you do prior to a verse-by verse Bible study? _____
 13. What is the primary goal in preaching the Bible? _____
- What should you look for if you have trouble understanding a passage of Scripture?

Survey:

Name: _____

1. How has this course helped you as a preacher?

- a. _____

2. Would you add anything to this course? If so, what?

- a. _____

3. Has the instructor taken the time to ensure your questions were answered? _____

4. Were all the materials you needed available and provided to you? _____

5. Would you recommend this course to others? _____

PLEASE RATE THIS COURSE 1-5, with 1 being the lowest score, 5 being the highest.

