



## PREPARATION

### **When Preparing the Sermon:**

- 1) What is it that I want to say? (Selecting, Studying and Establishing the Text)**  
\*(Thesis, Antithesis and Synthesis = Dialectical) {see page 4}
- 2) How do I want to say it?**  
(Unity, Memory, Recognition, Identification, Anticipation and Intimacy)  
{ex. "Law & Order"}
- 3) Who are my listeners? (Prepare manuscript with congregation in mind)**
- 4) Paint a picture for all to see, even a blind person. (Outline, Illustration)**
- 5) Deliver the message. (Be clear, concise and bring it to a close)**

### **In every sermon there is an: Introduction, Body, and Close**

Introduction: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Body: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Close: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## DELIVERY

**Types of Sermons:** (Please note that sermon types are distinctive, but can be combined)

***Topical*** Begins with an idea or topic and finds a scripture to support the idea/topic.

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***Textual*** Begins with the text and all points are directly in the text.

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***Expository*** Begins with the text and points are expounded to bring the text out.

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***Narrative*** A story replaces the regular exposition of the scripture

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***Dialectical*** The use of logical discussion or reasoning

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**NOTES**

- 1) **Didactics is the art or science of teaching**
- 2) **Dialectic is the art or practice of logical discussion**

**Didactic Preaching: Is teaching and/or instructing thru preaching.**

**Dialectical Approach to Preaching:**

**Friedrich Hegel the German philosopher provides the “dialectical theory” that Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor imposed on preaching. Dr. Leonard Lovett writes a book entitled “Crockpot Preaching” that takes seriously the task of amplifying the dialectical approach and giving it wings so that the average person preparing a sermon can grasp the notion of the antithesis (the real), thesis (the ideal) and the synthesis (how the ideal addresses the real) as an ideal methodology for preaching.**

**Antithesis**

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**Thesis**

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**Synthesis**

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[www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com); 800-458-3766

# Proclaiming The Gospel

Jewel R. Withers, Jr: Presenter

## Enhancing Your Preparation for Proclaiming the Gospel

- I. **Get back to the importance of preaching.** Why should I be concerned about preaching? I am a pastor and it is only part of my responsibility.
  - A. Preaching is important.
    1. It is important to God. God has spoken and he calls preachers to deliver His message.
    2. It was important to Jesus. Jesus preached and commissioned his disciples to preach.
    3. It is important to the church. The church in Acts was characterized by preaching.
    4. It is important to those who are not a part of the church. Jesus told the church to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
    5. It is important to people of all ages. Everyone has a need to hear the Word of God for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.
    6. It is important to people going through challenging experiences. God's Word can strengthen people in difficult times.
  - B. What are some of the Bible descriptions of the preacher.
    1. The preacher is a prophet who speaks the word of God.
    2. The preacher is a servant who obeys the orders of God.
    3. The preacher is a watchman who warns the people of God.
    4. The preacher is a shepherd feeds the flock.
    5. The preacher is a herald who declares the message of God.
    6. The preacher is an evangelist who announces the good news from God.
    7. The preacher is witness who testifies what he has experienced with God.
- II. **Get some good Bible study tools.** People in all professions need the right tools. We should use the best tools we can. (I have listed only printed resources, but many tools for the computer are available.)
  - A. Electronic Tools-Logos
  - B. Printed Resources
    1. Study Bible ([NIV Study Bible](#))
    2. Bible Dictionary ([Holman Bible Dictionary](#))
    3. Concordance ([Strongest Strong's Exhaustive Concordance](#))
    4. Bible Handbook ([Holman Bible Handbook](#))
    5. OT Survey and NT Survey ([Survey of the Old Testament](#) by Hill and Walton and [The New Testament: Its Background and Message](#) by Lea and Black)
    6. Bible Atlas ([Holman Bible Atlas](#))
  - B. While you are at it, get a few good books on preaching like:
    1. [The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching](#) edited by Haddon Robinson and Craig Brian Larson
    2. [Expository Preaching](#) by Harold T. Bryson
    3. Stanley, Andy and Lane Jones. [Communicating for a Change](#). Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah Books, 2006.
- III. **Plan your preaching.** (Try making a plan for at least one quarter of the year.)
  - A. Consider the benefits of planning your preaching. In the book [Planning Your Preaching](#), Dr. Stephen Rummage identified ten benefits of planning (23-32).
    1. It allow for greater leadership of the Holy Spirit.
    2. It creates greater diversity in your preaching.
    3. It allows you to teach your congregation systematically.
    4. It aids in developing meaningful and cohesive worship services.
    5. It saves time.
    6. It helps protect your time.
    7. It enables you to address timely subjects.
    8. It helps you to build your library.
    9. It reduces stress.
    10. It heightens your creativity.

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- B. Develop a method for planning your preaching. Start out by trying these general guidelines.
  - 1. Select the general topic. (See some of the topics listed in the next section.)
  - 2. Make a preliminary plan. (Outline a book)
  - 3. Study the Bible passages and gather other supporting or illustrative information. (If you plan in advance you can plan your study and gather material as you go along.) *"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways and be wise, Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her food in summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest."* (Pro. 6:6-8)
- C. Consider the Topics for a Preaching Plan
  - 1. Consider preaching on books of the Bible. (You will need to prepare an outline of the book.)
    - a. One method is to preach through a book of the Bible. You should select the book and begin planning the sermons well in advance of announcing your plan to the congregation, if you do announce it.
    - b. One method is to do a survey of each book. This takes much time to do each book so you should allow plenty of preparation time.
  - 2. Examine possibility of preaching on the life of Christ. Christmas is a great time to begin and you can plan to finish at Easter. (You will need to sketch out the major events of the life of Christ.)
  - 3. Think about preaching on the great characters of the Bible. This is also known as biographical preaching. (You will need to make a list of significant persons and key teachings which might be highlighted by their lives.)
    - a. You can preach a series on a single Bible character like Abraham, Moses, David, or Paul.
    - b. You could also preach a series on a different characters like "Here is Your life: Great People of the Old Testament" or "Let Me Introduce You to Christians You Should Know: Great People of the New Testament." Consider a series on the disciples of Jesus.
  - 4. Preach on the Great Doctrines of the Bible. Think about "Convictions We Hold" or "Truths that will Change Your Life." (You will need to make a list of key doctrines or teachings.)
  - 5. Select some great passages from the Bible. Expound the Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, or the parables of Jesus.
  - 6. The Mission of the Church. (You will need to compile a list of the components of the mission of the church.)
  - 7. The Christian Family. (You will need to identify key teachings or issues related to the family.)

## IV. Develop the Individual Sermons.

- A. Select the text. Identify the text, or sometimes texts, you will be using.
- B. Summarize the essence (heart) of the text. State the heart of the text in a simple sentence worded in the past tense.
- C. Summarize the essence of the sermon in a sentence-the one idea of the sermon. State the idea of the sermon in a simple sentence in the present or future tense.
- D. Summarize the objective of the sermon in a sentence. State what you want the hearers to do in response to the sermon.
- E. Write the points or major divisions of the sermon.
- F. Expand the points by adding substance material or functional elements. Expansion may be described as putting content into the sermon. Expansion means to spread out, to enlarge, to work out in full detail. Consider using the following methods of Expansion.
  - 1. The Textual Analysis Method. This is a method which derives substance material from the text itself. The analysis of the text will help you expand the major divisions. You will select the matters which amplify the major divisions, and you will also eliminate some of the analysis. Some texts lend themselves to the textual analysis method more readily than any other method of fashioning substance. (Bryson 97)
    - a. The method may be sequential.
    - b. The method may be selective.

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2. The Text/Today Method. Under each major division you will explain the meaning of the text, and then you will apply this meaning to the needs of people in today's world. Think of each major division supported by "then" material and "now" material.
  3. The Facet Method. The major divisions will be expanded with various elements in mind. This will be looking at every possible angle of each major division. Of course you will not use everything you think about but only those facets which will help to expand the major divisions and to relate to people's needs.
  4. The Combined Rhetorical Method. This method uses the various "functional elements" to expand the major divisions of the sermon.
    - a. Explanation. Explanation means "to make clear," "to explain," or "to make understandable." Preachers need to clarify what the hearers do not understand (Bryson 375).
    - b. Argumentation. Argumentation has to do with persuading, proving, convincing, or refuting. Argument includes reason and discussion as well as controversy and dispute (Bryson 379).
    - c. Application. Application includes relating, involving, and moving people to action. Application involves relating the biblical truth to the contemporary hearers (Bryson 383).
    - d. Illustration. Illustration seeks to illumine biblical truth in some way. Illustrations are to make the foreign familiar and to make abstract real (Bryson 391).
    - e. Imagination. Imagination incarnates facts with living scenes and situations to present hidden truth. It identifies the unknown and the known and creates fresh images so hearers can understand and experience truth in a new way (Bryson 397).
    - f. Narration. Narration is the telling of the biblical story or the telling of a contemporary story which is analogous to some biblical truth (Bryson 403).
- G. Add the introduction, conclusion, illustrations, and transitions.
1. The introduction should seek to gain the interest of the hearers and introduce the sermon idea as skillfully and quickly as possible.
  2. The conclusion should bring the sermon to an appropriate end and exhort the people to respond according to the objective of the sermon.
  3. The illustrations help to engage the hearers by allowing them to see the Bible truth illuminated.
  4. The transitions should help move the sermon from one point to the next.
- V. **Give Some Consideration to Your Preaching Style.**
- A. The preacher's style is "his characteristic manner of expressing thoughts, whether in writing or speech" (Broadus 319). Dr. Harold T. Bryson has given several qualities of an effective style.
1. **An Understanding Style.** This is a style in which the preacher preaches in such a way that the congregation understands what is said. How can one achieve an understanding style?
    - a. Have one clear idea in the sermon.
    - b. Have one clear objective.
    - c. Work on the arrangement of the sermon.
    - d. Do an audience analysis.
    - e. Work on your usage of the English language.
      - (1) Use properly constructed sentences.
      - (2) Give consideration to the elementary principles of composition (strong active verbs).
      - (3) Use proper grammar.
    - f. Eliminate useless words.
    - g. Use illustrative material.



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2. **An Energetic Style.** Some homilists call this energy "force." Energy means communication with force. The force demonstrates the conviction and feeling of the speaker and elicits conviction and decision (response) in the hearer. How can you achieve an energetic style?
    - a. Develop an energetic personality. Energy cannot be contrived, it must be a part of a person's experience and character.
    - b. Become personally (emotionally) involved in the sermon idea.
    - c. Know what you are talking about as thoroughly as possible.
  3. **An Economic Style.** An economic style means that you speak efficiently, without unnecessary words. Before the 1900s, the concern of the amount of words used was not a major consideration. The average sermon was over an hour. We have moved from a mass of words to an economy of words. How can one achieve an economic style?
    - a. Organize your material.
    - b. Give proportion (balance) to the various parts of the sermon.
    - c. Give preeminence to the main ideas and less consideration to the subordinate ideas.
  4. **An Interesting Style.** This means that the preacher communicates the message in an interesting way to the hearers. It is possible to have an understanding, energetic, and economic style, and still be dull. How can you achieve an interesting style?
    - a. Use relevant material.
    - b. Use unique approaches.
    - c. Use illustrative material.
    - d. Use variety in the subject, organization, and form of the sermons.
    - e. Use of humor.
    - f. Rick Warren points out the significance of the Reticular Activation System. Our brain has a means of filtering out unwanted information. Some things simply do not get our attention. What does get our attention? (1) Things we value-This is our way of sharing the good news. (2) Things that are unusual. Beware of trying to make every sermon or service more unusual than the last. (3) Things that threaten us.
  5. **An Imaginative Style.** This means that the preacher involves the use of imagination to engage the hearers. Henry Ward Beecher ranked imagination as the most important of all elements that go to make a preacher. How can you achieve an imaginative style?
    - a. Spend time in meditation.
    - b. Project-put yourself in the shoes of others
    - c. Be adventuresome. Use some responsible creativity.
  6. **A Subtle Style.** This means that the preacher leaves something for the audience to pick up. He does not always overstate the case. How can you achieve a subtle style?
    - a. Put together the facts artistically and with restraint so the listeners get the ideas without rejecting them.
    - b. Do not overdraw the conclusions.
- B. **Refine Your Preaching Style.** A Summary of Contemporary Styles. These characterizations were developed by Dave Stone and Matt Proctor and are found in Refining Your Style by Dave Stone (12-13).
1. Creative storyteller. This person speaks to help people visualize something. The target is the listener's imagination.
  2. Direct spokesperson. This person speaks to help people decide something. The target is the listener's will.
  3. Scholarly analytic. This person speaks to help people understand something. The target is the listener's logic.
  4. Revolutionary leader. This person speaks to help people ignite something. The target is the listener's passion.
  5. Engaging humorist. This person speaks to help people enjoy something. The target

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- is the listener's funny bone.
6. Convincing apologist. This person speaks to help people believe something. The target is the listener's world view.
  7. Inspiring orator. This person speaks to help people feel something. The target is the listener's emotions.
  8. Practical applicator. This person speaks to help people implement something. The target is the listener's habits.
  9. Persuasive motivator. This person speaks to help people transform something. The target is the listener's attitude.
  10. Passionate teacher. This person speaks to help people learn something. The target is the listener's mind.
  11. Relevant illustrator. This person speaks to help people connect with something. The target is the listener's common sense.
  12. Cultural prophet. This person speaks to help people confront something. The target is the listener's conscience.
  13. Unorthodox artist. This person speaks to help people experience something. The target is the listener's senses.

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## Sample Sermon Preparation

**Page Date:** (When will the sermon be preached?)

**Text:** (What is the Biblical basis for the sermon?)

**Title:** (What appropriate and interesting name can be given to the sermon?)

**Essence of the Text a Sentence:** (What is this text about?)

**Essence of the Sermon in a Sentence:** (What is the sermon, based on the text, about?)

**Objective of the Sermon in a Sentence:** (What do I want the hearers to do?)

**Probing Question:** (Which question will I use to develop the outline or points for this sermon? What? Why? How? Who? Which? When? or Where?)

**Unifying Word:** (Which word will unify the major divisions or points of the outline? See pp. 35- 36 for a list.)

**Introduction:** (What information will I use to gain the interest of the hearers and introduce the sermon idea as skillfully and quickly as possible?)

**Major Division One:** (What will be the first major division or point of the sermon?)

**Expansion of Division One:** (How will I expand or add substance to this point?)

**Major Division Two:** (What will be the next major division or point of the sermon?)

**Expansion of Division Two:** (How will I expand or add substance to this point?)

**Major Division Three:** (What will be the next major division or point of the sermon?)

**Expansion of Division Three:** (How will I expand or add substance to this point?)

**Conclusion:** (What information will I use to bring the sermon to an appropriate end and exhort the people to respond according to the objective of the sermon?)

**Illustrations:** (What illustrations are needed to help the people see the truths in action?)

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## Example for Proclaiming the Gospel

**Text: Psalm 51**

**Title: "What should you do when you've lost your joy because of sin?"**

**ETS: David sought to be restored to God.**

**ESS: We should seek restoration with God when we've sinned.**

**OSS: I want the hearers to seek restoration with God**

**Probing Question: How do we seek restoration?**

**Unifying Word: Let us examine the actions we need to take for restoration with God.**

**Introduction:** The greatest joy in life is that joy which is experienced by a believer who is in a right relationship with God. Jesus described it as having a river of living water flowing right out of you (Jn. 8:38-39). But what do you do when you have lost the joy because of sin? Perhaps like no other person in the Old Testament, David knew both the joy of the Lord and the joylessness which comes from sin. David expressed his joy with enthusiastic singing and exuberant dancing before the Lord. But when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and conspired to have Uriah killed he began to suffer the consequences of sin.

What did David do? What are we to do when we have lost our fellowship with God and our joy? Psalm 51 tells what David did and provides a model for us when we are seeking restoration. What actions do we need to take in seeking restoration with God?

- I. **The first action is to acknowledge to God our need for His mercy (51:1).**
  - A. David prayed for God to have "mercy" or compassion on him.
  - B. David prayed that God would have mercy according to his loving-kindness.
  - C. David prayed that God would blot out his transgressions according to the multitude of His "tender mercies".
- II. **The second action is to admit to God our sin (51:1-6).**
  - A. David admitted his sin by facing up to the nature of his wrong (51:1-4). David used three significant words to describe his wrong.
    1. He admitted his "transgressions," which means rebellion.
    2. He admitted his "iniquity," which means the twisting of moral standards.
    3. He admitted his "sin," which means to miss the mark of God's standard.
  - B. David admitted his sin by taking responsibility for his sin (51:3-4).
    1. He did not blame others, the environment, or his human nature.
    2. He did take responsibility by acknowledging his transgression.
- III. **The third action is to ask God for cleansing (51:1, 2, 7, 9, 10).**
  - A. David asked God to "blot out" his transgressions, like erasing a scroll containing a record of wrongs (51:1, 9).
  - B. David asked God to "wash" him throughly from his iniquity, like going to the river and washing the dirt out of filthy clothes (51:2, 7).
  - C. He asked God to "cleanse" him from his sin (51:2) and to create in him a "clean" heart (51:10).
  - D. He asked God to "purge" him with hyssop, like a priest would use hyssop in a ceremonial cleansing (51:7).
- IV. **The fourth action is to appeal to God for renewal (51:8-15).** David asked God to fix the things that were broken because of his sin.
  - A. David prayed for God to bring back his joy (51:8, 12).
  - B. David prayed for God to hide his face from his sins (51:9).
  - C. David prayed for God not to cast him away (51:11).
  - D. David prayed for God not to take away His spirit (51:11).
  - E. David prayed for God to uphold him with a willing spirit (51:12).
  - F. David prayed for God to deliver him from blood guiltiness (51:14).
  - G. David prayed for God to open his lips so he could sing God's praise (51:15).

**Conclusion:** When we sin, our fellowship with God is broken and our joy departs. Have you lost the joy of the Lord because of sin? Like David you can begin right now to take responsibility for your sin and to ask for God's mercy, cleansing, and restoration.