

LESSONS LEARNED

Dr. Al Fasol (SWBTS): "Tell me your last 3 sermons and I will tell you your top 3 personal problems!" 🙏

Risk Factor "Self": "most of our theology is biography", but Bible > biography 📖

Title: "You can't have your Katie and Edith too!"
One-word-titles | memorable | short & edited!

Introduction: appropriate attention-getters - teenager in back looking up?!
"Wedding naked?!" | "Rumors are true..." ("I, King David") | honest personal stories & experiences 🗣️

Intentionality: Matthew: 5 sermons (5-7; 10; 13; 18; 24-25) = Pentateuch emulation? Parables: judgment narratives! Acts: sermons! Book of Hebrews?!

Impact: Action in Acts: Preaching · Planting · Persecution · → Growth!

Grow: Are you preaching the same thing, the same way every week? Psalm 23: break-through preaching because note-free; try something new! Break out of your rut. New method - surprise the saints! 📈

Comfort Zone: assigned text (example Hosea 3; German camp meeting: Revelation 14)

Conclusion: Know when/how to land the plane! ✈️

Powerpoint: Can you preach without?

Pre-Preach Preparation: Prepare the preacher, not just the sermon! Heart · Head · Hand.

Global & Final: Preaching is an Endtime Essential! (Eph 4:7-16; Rev 14:6-7) 🕒

A Word on AI . . . 🚫

Do NOT use AI sermons!

You must climb the mountain yourself.

"We don't have time for short-cuts!" (Mountain Climbers)

The Process shapes the Product and the Preacher!



CHECKLIST

CONTENT

1-10

Introduction: attention, first impression —

Clarity: outline, transitions, progression —

Focus: What was the point of the sermon? —

Bible: focus on text, use of text —

Gospel: Christ-centered? Good News? —

SDA: prophetic? Use of Ellen White? —

Illustrations: quality - quantity —

Application: clear - practical - relevant —

Audience: demographics —

Conclusion: effective appeal? Now what?! —

DELIVERY

Use of Notes: preparation - eye contact —

Use of Tech: quality - quantity —

Voice: volume - speed - pitch —

Demeanor: body language - mannerisms —

Dress: appropriate - professional —

Length: too long - too short? flexible? —

NOTES

PREACH THE WORD!



SERMON TIPS

QUOTES

AA 244 "In preaching the gospel in Corinth, the apostle followed a course different from that which had marked his labors at Athens. While in the latter place, he had sought to adapt his style to the character of his audience; he had met logic with logic, science with science, philosophy with philosophy. As he thought of the time thus spent, and realized that his teaching in Athens had been productive of but little fruit, he decided to follow another plan of labor in Corinth in his efforts to arrest the attention of the careless and the indifferent. **He determined to avoid elaborate arguments and discussions, and "not to know anything" among the Corinthians "save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified."** He would preach to them "not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power." 1 Corinthians 2:2, 4.

MH 352 "Far more powerful than any sermon that can be preached is the influence of a true home upon human hearts and lives."

CS 29 "The most difficult sermon to preach and the hardest to practice is self-denial."

DA 245 "Jesus in His sermon by the sea had other audiences before His mind."

Ev 174ff. "It is harder to reach the hearts of men today than it was twenty years ago. The most convincing arguments may be presented, and yet sinners seem as far from salvation as ever."

Ev 178.4 "Ministers should not preach sermon after sermon on doctrinal subjects alone. Practical Godliness should find a place in every discourse."

Ms61-1901.11 "In the advocacy of the cause of temperance, our efforts are to be multiplied. **The subject of Christian temperance should find a place in our sermons in every city where we labor.** Health reform in all its bearings is to be presented before the people, and special efforts made to instruct the youth, the middle aged, and the aged in the principles of Christian living. Let this phase of the message be revived, and let the truth go forth as a lamp that burneth."

TO EQUIP

"PREACH THE WORD"

Concept:

κηρύσσω *kērussō*: officially proclaim as a herald!
εὐαγγελίζομαι *euaggelizomai*: proclaim good news!

Appeal:

Ethos 🖐️ · Pathos 💖 · Logos 🧠 | Truth · Goodness · Beauty (Luke 2!)

Progression:

Narrative Loop 🔄 Beginning ➞ · Crisis 📉 · Resolution 📈 ("new normal")

PRINCIPLES & PRACTICE

WHY: "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom 10:17).

"But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones" (Jer 20:9)

WHAT: Create, don't copy. "Preach the Word!" (2 Tim 4:2). "Bring the scrolls!" (2 Tim 4:13). "Put Christ into every sermon" (1SM 158).

👉 "there should not a sermon be given unless a portion of that discourse is to especially make plain the way that sinners may come to Christ and be saved." → Children! (GW 405)

HOW: Two types of Bible study = two types of sermons: ↔ ↑ | shallow vs depth

Process: eliminate distractions; develop discipline and focus; work on sermon without multitasking

Plan(t): Start a long-term sermon greenhouse by studying the Bible without an immediate product in mind: Prepare before you have to. Growth takes time. *What you sow will grow; what you plant will produce!*

Priority: Topical (typical!) > textual preaching: verse by verse, chapter by chapter

Pattern: "The outline of the text is the outline of the sermon" (Karl Barth) - *lead from the text to the text*

Principle: perspiration catalyzes inspiration

"Study yourself to death and pray yourself to life!"

WHO: "Speaker > Sermon! "One beggar telling another beggar where to find bread" ... "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, **because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor;** he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Lk 4:18-19).

WHEN: "in season, out of season" (2 Tim 4:2).

"Our people should not be made to think that they need to listen to a sermon every Sabbath" (Ev 384).

WHERE: "stand in the sacred desk" (*Signs* July 28, 1887). Face to face: situational dynamic and realtime relation.

AA 363 "A pastor should mingle freely with the people for whom he labors, that by becoming acquainted with them he may know how to adapt his teaching to their needs. **When a minister has preached a sermon, his work has but just begun.** There is personal work for him to do. He should visit the people in their homes, talking and praying with them in earnestness and humility. There are families who will never be reached by the truths of God's word unless the stewards of His grace enter their homes and point them to the higher way. But the hearts of those who do this work must throb in unison with the heart of Christ."

How much are you putting into your sermons?!