



Advanced Ministry Class

Lesson 12

Practical Studies About the Ministry

2 Timothy 2:2

*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses,
the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach
others also.*

Practical Things:

- **Sermon Preparation**

- ✓ The Man

- ✓ The Message



2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Some have compared sermon preparation to the game of baseball.

Like the four bases in baseball, preparing the message involves four steps:

(1)Choosing the text;

(2)Studying the text;

(3)Personalizing the text; and

(4)Preparing the message.

These steps must be done in order.

You cannot skip first base and go directly to third.

First Base: Choosing The Text From The Bible

Each sermon begins with a Biblical base. God speaks through His word. Without the Bible, you are only making a speech.

You are not preaching unless you are preaching the Bible.

Second Base: Study the Passage

"Study...rightly dividing the Word of God. 2 Timothy 2:15

Dig until you uncover the central truth, the "Big Idea."

Ask the questions: "What is it talking about?" "What is it saying about what it is talking about?" Know the context. Learn the meaning of key words. Use all the tools, commentaries, dictionaries, word studies, grammars, lexicons, etc.

Third Base: Pray It Alive In You

As you have studied, you have been handling the Word of God, alive and energized by the Spirit of God. It is not necessary for you to breathe into your creation of bones and flesh for it to come alive.

It is alive!

Make sure it comes alive in you!

Pray! Pray! Pray!

Taking It Home - Delivery

Voice

Spurgeon told his students that to get attention to their preaching they should:

Say something worth hearing,

Clearly arranged, Spoken plainly.

There are two rules for the use of the voice in preaching:

One: Don't think too **much** about it. You are not a singer. Your voice is not a performing instrument.

Two: Don't think too **little** of your voice. It is a sin to make the word of God boring.

Humor

One preacher observed, "\$20,000 comedians are out of work, and every preacher tries to be funny!" It's ok to be funny if you keep it under control.

Style

New Ways to Say Old Truth

How you say it is very important. We must not change the Biblical message but we must say the grand old truths so they will be remembered.

Be clear. Be easily understood. Speak at a fifth-grade level. Make sure your sentences do not contain too many words. Your words should not contain too many syllables. Paragraphs should not have too many sentences.

Be vivid. Omit weak adjectives, use similes and metaphors and words with colorful connotative meanings. Examples: Instead of merely saying, "*Joseph was handsome,*" you could call him "*a Hebrew Robert Redford.*" The hammer that drove the nails into Christ's hands could be called "*a heartless hammer.*" "*Potiphar's wife had a lustful eye.*"

Be forceful. Repetition of grammatical structure is one way. I used this in a sermon called, "*It's A Little Ways Over But A Long Way Back.*" In that sermon I used the same phrase repeatedly for verbal effect.

Style

Say It With Love

The most effective preaching style is achieved by loving Him with all your heart. You may speak hard words but they must be words seasoned with grace.

Remember our Biblical example of the message of God:

For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

1 Thess. 2:5-8

Preaching by definition must call a person to a decision.

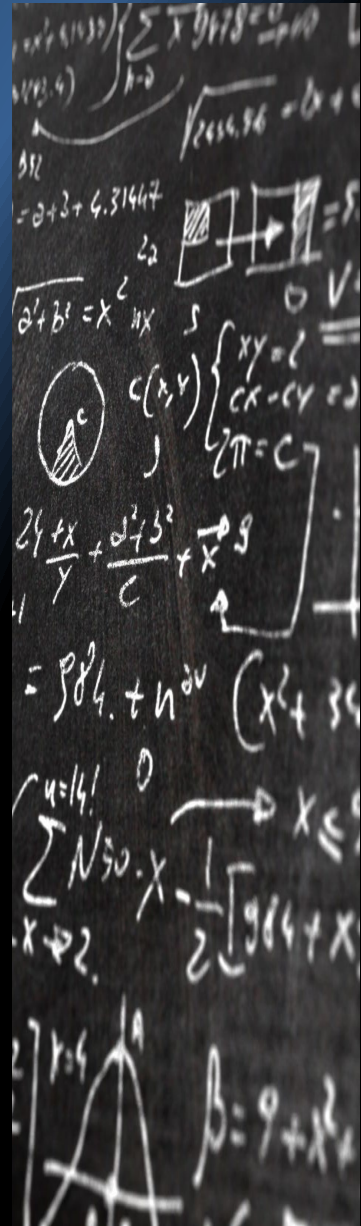
It is by its very nature confrontational and personal.

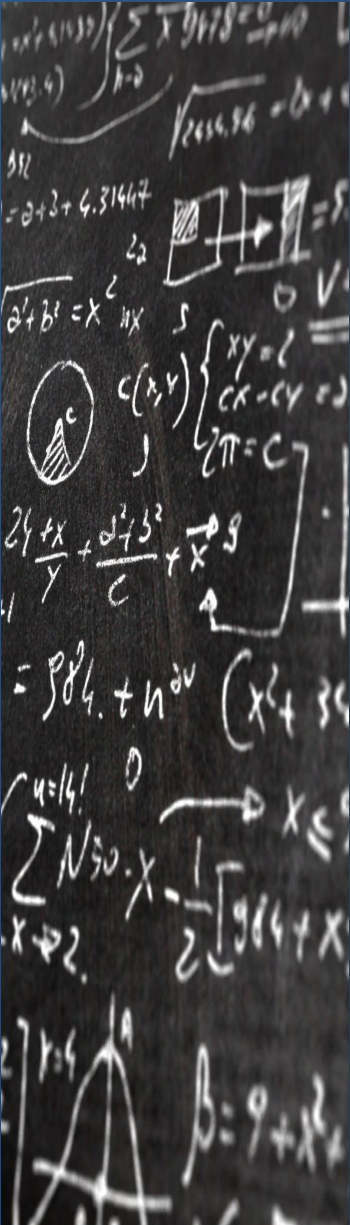
Teaching could be satisfied with imparting truth, but preaching challenges the listener to apply the truth in their daily life.”

-Dr. R. B. Ouellette

Preparing The Message

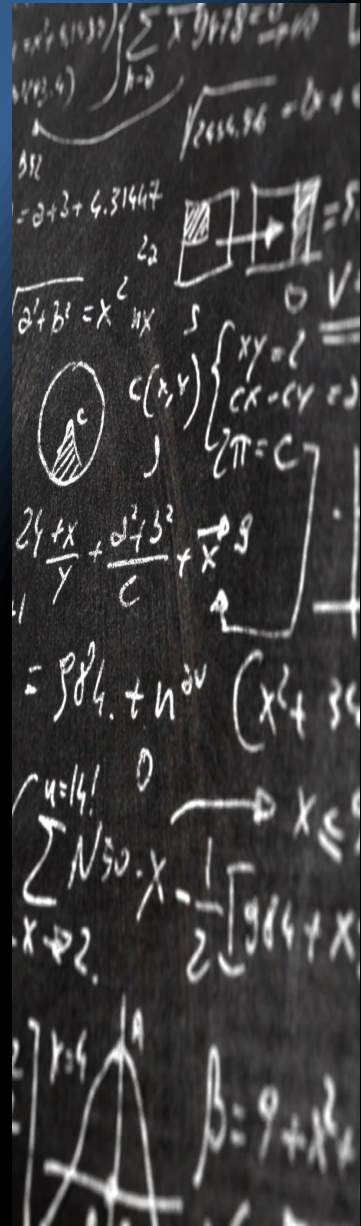
Terms & Definitions



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- **Homiletics** ... “*the study of preparing and preaching sermons*”
 - **Hermeneutics**... “*the science of interpreting the scriptures*”
 - **Exegesis** ... “*the explanation or interpretation of texts*”

Preparing The Message

- **Exposition**... “*exposition* is related to the word *expose*—the goal is to *expose the meaning of the Bible, verse by verse*”
- **Textual** ... The sermon takes its cue from *the biblical text*
- **Topical**... preaching that deals with a certain *topic*



- **Pulpit** ... “*raised platform from which preaching is done*” .



- **Preaching**... “*the communication of God by man to men*”

- **Introduction / Text / Theme / Body / Conclusion**

Nehemiah 8:4-6

And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood... And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up: And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with *their faces to the ground.*

*“Sermons can be
given from notes,
but a
Message is from
God”*

THE LUCKIEST PERSON ON EARTH

Pastor Nelson Price received a call from “Pistol Pete” Maravich, one of basketball’s greatest.

“Pastor, do you baptize people?” “Yes, I’ve been known to do that.” “I mean, do you put them all the way under?” “Yes, that’s the way to do it,” replied the pastor. “Would you baptize me?”

The pastor answered, “Come see me and let’s talk about it.” When the basketball legend walked into the pastor’s study, he saw an open Bible and other books on the desk. Floor to ceiling shelves were packed with books about the Bible.

Maravich asked, “Is this what you do – study the Bible and teach others?” “Yes,” said the preacher. “That’s the most important thing I do.” The young millionaire basketball star said with unmistakable conviction, “You are the luckiest man on earth!”

End of Lesson 12

Important Terms To Know

- **Homiletics** ... “the art and science of preparing and preaching sermons”
- **Hermeneutics**... “the art and science of interpreting the Scriptures”
- **Exegesis** ... “the explanation or interpretation of texts”
- **Exposition**... “the presentation of biblical truth as a finished product”
- **Pulpit** ... “raised platform from which preaching is done”
- **Preaching**... “the communication of God by man to men”
- **Textual** ... The sermon takes its cue from the biblical text
- **Topical** ... topical preaching deals with a particular issue or topic

Sermon vs. Message ...

“Sermons can be given from notes but a Message is from God”