

From My Bible

Sermon Notes
& Outlines

How To...

by
Terry D. Sellars
Pastor

Faith Baptist Church
Ludowici, Georgia

Introduction

These messages are compiled from study notes and outlines of my own and many others. I hope they are a help to you.

I'm sure that all of us have at times "borrowed" or "used" a sermon we heard or read somewhere along the way. A thought, a word, or an idea jumped out to us from another preacher and we took that thing and ran with it. You have probably used an outline from a preacher brother but ended up preaching something that was uniquely different. Same idea, it just came out differently when you preached. Using your own thoughts, experiences, and illustrations.....the message became your own.

I heard an old-time preacher once say, "*Any message worth preaching ought to be worth preaching again!*" Well, I have certainly preached some sermons again and again. I have borrowed from others to preach theirs again too. Please use these messages as the Lord leads and preach His Word over and over again!

I make no claim of complete originality for this material. Also, please remember that these messages are not expected to substitute for your own personal study of the Word of God! The thoughts and ideas are given as a catalyst to help begin your ideas on a given passage of Scripture or trigger a seed thought to get you going. It is my prayer that the "stuff" contained here will further kindle the fire of God's message that is already in your heart. Your own thinking, praying, and studying will be necessary to guide you into the delivery of His Word to your own people.

May these sermons become *messages* from the Lord that He uses in your own life as He has used them in mine.

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How To Series

Introduction: Our day is one of information, data, facts and figures. Everywhere you turn someone has a new idea or a new formula to do the work of the ministry. "How to" plans and schemes are a dime a dozen it seems. This series explores a few ideas but we must always remember that the best of our plans are hollow without the help and aid of the Holy Spirit of God.

How To Behave As A Christian

I Tim. 3:15 Behave - act / conduct ourselves / function

1-Behave Responsibly

Purpose / Principle / Productivity

2-Behave Responsively

Attentive / Active

How To Back The Church

1-The Importance of the Church - Died for when Jesus died / He is returning for His Church

2-The Institution of the Church – Instituted & established by the Lord Himself

3-The Influence of the Church – It should influence our lives personally, our communities socially, and our nation prayerfully

4-The Individuals in the Church – Combination of lost & saved, even though all should be saved and all should be working toward the same goal of honoring the Lord with all we have and with all we do.

The Church The Flock of God

- Thought (of)
- Sought (out)
- Bought (from)
- Caught (up)

Back Your Church Far too many are busy doing things that “kill the church”

- Attendance - everyone is not talented, but everyone can be **faithful**
- Appropriation - give Tithes & Offerings
- Assimilation - take in the Word and grow in grace
- Anticipation - Looking for a blessing every time you come
- Acceptance - Duties / jobs / etc.

How To Battle The Conflict

- Enemies of the believer World / Flesh / Devil
 - ✓ Battles Outside
 - ✓ Battles Inside
 - ✓ Battles Alongside

How To Build Character

- Willingness Heart / Mind / Body
- Work “How to rear a Bum”
- Walking Before / With / After....God
- Waiting Isa. 40:31
- Washing I John 1:7 / Eph. 5:25, 26

How To Be Holy

Text - I Peter 1: 15, 16

Introduction: I Peter 1: 15, 16 - “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

God wants to reveal Himself TO us. He does so through Creation / Scripture / Christ / etc.

God also wants to reveal Himself THROUGH us. He does this through holiness. To be holy is to be separated and consecrated. It involves being “godly” in our attitudes and actions.

Present Yourself To God

Rom. 12: 1, 2 - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, **holy**, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Protect Yourself For God

- DO'S and DON'TS

Most problems take place when considering questionable practices. Some Bible principles may be useful here.

- **The World Test**
Will it make me worldly to do it? I John 2: 15 - 17
- **The Quality Test**
Is it good for me physically, emotionally, and spiritually?
- **The Temple Test**
Will this misuse the Lord's Temple?
- **The Glory Test**
Can I do this to God's glory?
- **The Blessing Test**
Can I honestly ask God's blessing on this?
- **The Reputation Test**
Will this damage my reputation and testimony?
- **The Consideration Test**
Am I being considerate of others if I do this?
- **The Appearance Test**
Will this have the appearance of evil?
- **The Weight Test**
Will this hinder my walk for Christ?
- **The Coming Test**
Would I want to be doing this at Christ's coming?
- **The Companion Test**
Would I take Jesus as my companion to do this?
- **The Peace Test**
Do I have peace about this after praying about it?

How to Follow Jesus

Text: Matt. 9:9

I. Follow Immediately - (Matt. 9:9) (without delay).

Obedience should not be delayed. Have an instant response to the Lord.

II. Follow Closely - (I Pet. 2:21).

Peter followed too far behind the Lord.

III. Follow Fully - (I Tim. 4:6).

No half-hearted following will do.

IV. Follow in Company - (Mk. 14:51).

We are to have spiritual companions in our labor for God.

V. Follow Intently - (Lk.9:23).

Follow the Lord with your whole spirit (Lk.23:55).

How To Pray Like Jesus

Matt. 26:36

I. Pray By Yourself "And again he went away, and prayed . . ." (Mark 14:39, Luke 22:41; Matt. 26:39).

Jesus prayed alone when He was facing the most critical time of His life. It is good to pray with others, but there are times when we should be alone with God in the prayer closet (Matt. 6:6).

II. Pray With Humility "He . . . kneeled down, and prayed" (Luke 22:41; Mark 14:35, Matt. 26:39).

Jesus was humble, His life, His birth, and death on the cross exemplify this. We must humble ourselves before God as we pray (I Peter 5:5-6).

III. Pray Earnestly "And being in agony he prayed more earnestly" (Luke 22:44).

Jesus was experiencing the greatest struggle of His life. In times of trouble and trial, every Christian must pray more earnestly.

IV. Pray Persistently "And again he went away, and prayed . . ." (Mark 14:39).

Jesus kept praying until He was assured of victory. We must take our burdens to Him until certain He has heard.

V. Pray With Surrender "O my Father . . . thy will be done" (Matt. 26:42; Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42).

Jesus resigned Himself to the Father's will.

How To Under Things

Introduction: We hear all the time about getting "over" a thing, but what about "undering" something. We preachers are always making up our own words anyway, why not this one as well.

The Bible uses a few words with "under" attached....

1-UNDERSTAND

(Gen 11:7) Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not **understand** one another's speech.

The *Institute for Creation Research* had this to say on vs.7:

****confound their language.*** In some inexplicable manner, God altered the brain/nerve/speech apparatus of the Babylonian rebels to give each family unit (possibly the seventy families of Genesis 10) its own distinctive vocabulary/phonology complex. With all this, however, they all remained truly human, unchanged in basic thought processes or moral character. Further, their distinctive languages were still sufficiently alike that they could, with time and much effort, learn to speak each other's languages. For some time to come, however, they could no longer communicate and, therefore, they could no longer cooperate. They were thus forced to obey God's earlier command to scatter abroad and to fill the earth with different nations and governmental units..

(Micah 4:12) But they know not the thoughts of the

LORD, neither **understand** they his counsel: for he shall gather them as the sheaves into the floor.

(Mat 13:13) Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they **understand**.

(2 Pet 2:12) But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they **understand** not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

2-UNDERNEATH

(Deut. 33:27) The eternal God is thy refuge, and **underneath** are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

3-UNDERGIRD

(Acts 27:17) Which when they had taken up, they used helps, **undergirding** the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, struck sail, and so were driven.

4-UNDERTAKE

Isa 38:14 Like a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did mourn as a dove: mine eyes fail with looking upward: O LORD, I am oppressed; **undertake** for me.

How to Be a Godly Dad

Text - Philippians 2: 20-30

Introduction: Some 20 years ago I ran across a poem from Dr. Curtis Hutson that reads as follows:

Dad, Dad, Dad, the dear old worthless geezer:
The fusses I have had with that old patient teaser;
He has the spirit of a mouse; most anyone can down him;
We let him hang around the house,
It's cheaper than to drown him.

I guess that's the way some view Dad.

Another view is seen in the conversation between three boys arguing over whose Dad was the greatest:

- The first boy said, "My Dad is the greatest, he knows the Mayor."
- The second boy responded, "No, my Dad is the greatest, he knows the Governor."
- The last boy spoke up and said, "Well, all I have to say is that I think my Dad is the greatest because he knows God!"

Let's look at how to be a godly dad. One that is remembered for more than just being available with a roll of duct tape when something needs fixed. Let's look in Philippians 2 where Paul tells us about Timothy and Epaphroditus, two unique men who followed God's commands for being a godly man that will help us in our pursuit to be good fathers. So let's notice five characteristics of God's ideal man.

1. COMPASSION:

Men Who Put Relationships Before Results
Philippians 2:20-21

2. CONSISTENCY:

Men Who Put Character Before Conformity
Philippians 2:22; Proverbs 10:9

3. COOPERATION:

Men Who Put Cooperation Before Competition
Philippians 2:25

4. COMMITMENT:

Men Who Put Christ Before Comfort
Philippians 2:25-27

5. COURAGE:

Men Who Put Service Before Security
Philippians 2:29-30; Mark 8:35

How to Help Your Preacher

Text - Romans 10:14-15

Introduction: Are you in the routine of griping about your preacher? Here's some suggestions on how to get rid of that criticism.

Pray For Him As He Prepares His Messages

Ask God to guide him in the selection of his messages, in the development of his themes, and in the application of his topics. Pray that he may be given fresh insights into the meaning of God's Word. Pray, too, that he may be able to discipline his mind in the study of the Bible and of other helpful books. Pray for your pastor both at home and in church prayer meetings.

Show A Greater Concern In What He Preaches

Take notes of his messages, turn the pages and follow him in your Bible as he refers to various passages of God's Word. Also, express appreciation for any help you received from his messages. Go back over the notes, deliberately recalling the main emphases of his message.

Suggest Some Topics You Are Interested In

Suggest, don't tell. No preacher worth his salt wants to or will allow someone to TELL him what to preach. The only committee he needs to hear from in this area is the three-member board of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

These suggestions can consist of subjects or books of the Bible. Most preachers welcome suggestions of that nature. Ultimately the preacher must decide what he should preach,

but ideas from his congregation will be of definite help in guiding his selection.

Allow Him Adequate Time For Prayer And Study

While he should not be shut up in his study all week, neither should he be “on the go” all the time either. No man, unless he is a genius, can enter the pulpit on Sunday morning and feed God’s sheep after a week away from his study. Use your influence to see that he gets more help, thus enabling him to prepare your Sunday “meals.”

Make Sure He Has Adequate Tools For Study

Provide not only time for study but tools as well. In our day a good computer with Bible software would help. Allow him some funds designated for buying good books especially when he goes away for a conference. This is one way to give him the opportunity to read good books on those subjects basic to his preaching ministry.

Stay Aware Of Other Ways To Encouraging Him

You do not need to idolize or worship him, but you should encourage him by your help and support.

How To Be Close To The Lord

Text - James 4:5-10

Introduction: In our text, James mentions how essential it is to be close to the Lord. After talking of a person being an enemy of God, he now talks of being close to God. After talking of being a friend of the world, he talks of being a friend of God.

Wouldn't we all like to be in close contact with the Lord? Do you want to be close to Him? When we think about being close to God, verses 5-10 can really help.

1. THE CONTROL GOD DESIRES - vs. 5-6

We read in verse 5, “*Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?*” This reminds us of the desire within us to want to do things our own way. It is the desire we have for the things of the flesh and the world. Opposite that desire is the desire of God. The word “lusteth” in verse 5 speaks of a great longing that the Holy Spirit places within us.

This is describing the fact that God has an intense desire for us to be close to Him. This means being controlled by Him. This control is designed and desired by God. There are no easy solutions to being close to God but it all begins with His being in charge of our life.

2. THE COMMITMENT GOD DESERVES - vs. 7

Because God so fervently longs for the control of our life, then He deserves it. His desire should be honored with our commitment. We read in vs. 7, “*Submit yourselves therefore to God.*” James is saying that since God desires

to control our life, we should therefore submit, voluntarily and freely, to God.

The word “submit” means to “take rank under.” This is a military term reminding us that God is the general and we are the privates. We are to submit to His orders and commands. Our submission and our efforts to be close to God only reveal our commitment.

3. THE CLEANSING GOD DEMANDS - vs.8-9

If we are to be close to God, sin must never be taken carelessly. We can never tolerate it in our life. In verses 8-9, James tells us how we must take care of our sin.

We read in verse 8, “*Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded.*” There is to be a cleansing of our *hands* and a purifying of our *hearts*. In his *English Annotations on the Holy Bible*, Matthew Poole (1685) wrote:

Cleanse your hands; reform your actions, amend your lives. Hands, the principal instruments of bodily actions, being put for the actions themselves; cleanness of hands signifies the innocency of the outward conversation, Job 22:30; Ps 24:4; 26:6; Isa 33:15-16.

The word was used to describe the ceremonial cleansing of the priests in the Old Testament. Before they offered sacrifices they washed their hands. The washing of the hands was a symbolic act of being cleansed of any sinful.

But there is also the matter of a divided heart. James tells us to purify your hearts, ye double-minded. The word “double-minded” is found only two places in the Bible and

both are in James (1:8, 4:8). The word means a person with divided affections. It is like a person trying to hold on to the world with one hand and the things of God with the other.

The word “purify” is essentially the same as, “to sanctify.” Instead of having a divided heart, we are to separate our heart from the world and separate it totally to God.

Notice verse 9, *“Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.”* In these words we see a description of someone deeply stirred and motivated about sin in their own life.

When we sin we should come to God with a broken and sorrowful heart that we have sinned. It seems today that sin no longer bothers us. That is more an indication of how far we have gotten from the Lord. I have found that the closer you get to God, the more sin will bother you. We must deal with sin thoroughly and thoughtfully. James wraps it all up in verse 10, *“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”*

We can live a low life or a lofty life. It all depends on whether we are close to the Lord. How about it? How and where are you living?

How To Be Thankful

Text - Psalms 100:4-5

Introduction: In our text, Ps. 100:4-5 says, “*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.*” We live in such a thankless age. How significant it is that we return to an attitude of thankfulness, especially to the Lord for all the benefits He has given.

Thanksgiving and praise go together. We praise the Lord for the good things He has given unto us through His saving grace, then we thank Him. The Psalmist in verse 5 gives us three basic reasons why we should be thankful during this time and any other time of the year.

I. Be Thankful - The Lord is Good (v.5a)

Goodness is one of the attributes of God. It has reference to His kindness; favor shown; acts of benevolence, and compassion. How good God was when He made it possible for Israel to be redeemed out of Egyptian bondage. On the other hand, God was good to save our unworthy souls.

The Pulpit Commentary offers the following:

1. The goodness of God ought to be one of the strongest barriers that can be raised up against sin.
2. The goodness of God should 'lead us to repentance.'
3. The goodness of God should lead us to do good to others.
4. The goodness of God to us in this world should inspire us with confidence in his goodness to us in the world to come.

II. Be Thankful - His Mercy Is Everlasting (v.5)

The basic meaning of mercy is God *holding back* what we really deserve. We all deserve Hell, but if we are believers, we don't have to go because God has saved, secured and sealed us. First, His mercy is as everlasting as He is (Gen. 21:33). God will not decrease, diminish or decay. So His mercy toward believers will never fail. His mercy is as unailing as He is (Isa. 49:7).

III. Be Thankful - His Truth Endures (5)

God's Word, His truth, is both final and authoritative. It endures in its *accuracy*. I believe God has preserved His Word in our King James Bible (1611). It is translated from the most accurate of the Greek and Hebrew manuscripts - the Antioch family of manuscripts. It is accurate historically, scientifically, and survives today with error or contradiction.

It endures in its *effectiveness*. No wonder Paul the Apostle told us to "preach the Word" (2 Tim. 4:2). The Word of God can effectually work in the lives of people.

It endures in its *trustworthiness* for God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). Albert Barnes notes include this insight: *And his truth endureth to all generations* - Margin, as in Hebrew, "*to generation and generation.*" That is, forever. It is the same in every generation of the world.

Conclusion: What is the level of thankfulness in your life today? Again, we live in a thankless age. How important it is that we return to an attitude of genuine thankfulness, especially to the Lord for all the benefits He has given

How To Spot The Devil

Text - John 8:44

Introduction: So many people today have mistakenly identified our arch-enemy Satan. Some have pictured him as having a pitch fork, a pointed tail, and a very evil look. In all reality he was one of the most powerful of God's angelic creatures (Isa.14; Ezek. 28). The Bible helps us to clearly recognize him by what he is called in its pages.

I. He Is A Liar (John 8:44).

He lies about anything and everything. He lies to men about God and also lies about God to men. Then he lies to men about God's love, goodness, and grace. Jesus clearly called Satan a liar- Christ is never wrong!

II. He Is A Murderer (John 8:44).

The word "murderer" is a man-slayer or a killer. Satan is out to kill you by deceiving you, so that you will have to face the second death (Rev. 20:14). He also seeks to kill your good name (Prov. 22:1). Satan knows not of mercy, It is God who shows mercy to the sinner, and saves (Ps. 31:9).

III. He Is An Accuser (Rev. 12:10).

An "accuser" is one who blames another or charges another with a crime. He accuses the saints of God of hypocrisy, insincerity, and of wrong motives. You can read Job 1:9-11; Job 2:4-5; Zech. 3:1-2; and 1 Chron. 2:11). When one is accused of insincerity in regard to God's people, God's men, or God's church, you can be sure the Devil is involved somehow.

IV. He Is A Serpent (Rev. 12:9).

In Rev. 12:9 he is called—"that old serpent." In Gen. 3, the devil came in the form of a "serpent." With the forked tongue, there is something evil looking about a snake. All Satan plans and does is evil, because there is nothing holy about him.

V. He Is The Evil One (Matt. 13:19).

According to Matt. 13:19, Satan is seen doing the worst of all evils—that being, seeking to steal the Word of God from one's heart. I can think of nothing more dangerous and deadly than stealing the Word of God from a heart!

VI. He Is An Enemy (Matt. 13:39).

Jesus clearly says Satan is our enemy. An enemy is one who hates, is hostile, or wants to do you harm. Satan wants everyone to go to hell with him; he cares about no one.