

SESSION 4

FORMING THE STRUCTURE

A sermon consists of a title introduction, body, conclusion, and possibly an invitation. ...The title summarizes and gives direction to the sermon. The introduction should draw attention to the theme or subject of the sermon. The body of the sermon develops and expands the theme or subject of the sermon. -The conclusion summarizes and often applies the sermon to the congregation. The invitation gives opportunity for the congregation to respond to the sermon in an act of commitment.

Preparing the Title

Preparing Titles for the sermon should be developed as soon as possible during the sermon preparation. The title is developed from the subject or theme of the sermon which should already have been suggested by the CIT, Thesis, MOT, and MMOS. The title should be specific and creative

It may emphasize a key word:

Title: The Virtue of Compassion

Text: Job 16:4

I also could speak as you do, if your soul were in my soul's place. I could heap up words against you, and shake my head at you;

Use of an imperative statement:

Title: Keep America Christian!"

Text: Lamentations 5:21

Turn us back to You, O Lord, and we will be restored; renew our days as of old,

An interrogative title

Title: "But When Life Tumbles In, What Then?"

Text: Jeremiah 12:5

"If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, in which you trusted, they wearied you, then how will you do in the flooding of the Jordan?"

A simple declaration:

Title: Problems Are Good For You"

Text: Job 5:7

Yet man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

Narrow or specify the subject

Title: The Answer to a Preplexing Question"

Text: Matt 17:19 "Why could we not cast him out?"

DISCUSSION

Using the Bible Text: James 3 :6

ESSENTIALS OF BIBLICAL PREACHING, *Fasol*

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

Propose some different sermon titles

Preparing the Introduction

A sermon introduction typically has three purposes:

- It introduces the biblical text
- It introduces the theme or subject of the sermon
- It establishes relevant contact with the congregation

Types of introductions:

1. *Textual*- emphasizing the text --Describing its context, historical background, ect.
2. *Illustrative*- One or more illustrations to convey the text and main theme of the sermon.
3. *Title*-- elaborating on the title
4. *Application*-- stating how the text and sermon relate to the congregation
5. *Striking Quotation*-- usually the first sentence of the sermon
6. *Rhetorical Questions*- deepening congregational interest
7. *Object lesson or visual aid*- focusing congregational attention on something tangible

Many preachers prefer to prepare the introduction after the title; body, conclusion and invitation are prepared.

Perhaps, the one time in the entire sermon at which most, if not all, the congregation will be listening attentively is during the opening statement.

DISCUSSION

Using the following text; Jam 1:27

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Propose some different sermon introductions.

Preparing the Body of the Sermon

The sermon outline, although not as popular as it once was, is still a convenient way to prepare the body of a sermon.

ESSENTIALS OF BIBLICAL PREACHING, *Fasol*

An outline gives the sermon a framework. ...Some general rules for sermon outlines:

1. The outline should have a strong, clear relationship to the title (thus the CIT, MOT, etc)
 2. Each major point should discuss only one aspect of the title or theme.
 3. Each major point should be written as a complete sentence
 4. Each major point should be written in the present tense so as to apply to today.
 5. Each major point should be of equal value in the development of the outline.
 6. The points should be organized in whatever order and style (e.g. logical, poetic, etc.) will best communicate the textual interpretation.
 7. The outline should contain specific rather than general wording.
 8. Each major point should have a textual (Scriptural) basis ...A sermon outline with more than four points may be increasingly cumbersome to follow
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DISCUSSION

Using the text, Matt 6:28-33

28. "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;
29. "and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
30. "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?
31. "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'
32. "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
33. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Make an outline of three distinct points.

Preparing the Conclusion

Concluding statements also should always be well prepared.

Conclusions contain one or more of the following elements:

1. Summary or recapitulation. A review of the sermon can be helpful
2. Illustration A practical example
3. Application. A statement of general applicability to show meaning for their lives.

...The conclusion should conclude, it is not a time to introduce new ideas. The conclusion should be personally meaningful. The conclusion should make a transition to the invitation.

DISCUSSION

Using the outline you proposed for Matt 6, now add a conclusion

Preparing the Invitation

ESSENTIALS OF BIBLICAL PREACHING, *Fasol*

An invitation extended at the end of a sermon encourages the listeners to make a positive public response to the sermon.

1. Extend the invitation expectantly. Expect several persons to make a positive response.
 2. Extend the invitation clearly. -Specifically, why, how, and when
 3. Extend the invitation authoritatively. -Without apology
 4. Extend the invitation urgently -Now, not later. ...Emotions are part of the makeup of every human being, so we need not apologize for an honest appeal to them.... sensationalism of the moment should always be avoided in the invitation.
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DISCUSSION

Using the conclusion you prepared, now develop an invitation.

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