

Preaching and Writing

2 Corinthians 4

Purpose

Fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)

Educate people on God's Word (Matthew 28:20)

Promote Christ-likeness in all people (James 1:23-25)

Change character and conduct (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Biblical Sermons

Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-7:29)

Peter (Acts 2:14-36)

Stephen (Acts 7:1-53)

Peter to Cornelius (Acts 10:34-43)

Know the Audience

Gender

Background

Social Standing

Race

Maturity

Denomination

Intelligence

Spirituality

Worship Pref.

Age

Health

Home Life

What do we preach?

Bible (2 Corinthians 4:2b)

Whatever God places on your heart (2 Corinthians 4:5)

Experience (1 Corinthians 2:1-4)

Good or bad!

Daily readings

“If you have nothing to preach, you haven’t read your Bible this week”

Types of Sermons

Expository

Explains a certain text

Liturgical

Explains liturgy (things that happen during service)

Example – sermon about communion, candle-lighting, etc.

Biographical

Follows life of a Bible character

Example – sermon about David’s life

Evangelistic

Seeks to convert congregation

Always leads them to repentance and grace

Hortatory

A return to holy living

Example – Old Testament prophets

Historical

Telling a story in historical perspective instead of Biblical

Example – sermon on Good Samaritan

Redemptive-historical

Bible story in accordance with history of salvation

Example – sermon on how Noah's salvation points to Jesus

Topical

Certain topic or subject

Example – sermon on sin, grieving, joy, etc.

Narrative

Tell story to make a moral point

Example – sermon on Adam and Eve about resisting temptation

Illuminative

Connecting Bible topic to current event or holiday

Example – sermon on freedom in Christ during the July 4th weekend

Testimonial

Telling your own salvation story

Series

A number of sermons following similar topics

Example – 10 sermons about the Ten Commandments

Method of Delivery

Scripted – all written out, word for word

Extemporaneous – brief outline of main points

Impromptu – no notes and no preparation

Not suggested

Must be **very** knowledgeable on Bible

Illustrated – skits, dramas, art, etc.

Preparation

Prayer

You must be connected with God to know what He wants you to say

Study

Bible study (daily!)

No better way to know the material than read it frequently

Organize your thoughts

Write things down as they come to you

Use the empty margins in your Bible to write quick notes

Congregational Concerns

Focus

Stay on topic

Stay relevant

Keep their attention

- Don't be monotone

- Bring energy and excitement

- "One minute per year" rule

 - Include something to draw them in again

Recap sermon at the end

- Quick review of main points and lessons

Set the example in your life (James 3:1)

- Live a humble life

- Live a holy life

Possible Handouts

- Paper outline in bulletin

- Small token of some kind they can take and keep

Writing in Ministry

Tips Before Writing Anything

- Pray
- Do your research!
 - Read the text multiple times
 - Read the text in multiple translations
 - Read commentaries

Basics for Writing Any Sermon

- Introduction
 - Attention-getter
 - Story, Scripture, something interesting
 - Needs to lead into the sermon content
- Body
 - Three main points or fewer (if possible)
 - Plenty of Scripture
 - Nothing more powerful than Scripture
- Conclusion
 - Summarize main points
 - End on something tangible
 - Challenge or idea to remember
 - Message should call people to Christ in the end

Writing an Expository Sermon (explains a text)

- Introduction
 - Possibly include the text before the given text
- Body
 - Start at the beginning of the text
 - Highlight main points when you reach them
 - Less than three if possible
- Conclusion

Writing a Topical Sermon

- Introduction
 - Make sure to mention the topic at hand
- Body
 - Three points on the topic
 - Ex. Sin – origin, current sinful status of man, freedom from sin through Christ
 - Could be more points here
 - But the more points you have, the less people remember
 - Use plenty of Scripture support for your points
 - Don't make a point without a Scripture backing it up
- Conclusion

Writing a Liturgical Sermon (explains a church practice)

Introduction

Possibly a little history on the topic

Body

Provide plenty of Biblical support

Find multiple Scripture references

Be sure to make a spiritual point

It is a sermon, not a history lesson

Ex. - Communion message could preach unity with Christ

Conclusion

Writing a Biographical Sermon (following a Biblical characters life)

Introduction

Life stories from your own life work well here

Body

Work in chronological order

Don't read chapter after chapter

Summarize as best as possible

Use specific Scriptures when making main points

Ex. Joseph – rough life, eventually a leader, “... God used it for good”

Conclusion

Writing an Evangelistic Sermon

Introduction

Connecting statement with the audience

They need to feel that they can trust you

Personal Experience

Body

Preach the Gospel

God, sin and results, God's love, Christ's life, death, and resurrection

You need to know the Gospel by heart

Conclusion

Present salvation

Ask for those wishing to accept Christ to come forward, raise hands, etc.

Pray for them and with them

Lead them in Sinner's Prayer

Writing a Redemptive-Historical Sermon (old story in light of Christ)

Introduction

Possibly explain the Bible all tells one story (of Christ)

Body

Start with the story

Tie it directly or symbolically to Christ

Ex. Noah's ark similar to Christ's salvation (God brought both)

Conclusion

Make your final major point

Writing a Testimony

Life before Christ

Any sort of lostness, sinfulness, etc.

How I found Christ

Where, when, how

Life since Christ

How has life been different since you starting following Christ?

Formatting a Formal Paper

Introduction

Attention-getter (preferably related to topic)

“Bridging Sentences”

Ties the attention-getter to the topic of the paper

Thesis Statement

Summary of the main point(s)

Body

Three main points (typically)

Each point should have support and examples

Real-life or Scriptural

This is the bulk of your research and information

Points should flow logically

Conclusion

Restate the thesis statement

Summarize all your main points

Connect everything together

Concluding statement