

Inspired Sermon Preparation

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

by
Chuck Lindsey

Let me first say I am by no means an expert in this area. The purpose of this document is to give out some things I was taught as well as some things I have found helpful in my own sermon preparation. This method is not the ONLY way, it is one way - and I believe it to be a good way and importantly a "SAFE" way to put together messages.

We will cover 4 areas of study: Text, Commentaries, Notes and Delivery.

TEXT

1. Read and re-read the passage (at least 10 times)

- Read it like devotions not study
- Try reading multiple (reliable) translations

NKJV, KJV, NASB, NIV, ESV, Amplified, Living Translation

2. Greek or Hebrew word study - verse by verse breakdown of key words for the ENTIRE area - this builds the FOUNDATION for the message

- Identify paragraphs of thought - allow these to become the MAIN points of the message

These are where your main points come from

- Move through each verse word by word checking the meanings and writing them down - list any cross references, illustrations or applications that come to mind during this process

This is where you learn what the passage is actually teaching

Your laying a foundation for interpretation

This is where illustrations come from

This is where applications come from

By this point you should have an excellent grasp on what the area is teaching, the outline should be fairly clear and there should be a wealth of illustrations/applications

COMMENTARY

3. Check the commentaries ONLY AFTER you have completed the Textual portion

- Commentaries are useful for:

Confirmation of correct interpretation or correcting of wrong interpretation

To see a different perspective on the given area

To get clarification on an area not understood completely

- Commentaries can be sermons, books or (sometimes) sermon outlines

Books:

Book Based Commentaries:

Look for concise, accurate book based (Acts, Hebrews, Daniel ect...) volumes that don't waste your time with overly complicated topics and arguments

Look for 4 types of commentaries (in order of importance):

1. Linguistic - Experts in the original languages of the Bible - use these commentaries to error check your word study!

2. Historical - Those that give the customs and dates and current conditions of the time

3. Sermonic - These are sermons that have been transcribed into book form - BE CAREFUL here - it's not GOSPEL TRUTH!!!!

- A good "sermonic" commentary would be one that includes the other 3 types of commentaries = linguistic, historical and application

- Try not to use only applicational sermonic commentaries - find well rounded sources

4. Application/devotional - Those that focus on the practical aspect of what it means for me

Seek these types out last, use these last... as by this point you will have much of what's to be applied already

Be careful also with these as they rarely focus on correct interpretation

Sermons and Sermon Outlines:

- See comments above (do not rely on sermons for accurate interpretation)
- Consult others for reliable resources

NOTES

5. Create an outline DIRECTLY from the text: Examples follow---->

//EXAMPLE-----

1A. These are main points - come directly from the Greek or Hebrew text

1B. These are verses being taught in your message - they follow UNDER the main point directly above it

1C. These are the Greek or Hebrew words - taken directly from the verse ABOVE it

1D. These are any illustrations or applications that come directly from the greek ABOVE it

1E. These are cross references

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1A. A Sharp Sword - vs 12-13

1B. "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." - vs 12

1C. "word" - Gr. "logos" = "a word, uttered by a living voice, embodies a conception or idea"

1D. Jesus is called the Word of God in John 1:1 - the Word that became flesh

1E. Psalm 119

2C. "**living**" - Gr. = to live, breathe, be among the living (not lifeless, not dead)

1D. His Word is the ONLY book that's alive and brings LIFE ect.....

2B. "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." - vs 13

1C. "**Creature**" - Gr.....

1D. No one, not even the most remote tribes in the most remote places...

2D. Even all of creation is in His sight.....

1E. "The very rocks would cry out".....

2A. A Faithful Priest vs 14-16

1B. "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession." - vs 14

1C. "seeing" - Gr. to perceive with the outward senses, particularly with physical sight

2B. "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." - vs 15

1C. ect.....

3B. "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." - vs 16

2C. ect.....

//END EXAMPLE-----

DELIVERY

7. Know your audience

- Try to give out about 25% of what's studied
- Adjust length and content according to age group and level of spiritual maturity
- Be mindful of the unsaved - give them something too!

8. Be mindful of TIME

Try to say what you have to say in 35-40 minutes - this makes us work hard to weed out what is not necessary and not go on and on with opinion - it FREE's us to focus on giving out the Word of God first and foremost!!!!

9. Be Real

- Try to avoid being "professional" - we are servants of the people we are speaking to
- AVOID "sermons" at all costs!!!! Just share the Word - don't polish your words, script pauses and laughs!!!! Don't fake it.
- Be flexible to deviate from your notes if the Spirit prompts!

10. Be Safe

- Avoid using people and confidential situations as illustrations
- Avoid strange "new truths" - avoid seeking things no one has EVER heard before. These are often called "new insight" and are generally distracting to the text at best and completely wrong at worst.
- Quote those you use verbatim - Give credit where it is due. Don't take credit for what is not yours
- Give out more scripture and less "fluff"

11. Be Passionate

- Avoid "spitting" out information. Ask yourself, "is anyone actually asking this question? or "would anyone care about this?"
- Emphasize those things that the Lord has ministered to you

CONCLUSION

Above all things studying for a message is first and foremost to be time spent WITH HIM. Pray against being mechanical and CRY OUT for the Lord to speak and reveal HIS truth in HIS Word.

Rely on the Spirit as Jesus told us that , "He will lead you into all truth".

Suggested Resources for Study

Greek:

*The Complete Word Study New Testament w/ Greek Parallel - Zohdiates, AMG Publishers

*Wuest's Word Studies - Eerdmans Publishing

Vincent's Word Studies of the New Testament - Hendrickson Publishing

Thayer's Greek Lexicon

Hebrew:

*The Complete Word Study Old Testament - Zohdiates, AMG Publishers

Cross References:

*New Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge

*Strong's Concordance

Context:

A Survey of Old Testament Introduction - Gleason L. Archer Jr.

New Testament Survey - Merrill C. Tenney

*Talk Thru the Bible - Kenneth Boa

Commentary:

Single Volume Book Based Authors:

Best All Around (Focus on all Aspects):

*Leon Morris, *Kent Hughes, *Homer Kent Jr, *Homer Kent Sr,
*John Walvoord, Roy Zuck, Haddon Robinson, G. Campbell
Morgan, John R W Stott, W. Graham Scroggie, Chuck Smith,
David Hocking, J Vernon McGee, Henry Ironside

Best In Depth (Focus on Detail):

*Martin Lloyd Jones, Alexander McClaren, Harry Bultema,
*Charles Spurgeon, Martin Luther, John Calvin

Best Devotional (Focus on Application):

*Alan Redpath, W.E. Vine, Arthur Pink, *Warren Wiersbe

Best Linguistic (Focus on language):

*Kenneth Wuest, William Hendrickson, FF. Bruce, FB Meyer, ,
HCG Moule, Thomas Hewit, Henry Morris, *John J Davis, *Leon
Wood, *W H Griffith Thomas

Multiple Volumes Bible Based (2 or more):

*The Bible Knowledge Commentary - Walvoord & Zuck, Victor Publishing

The Expositor's Bible Commentary - Zondervan Publishing

Sermon:

*Chuck Smith (thewordfortoday.org), David Hocking (hopefortoday.org),
Damian Kyle (ccmodesto.com), Joe Focht (ccphilly.com), *John Miller
(calvarychapel.com/redbarn), Jon Courson (johncourson.com), Brian
Brodersen (contact Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa), John Duncan (contact
Calvary Chapel Lake Elsinore California)

ONLine Study Tools:

Blue Letter Bible - www.blueletterbible.org

Crosswalk - <http://bible.crosswalk.com/>