

**ALSOM – ALABAMA SCHOOL OF MINISTRY****MIN 325 - PREACHING in the CONTEMPORARY WORLD****STUDY GUIDE for FINAL EXAM**

**(Note: All of these study statements are TRUE statements from the PREACHING in the CONTEMPORARY WORLD resources. Approximately half of these study statements will make up your final exam.)**

The Pastor's MAIN function in the church is to preach spiritual sermons that accurately interpret and apply God's Word.

Followers of Jesus were commanded by Jesus to preach the good news about him when He said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15).

The church's spiritual condition throughout history is directly related to the quality of preaching being done at any given time and place.

The sermon must always spring from, be based upon, and be controlled by the biblical text itself.

One of the worst mistakes we can make when reading the Bible is believing that we can bring our own meaning to the Bible passages.

In Bible study, the phrases "to me this verse means", or "what does this verse mean to you" are unhelpful, unhealthy, and unbiblical.

The desire to use preaching to achieve popularity, make money, or manipulate people are examples of selfish, sinful misuse of preaching by the preacher.

Consistently preaching repeated series of topical sermons based on current events, prophecy speculation, life skills, self-esteem, family themes and so forth, is the best way to grow a congregation that does not know how to read or understand the Bible, or know how the Bible all flows together, or know the essential doctrines of the Christian faith

Consistently preaching repeated series of topical sermons based on current events, prophecy speculation, life skills, self-esteem, family themes and so forth, is the best way to grow a congregation that is shallow, selfish, thinks the Bible and God's Kingdom really are all about them, and is unprepared for the tragedies of life, but may well grow fast and large.

"Expository" comes from a Latin word that means "to have laid open the truth for inspection and understanding".

When preparing a sermon, the preacher should first select the passage and using correct hermeneutical principles read it repeatedly in its larger context to determine through this exegesis the main points, structure, and flow.

When preparing a sermon, after exegeting the text himself, the preacher should consult a good study bible and good commentaries in order to check the accuracy of her understanding and to fill in any gaps .

Every Bible passage was written within a specific historical, cultural, and literary context, with a specific meaning for the original recipients, a meaning that applies to all people in all times and all places.

A narrative sermon can be expository or textual, but during the outline stage it is woven into a narrative, then written and preached as a story, with appropriate points, illustrations, application, and conclusion.

A narrative sermon can be drawn from any genre of Scripture: Law, Narrative, Epistles, Gospels, etc., and after proper exegesis and exposition, is turned into a narrative to be preached.

The weaknesses of narrative preaching include that it is harder to prepare and has the potential to lead to a subtle loss of clear teaching in the church.

One weakness of narrative preaching is that it can potentially permit the audience to prematurely form their own interpretations and applications of the story.

Another weakness of narrative preaching is that it can lead the preacher to become careless in exegesis, interpretation, sermon construction, and application, relying instead on emotional, attention-grabbing stories.

The Christian doctrine of inspiration includes the speaking that the author was doing as he dictated the book to his scribe and the words that the scribe was writing as he wrote down the speaker's words.

The Christian doctrine of inspiration includes the gathering of oral traditions and previous writings, the selection of literary genres in which to write, the choice of literary techniques to use, and the preservation of those books of God's choosing in the form of today's biblical canon.

The most important aspect of the Christian worship service is NOT the passionate singing of hymns, songs, and spiritual songs in praise and worship, or the extended times of prayer around the altars as the congregation prays together, or the altar calls for salvation as the musicians play an appropriate song.

The most important aspect of the Christian worship service is the preaching of God's correctly interpreted, clearly explained, properly applied Word so that believers and unbelievers alike can understand it.

Christ-centered preaching means that when preaching from any passage we use accepted principles of interpretation to find where the main point of the passage stands in relation to the person and work of Christ.

Gospel-centered preaching means that every sermon should correctly interpret a Bible passage according to its original context, and at some point show how that passage points forward to some aspect of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

In order to diligently study and improve his knowledge of Scripture, a pastor should budget enough money to maintain a good library of the best study bibles, best commentaries, and best books on preaching and theology, keeping up with new developments in theology, biblical studies, and preaching.

In planning his preaching calendar a pastor should plan his sermon schedule at least one year in advance, mostly preaching expository sermons through books of the Bible and the Christian Year Cycles of Light and of Life, in order to disciple his people and grow the church gradually through the years.

The customer mindset, viewing people in the community and in the church as “customers”, is never found in Scripture and is a corruption from American culture. It leads to people-pleasing, stealing people from other churches, the fear of what people will think about sermons and ministries, and other sinful compromises.

The “Bible Bullseye” is a good way to ensure that a text is being interpreted in its proper context.

The “Bible Bullseye” relates any text to the passage it is in (the paragraph or story), the book of the Bible the text is in, other Bible books by that same author, and the whole Bible itself.

A text or passage must also be interpreted according to the literary context: The genre of the literature in which it is located (narrative, Law, poetry, apocalyptic, etc.), the literary techniques it contains, etc.

A text of passage must also be interpreted according to its historical and cultural contexts: The time and place in which it was written, their worldview, the social situation, etc.

The simplest way to locate a text in all of its contexts is to use a good study Bible, such as the Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible or the NIV Study Bible.

The term exegesis refers to using good hermeneutics to carefully read and “to lead out” the meaning that a passage had in its original context to the original recipients.

The contemporary challenge of media influence is dangerous because Twitter, texting, and other social media have trained the postmodern brain to read and hear only short, simplistic, disjointed bits of information and images.

All forms of electronic media have severely degraded the ability of postmoderns to read long complex sentences, paragraphs, and arguments with sustained attention and comprehension.

Media for decades has created an increasing preference for images over words, and for feeling and story over careful thinking and facts.

The Bible is a library of books that use literary genres, conventions, and techniques of many kinds, that are frequently composed in long complex sentences, in words with no images, all requiring careful reading and thought.

The Old Testament was written *for* us, but *not to* us, so the Old Testament must be read in light of the New Testament.

The New Testament is *concealed* in the Old Testament, and the Old is *revealed* in the New.

Since after His resurrection Jesus explicitly taught his disciples that the Old Testament was really all pointing forward to him (Luke 24:27,44), therefore the Old Testament was not just about Israel, but was ultimately about Jesus, and no sermon from the OT is complete until we carefully show how it is somehow completed in Jesus

The study of “types” is called “Typology.” A “type” is an OT person, place, event, or object that foreshadows a future person, place, event, or object.

An “antitype” is the NT fulfillment (or filling out / filling up) of an OT “type”, it was called by Jesus a “greater than”, and is often called a “new and better” or a “true and better.”

Jonah, Joseph, David, and Moses were “types” of Jesus, and Jesus was the fulfillment or “antitype.”

The process of carefully examining a biblical text, using the proper hermeneutical principles that apply to reading that text, in order “to lead out” or “to draw out” God’s intended meaning, is called exegesis.

In most sermons the preacher should NOT rely on a lot of PowerPoint slides, movie clips, object lessons or human videos at key points, or an abundance of jokes.

All preaching should include teaching.

Personal holiness is primarily related to a preacher's private walk with God.

To get people to respond to an altar call the preacher should use a serious, sincere, sometimes passionate invitation appropriate to the Bible passage and sermon theme.

It is unethical for a minister to use pressure filled and manipulative techniques in getting people to respond to an altar call, such as emotional guilt trips, fear of sudden death, fear of eternity in hell, promises of great blessings, powerful music, or other emotional manipulation.

An expository sermon is a message that faithfully moves through exegesis of the passage itself to discover the meaning for the original audience and then applies that meaning to today’s audience.

Flowing from a consistent prayer life, the most important step of all in preparing and preaching a sermon is using the correct hermeneutical principles that apply to a biblical passage, such as genre, figures of speech, context, etc., in order to interpret it properly.

The parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) teaches that success and satisfaction are related to faithfulness.

Plagiarism is best described as stealing.

“Word association” means thinking of some words that are associated in your mind in some way, such as “healing” and “miracle”, or “blessing” and “prosperity”, and trying to connect them to a text you are reading, even though they may neither be present in, nor have any real connection to, that text.

Proof texting means taking isolated verses or passages from various places in Scripture out of context (without relating them to their original context) and using those verses as a basis for introducing ideas or creating doctrines that have nothing to do with the original meaning of the passage.

Using word association (to link texts together) and using proof texting as bases for teaching and preaching is twisting God’s word, is never acceptable, and is always wrong.

If a preacher uses many Scriptures in the sermon, but takes them out of context and misinterprets them, he has NOT preached God's Word.

In order to preach a sermon that God accepts the preacher must correctly explain what the passage of Scripture actually meant in its original context to its original recipients.

"Life coaching" refers to topical preaching that uses proof texts supposedly showing people how to improve their life skills for better relationships, success in life, etc., but this kind of preaching is never found in Scripture.

Just as God caused a donkey to speak to Balaam, and just as God spoke through ungodly "prophets" in the past, God can still sovereignly speak through questionable characters and poor sermons today, even though He still condemns questionable characters and poor sermons.

The preacher must do cultural exegesis in order to understand the culture where he is preaching and communicate biblical truths in a way relevant to the audience.

One strength of narrative expository preaching when properly done is that it engages and maintains the attention of the audience, particularly of postmoderns, far better than any other sermon type.

Just because the Holy Spirit is moving in people and churches that have sin or bad preaching present does not mean God is affirming their lifestyles, doctrines, or practices.

The following statements are true in reference to sermon illustrations: Suitability, accuracy, and variety are keys to effective sermon illustrations and when an illustration is appropriately timed, it will clarify and illuminate an issue.

The organizational structure of a sermon is based on the sermon outline.

The conclusion is the part of the sermon which will have the most impact on the sermon results.

Regarding his priorities in ministry, Paul commanded Timothy to study diligently, develop his skills in correctly interpreting God's Word, and consistently preach God's Word.

The best way to teach a congregation how to correctly read and understand God's Word over time is to regularly preach an expository sermon series through a whole book of the Bible.

One advantage of a textual sermon is its presentation is clearly from God's Word.

The two kinds of sermons that will best teach your congregation God's intended meaning in biblical passages and how to read the Bible properly are expository and textual.

The church's spiritual condition throughout history has been directly related to the strength of preaching.

Having correctly understood the original meaning of a passage, the applications to the lives of our congregation must be directly related to the passage's original meaning.

When we are trying to apply a Bible passage to a current situation we want to address but that application is drifting away from the clear meaning of the passage, we should seek to make a more appropriate text-centered application that is faithful to the actual meaning of the text.

Or, when we are trying to apply a Bible passage to a current situation we want to address but that application is drifting away from the clear meaning of the passage, we should find a different Bible passage more appropriate to the current situation we want to address.

When we fail to carefully read and interpret a passage using proper hermeneutical principles, we will misinterpret God's Word, misapply God's Word, and mislead God's people.

When we fail to carefully read and interpret a passage using proper hermeneutical principles, we will be telling the people that God said something in the passage that He never actually said.

Postmodernism (meaning "after modernism") is characterized by rejection of all traditional truth claims and morality standards.

Postmodernism rejects all absolutes, including the absolute truths of all religions, and believes that truth and morals are relative and flexible.

Postmodernism believes in radical individualism where every individual determines what is true for themselves.

Postmodernism rejects the belief that "big stories" are superior to individual stories, such as the biblical story of God's redemptive mission being superior to my individual story.

Postmodernism believes every person, their story, and their beliefs must be received with complete tolerance, acceptance, and affirmation.

Postmodernism teaches that the person reading a text has just as much authority to determine the meaning as does the original author.

Postmodernism believes that a text can have many meanings, for the meaning is defined by the person and circumstances of each new reader.

All Christians have been infected by Postmodernism and must continually immerse themselves in the rightly read, rightly understood, rightly taught Word of God for the renewing of their minds.

The Bible is God's story of his redemptive mission to all nations, ultimately accomplished in the person and work of Jesus Christ, to whose image all of God's people are being conformed until he comes again.

There may be many appropriate applications for the meaning of a Bible passage, but there is only one correct interpretation.

Making an application of a biblical passage means taking the correct interpretation (original meaning) of a text and explaining how that text properly applies to particular real-life situations.

Teaching and discipling is the form of ministry mentioned most often in the book of Acts.

The best example of personal holiness in the life of a preacher is a dedication to truth.

The field of study devoted to understanding and explaining how all of the individual stories of Scripture fit together into one epic story flowing from Genesis to Revelation is called Biblical Theology.

In order to correctly understand what God was communicating in an individual story such as Ruth's, you must understand when, where, and how that individual story (bottom level) fits into Israel's story (middle level) and through that into Christ's story (top level), God's redemptive mission to all nations.

Bryan Chapell said, "We must find the human condition that we share with those people to whom or about whom the biblical text was written that requires God's same grace in our lives that was required for those in the text. This is called the Fallen Condition Focus."

The Bible, and the sermons in the Bible, are not man centered or family centered, they are theocentric, meaning "God centered."

The Bible is not about me, it is about God and his redemptive mission.

Most of the ways that American Christians read their bibles, conduct their worship services, sing their songs, and preach their sermons are not God centered or Christ centered. They are anthropocentric, or "man centered."

The preacher must grab the attention of the congregation during the sermon's introduction.

The reason for reading complete books or sections of Scripture in your Bible study rather than short portions is to discover the author's purpose for writing.

A good sermon illustration will often be what moves one toward persuasion.

Analysis is the process of breaking up the text into its constituent parts.

The word that BEST describes the proper use of emotion in the preacher's voice during the sermon application is genuine.

When delivering a sermon, the preacher should maintain a tone that is natural.

Biblical depth is one advantage of expository preaching.

The many benefits of expository preaching to the congregation include learning to view Scripture in a larger perspective.

The disadvantage of the expository sermon is its tendency to encourage the preacher to include too many details.

Another advantage of expository preaching is that it models solid hermeneutics and Bible study methods to the hearer.