

Introduction to Homiletics
Alabama District School of Ministry

UNIT 1: PREACHING AND THE PREACHER

I. The Place of Preaching.

1. Preaching is central to sharing the gospel and making disciples. **Romans 10:14-15 NIV.** **How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"**
2. Scripture places preaching at the heart of God's mission for the Church on Earth. By embracing the call to become a minister of the gospel, we are participating in a role that has eternal consequences.
3. **1 Corinthians 1:18 NIV.** **For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.** To preach is more than sharing a motivational speech. It is more than merely the impartation of knowledge. It is the means by which God's power is demonstrated in the world.
4. True preaching involves more than mastering the techniques of preparing and delivering sermons. It is the public proclamation of the good news of salvation to humankind.
5. There are 92 references to preaching in Acts alone. **Acts 5:42 ESV.** **And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.** Preaching will always remain central to the New Testament Church!
6. We must note, however, that preaching involves more than simply proclaiming the Word. It also involves the example of the preacher. To paraphrase John Maxwell, we preach and teach what we know, but we reproduce what we are. Preaching flows out of what God is doing in you.
7. We will be tempted to use preaching for selfish purposes, to preach truth without practicing it, and to preach superficially. Such preaching may tickle ears, but it won't change lives.
8. If you intend to serve as a pastor, please understand this: Many responsibilities and demands will constantly pull at you. You must very intentionally keep preaching at the forefront of your mind and schedule. It is the pastor's primary role. To preach effectively pastorally, you must know the word of God and understand the needs of the congregation. **The pastor's MAIN job is to preach spiritual sermons that accurately interpret and apply God's word.**

9. If you desire to preach to make a name for yourself, please go home and let the Spirit of God do a work in your life. Our attitude must be like that of John the Baptist: He must increase, and I must decrease.

II. The Purpose of Preaching.

1. From the textbook: *“The purpose of preaching is to present Christ by the power of His Spirit so that people may be convicted of sin, converted to God, and challenged to attain spiritual maturity.”* To put it succinctly, preaching leads others into a growing relationship with Christ.
2. It is obvious from reading the New Testament that the early Christian preachers intended to bring their hearers to faith in Christ, and nothing less than a clear-cut decision would do. This fact highlights the need for a verdict when preaching the gospel.
3. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, a prominent Welsh minister of the twentieth century, warns against assuming that all people in the church, even children of believers, are Christians. As a pastor of 21 years myself, I can assure you this is not the case. We must never take the spiritual condition of our people for granted. We must provide opportunities in our preaching for people to make a decision to follow Christ.
4. We do our part to prepare. The Holy Spirit, then, does what we cannot. The Spirit of God convicts and draws people to Christ. Let’s get real. Would the Spirit be more likely to draw an unbeliever to a church where there was a clear opportunity to make a decision for Christ or to a church where no opportunity was presented?
5. New Testament Words to Describe Preaching:
 - Proclaim (a herald delivering the message from a king).
 - Evangelize (to bring or announce good news).
 - Witness (to testify to that which is personally known and experienced).

III. The Preparation of the Preacher

1. **The Walk.** We preach out of our own lives. What we proclaim is demonstrated in what are. This means forgiveness, holiness, submission to Christ, experiencing the work of the Holy Spirit.
2. **The Burden.** A burden for souls comes from the heart and is essential to preaching ministry.
3. **The Call.** Preaching is more than a profession we choose. It is a calling we embrace.