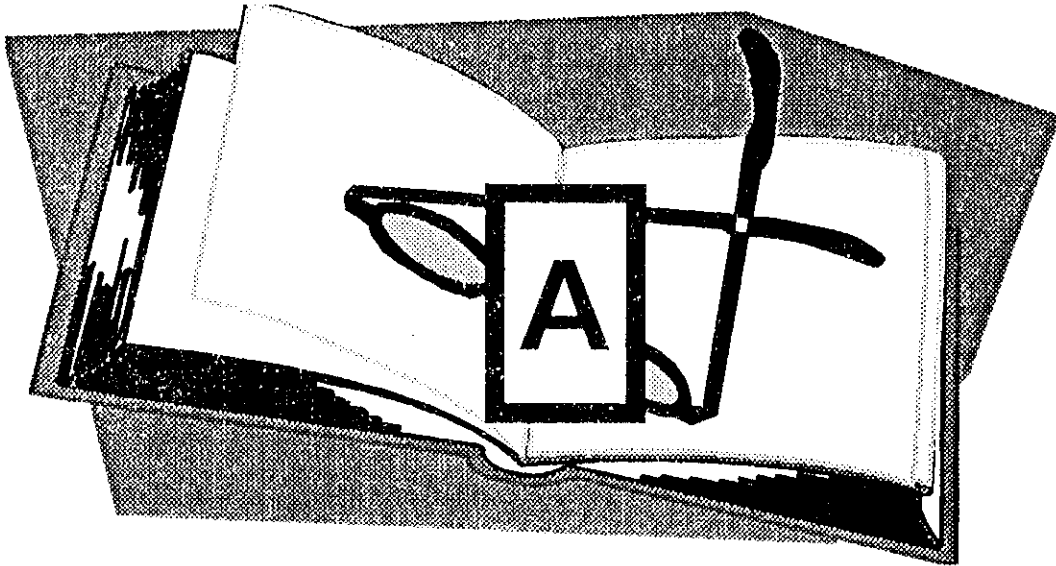


STEPS FOR PREPARING



SERMON !

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STEP 1

1. Pick a passage of scripture:

- a. Not more verses than you can cover in one sermon.
- b. Only enough to cover the subject or one complete thought.
- c. Don't rush this process - Spend some time before making the selection.

OR

1. Pick a subject/topic.
2. Don't make it broader than you can cover in one sermon.



STEP 2

1. Before you read anything, outline the subject or passage of scripture for yourself.
2. This is hard work, but do this 1st.
3. Stick with the passage until you have a place in your outline for everything in the passage or subject you have chosen.
4. Do not rush this step. Impatience here will simply cost you time later on in the process.

(If you get into big trouble,
or confusion, see step 3)

STEP 3

1. If your outline has become too detailed, and you have "lost your way", reduce the outline back to its bare essentials.

2. EXAMPLE

Title of Sermon

Intro.

I.

II.

Transition Statement:

Discussion

I.

II.

III.

3. In this way check to see if the main points properly partition the subject or the passage.

4. Do the points "make sense"?

5. Are they parallel with each other?

6. Don't worry too much about either the "intro" or the "concl" at this point; that will come later.

6. If that part "works", then add the capital A's & B's to the outline, and check them by the same test being parallel.

STEP 4

1. If all checks out, the points under each heading should obviously divide up the subject into its proper divisions; that is, the 3 things we must do, etc.
2. Once this is done, return to your "full outlining" process.
3. Keep working at it until you feel ALL the pieces of the "puzzle" fall into place.
4. Try your best to understand what the passage or topic is all about.
5. LEAVE SPACE in this expanded outline so you can come back later and add things as your research progresses.



STEP 5

1. Now begin reading commentaries, and other reference works.
2. Use any skills in the original language at your disposal to check tenses, word meanings, etc.
3. Now in the spaces you left in your expanded outline, begin adding the significant thoughts you discover in your reading.
4. Be sure to add the points where they seem to fit in your outline. (Don't just scatter them on the page...this is why you made an outline, so don't blow it.)
5. You will find this goes faster than you thought if you have "done your homework" on the outlining process 1st.
6. At this point (after all the labor) you will feel the sermon "pick up speed." (Unless you are a genius, don't expect to get to this spot in "one jump".

STEP 6

1. Now is the time to “back off” from your work and take a break of some kind such as lunch, phone calls, a nap, etc.
2. When you come back, read your outline again carefully.
3. Then put your original outline to one side, and make a “fresh” outline. (The exercise will give you fresh insights, and allow you to incorporate new material into your plan.)
4. **DO NOT “FALL IN LOVE”** with anything you have done so far!
5. Be ruthless in re-working the outline.
6. Don't worry. Some of the stuff you throw out of the “body” of the sermon may fit the intro. or the conclusion. (Trust me!)
7. Another complete sermon may be wrapped up in one of your thoughts, so pull it out and save it for your next sermon.
 - a. Do not “load” it into this sermon if it doesn't fit.
 - b. Sorry, but this goes even for stories & illustrations!

STEP 7

1. At this point, although you have organized your thoughts into a "skeleton", don't be surprised if your sermon doesn't have a lot of "fire" in it.
2. Remember, skeletons need flesh and blood put on them before they take on "life."
3. Now you must go back over the outline and breathe life into it:
 - a. Look at each point and imagine how you might **ILLUSTRATE** it with a story or analogy.
 - b. Also, how would you **DRAMATIZE** the point?
 - (1) Scripture writer introducing, giving credentials of...
 - (2) Paul wants to convince us, so he is like a lawyer before a jury ...
 - (3) Peter sees 3 price tags on this sin...

STEP 8

1. Now go back and do a "check list" on the sermon as a whole.
 - a. Does the "introduction" actually introduce what you talk about?
(The "intro" is merely the "front porch" to get you into the sermon house.)
 - b. Does the "Body" of the sermon actually "discuss" what you introduced?
 - c. Does the "Conclusion" conclude what you introduced and discussed?
2. If your sermon outline doesn't do the things mentioned above, then you have "missed the boat" with your sermon.... so go back and do some more "touch up" work.
3. If it passes those tests, then may move on to step 9.

STEP 9

THE APPEAL

1. All sermons want to either convince us to believe something, feel something, or do something.
2. Logic alone is not enough to accomplish that.
3. Emotion plays a part, so check your sermon for that quality:
 - a. The words we use throughout the sermon are important. (Some words carry more emotional tone than others.)
 - b. But the invitation or the “close” needs special attention.
4. After you have concluded, you still need to motivate to action with a story, an insight, or something which will serve as a “closer” which will move your audience to action.
(HINT: This may be a story you discarded earlier.)

STEP 10

1. Rehearse your sermon **ALoud** so you can find the "holes" in your thoughts and transitions. (Mouthing the words helps.)
2. **REMEMBER, A SERMON IS LIKE A HOUSE:**



INTRODUCTION

- I. This is the "front porch".
- II. It should not be 3 acres in size, but just big enough to get in on.
- III. It should "introduce" the subject, but not start "preaching" the sermon!!!!

TRANSITION - This is the door sill that takes you off the front porch and into the house. (It tends to announce where you are going with the sermon.)

DISCUSSION (Body)

- I. It breaks the subject/text into pieces
- II. These should be parallel; that is, equal parts of the subject.

CONCLUSION

- I. This should be the life application. (What should they feel, believe, or do?)
- II. Be sure if your sermon has "small pox" that your concl. will catch it!

APPEAL - Emotional motivation to act