

TheWordWorks

Expository Preaching

Preaching to the heart and mind: How to preach from the New Testament:

One local church's experience of making disciples by preaching Colossians

1. Expository preaching

a. What is expository preaching?

Preaching which teaches the author's **main point** in order to achieve the author's **purpose**

e.g. Galatians 5:1

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Exegesis → Sermon

<p>The situation of Paul's original hearers: They were being led astray to think that you need the gospel plus righteous works of the law for God to accept you.</p> <p>Main point: Christ has set us free (from works-based righteousness)</p> <p>Purpose: Stand firm & don't become a slave again</p>	<p>The situation of my hearers: They are tempted to think you need gospel plus good works/religious works for God to accept you.</p> <p>Main point: Christ has set us free (from works-based righteousness)</p> <p>The main application: Stand firm and don't become a slave</p>
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Expository preaching aims to **expose the author's mind** (his main point and purpose) in a current day situation similar to the original situation.

b. What expository preaching is not

- Verse by verse preaching: **Fails to integrate** all the verses in order to get the main point
- Context-less preaching: **Ignores** what **comes before** and what **comes after**
- Selective preaching: **Ignoring parts of the passage** or failing to show how it relates to the main point
- Museum preaching: No **application** to the **modern day congregation**
- The opposite of topical preaching
- Main point only: Fails to show **why** author was teaching this point
- Main point but different purpose: Fails to use main point in the way author intended

c. Why expository preaching?

- Lets the bible be in the **driver's seat** – letting God's Word set the agenda and determine the application for His people. We say nothing more and nothing less than what the Word says
- It **exposes the gospel of Jesus** in all its glory and so makes our hearers mature
- It models for the congregation good bible handling skills. This gives them **confidence to read the bible on their own**.

d. The tools of the (expository preaching) trade for preaching the New Testament

- Investigative tools
 - Author's purpose

- Context
- Discerning the structure (Gospels/Acts, Epistles)
 - Gospels/Acts – Change in scene, Literary devices
 - Epistles - Linking words
- Bible timeline

- Integrative method
 - Main point: How do different sections of the structure contribute to the main point?
 - Purpose: The effect of the main point on the original readers

- Application
 - Applying the author’s purpose to a current day situation similar to the original situation

2. How Bethesda Church Bukit Arang (BCBA) executed an expository preaching series on Colossians

- a. Choosing what to preach on – the driving principle 2 Tim 3:16-17
 - ALL Scripture is breathed out by God
 - ALL Scripture is profitable for the task of growing Christians and making disciples

- b. Choosing what to preach on – considerations
 - The aim of preaching all Scripture – what haven’t we preached on before? What books haven’t we completed? What haven’t we preached on in a while?
 - Planning ahead with the aim of giving a ‘varied diet’ of Scripture – preaching different parts of Scripture, preaching different genres of Scripture
 - What that looks like – BCBA 2019 Preaching Program
 - OT – Isaiah and Amos (Prophecy), Ecclesiastes (Wisdom), Judges (OT Narrative),
 - NT – Colossians and 1 Corinthians (Epistles), Mark (NT Narrative)

- c. Next steps after choosing what to preach on
 - One member of the preaching staff assigned to oversee each bible-book preaching series
 - Responsibilities of the overseeing staff member
 - Getting a grasp on the content (Main point, Purpose, Situation, Structure)
 - Running an overview session for the bible-book preaching series
 - Attended by everyone who is preaching in that series
 - Typically held 1 month before the series begins
 - Aim of the meeting – learning from one another and to achieve greater coherence within the bible-book preaching series
 - Expectations for the meeting – preparation from everyone attending
 - Format of the meeting – sharing, learning, questioning, praying
 - Follow-up to meeting - an overview summary document is prepared

3. Benefits we’ve seen as a church

- Growing hunger for God’s word because people see how the bible applies to their lives. The bible supplies its own applications.
- Increased number of 1 to 1 bible reading partnerships
- Greater coherence to a bible-book preaching series. Not single, piece-meal sermons
- Evangelism happens every Sunday as gospel is exposed every Sunday
- Formation of a preaching group

4. **Potential drawbacks of expository preaching**

- Can be seen as something **only for the educated/literate**
- Can be a source of **intellectual snobbery and pride**
- Can seem **irrelevant** to specific issues that congregation faces or current issues
- BUT....

5. **Discussion questions**

- What experience have you had with expository preaching? How has today's presentation informed/affirmed/challenged your understanding of the place of expository preaching in making disciples?
- Consider your own ministry context – what are some benefits of implementing an expository model of preaching in your ministry? What are some challenges in implementing an expository model of preaching in your ministry?
- What other tools of the trade (see pt 1d) do you use for New Testament preaching?

6. **Resources**

- Helpful books to help preachers/hearers handle God's Word better
 - Dig deeper – Nigel Beynon & Andrew Sach
 - Dig even deeper – Andrew Sach & Richard Alldritt
 - Dig deeper into the Gospels – Andrew Sach & Tim Hiorns
 - "Teaching the bible" series by Proclamation Trust Resources
<https://www.christianfocus.com/series/55/proclamation-trust>
 - God's big picture – Vaughan Roberts. Useful for understanding how the whole bible's story points to Christ