

**TheWordWorks**

# **Expository Preaching Module 1: For the Preacher**

**What is expository preaching?**

**Why expository preaching?**

## Aims of this module:

To give a basic definition of expository preaching and to show that this best serves our congregation because of its commitment to expose the mind of the biblical authors (human and divine) into a current day situation.

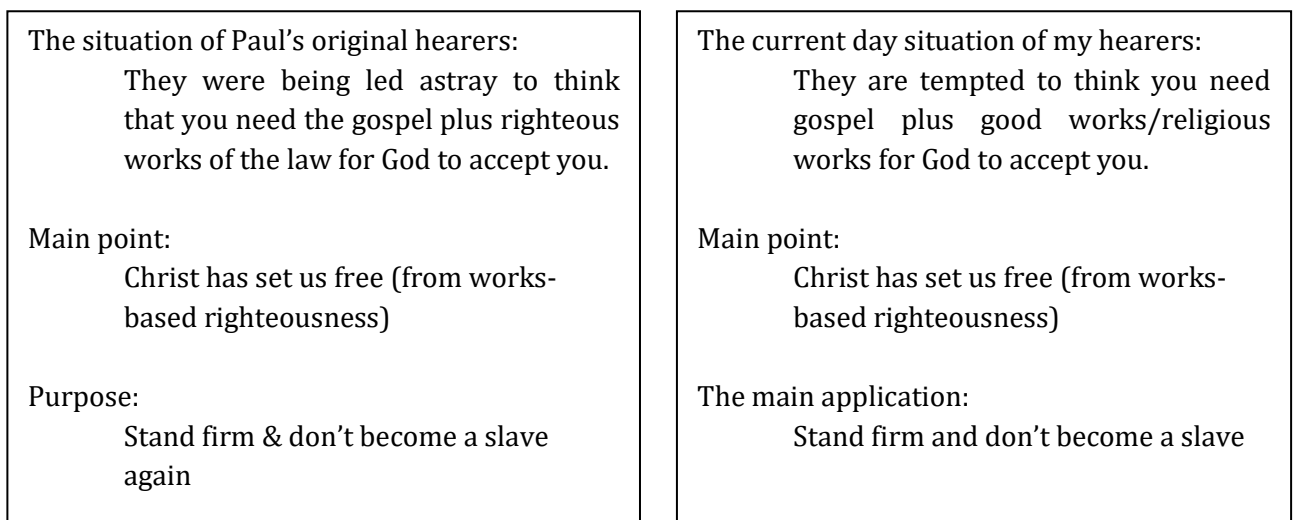
### a. What is expository preaching?

Preaching which teaches the author's **main point** in order to achieve the author's **purpose** in a **current day situation** similar to the situation of the original hearers

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



Expository preaching aims to **expose the author's mind** (his main point and purpose) into a current day situation similar to the original situation.

### c. Why expository preaching?

- It respects the **dual authorship of Scripture**. God is the author of Scripture but he uses human agents in the authorship of Scripture. The human agents he uses are not robots or scribes just writing what is dictated by God. They use their human minds, their human writing styles, their human personalities in writing Scripture. And yet, what they write, in God's sovereignty, is exactly the message God wants to convey. This dual authorship of Scripture is the theological foundation for expository preaching. As the preacher seeks to uncover (or exposit) the human author's mind (his main point and purpose), he is at the same time uncovering (or expositing) God's mind.
- It lets the bible be in the **driver's seat**. It lets God's Word set the agenda and determine the application for His people (see Module "Getting the Main Point and Purpose" and "Applying the Purpose"). We say nothing more and nothing less than what the Word says in the context in which it is said and for the purpose for which it is said.

- It **exposes the gospel of Jesus** in all its glory and so makes our hearers mature (Colossians 1:28). If the ultimate aim of God is to make Christ known through the scriptures, then the faithful, systematic exposition of scriptures is what puts Christ on display the best.
- It models for the congregation good bible handling skills. This gives them **confidence to read the bible on their own**. No longer will it be “What did the elder/pastor say?”. Rather, it will be “What did Paul/the biblical authors say?” because the preacher aims to expose the biblical author’s mind.

d. The common objections to expository preaching

- Can be seen as something **only for the educated/literate**

In our experience, expository preaching can be done in a simple but not simplistic way. We’ve done expository preaching amongst people whose first language is not English. We’ve done expository preaching amongst people who do not have tertiary education. We’ve used simpler English bible translations. We’ve preached shorter sermons. We’ve used visual aids. The basic aim is always the same: Show them the author’s mind. Apply the author’s purpose into their situation.

- Can be a source of **intellectual snobbery and pride**

If the aim of the sermon is just to get the big idea of the passage, then yes it will lead to pride and snobbery because the aim is just intellectual mastery of the passage. However, if the aim of the sermon is always the application of the author’s purpose into a current day situation, this is truth brought to bear to real lives. This kind of preaching teaches, reproves, corrects and trains in righteousness so that the Christian will be complete, equipped for every good work.

- Can seem **irrelevant** to specific issues that congregation faces or current issues

We trust that in the Scriptures, God has the wisdom to address issues that he thinks are important for his people. In the course of a steady, expository preaching diet, there will be a wide range of situations covered. Sometimes, while the issue the passage raises might not be immediately relevant, it might be God’s way of edifying his people for the future. Sometimes, preachers just have to work harder to show the current day situation that is analogous to the original situation. Finally, if there are urgent, pastoral issues that need to be addressed through the Sunday pulpit ministry, there can be special one-off topical sermons where a particular passage is brought to bear on the issue.