

We are putting a “pause” on the Gospel Project for the holiday season and resuming it after Christmas. For three weeks, the sermons will be used to help introduce myself and my view of ministry to the church. If you have any questions about the outline material below, feel free to email me at benjamin.j.williams@gmail.com

Sermon Outline

“My Theology of Preaching”

1. I Believe in Preaching, 2 Timothy 1:8-14
 - a. Words still matter.
 - b. Words about God matter most of all.
 - c. Preaching is a sacred trust I have been given.
2. I Believe In ...
 - a. God Honoring Preaching
 - b. Word-Based Preaching
 - c. World Shaping Preaching
 - d. Impractical Preaching
 - e. Thought Provoking Preaching
 - f. Audience Appropriate Preaching
3. God Honoring, 2 Timothy 2:14-16
 - a. Good preaching is worship. Bad preaching is irreverent babble and idle chatter.
 - b. Preaching is not human-centered.
 - c. Preaching must not major in minors.
4. Word-Based, 2 Timothy 3:14-17
 - a. I tend to avoid topical sermons.
 - b. I tend to avoid reactionary sermons.
 - c. I tend to talk about whatever a selected text has to say and let the Spirit do the hard work.
5. World Shaping, 2 Timothy 2:20-22
 - a. The real world does not begin on Monday.
 - b. The real world is God’s world.
 - c. The real world is shaped by words.
6. Impractical, 2 Timothy 3:1-7
 - a. If the world you live in has gone mad, good preaching might need to be about something else.
 - b. The best sermons are open-ended: “Go and do likewise” (Luke 10:37).
7. Thought Provoking, 2 Timothy 2:23-26,
 - a. Nonsense arguments are easy. Real thought is hard.
 - b. Your mind, heart, spirit, and imagination are under siege. You are going to have to put a little effort in.
8. Audience Appropriate, 2 Timothy 4:1-5
 - a. I try to preach to the people in front of me.
 - b. I try to preach what I believe you need, not what you want.

Bible Class Outline

Note: Allow room for good discussion wherever it arises and do not feel compelled to cover all of the thoughts below. Think of these as discussion starters rather than lesson plans.

Key Thought: If that is what preaching is about, what is our responsibility as listeners?

1. I Believe in Preaching, 2 Timothy 1:8-14
 - a. Do we believe in preaching? Does it still make a valuable contribution?
 - b. Have changes in culture or technology made preaching irrelevant?
2. God Honoring, 2 Timothy 2:14-16
 - a. In what way(s) is preaching “worship”?
 - b. In what way(s) are we worshipping as listeners during a sermon?
3. Word-Based, 2 Timothy 3:14-17
 - a. What might be the difference between a Word-based sermon and one that is not?
 - b. What are the advantages of a Word-based (expository) sermon versus a topical one? Disadvantages?
4. World Shaping, 2 Timothy 2:20-22
 - a. How can we as listeners better allow the Word on Sunday to shape our world on Monday?
 - b. What is an example where an idea from a sermon has changed the way you view an ordinary part of your life?
5. Impractical, 2 Timothy 3:1-7
 - a. What is the advantage of an open-ended sermon?
 - b. How can we develop the habit of making personal, practical application on our own after a sermon?
6. Thought Provoking, 2 Timothy 2:23-26,
 - a. What are the characteristics of “foolish, ignorant controversies”? Why are they dangerous?
 - b. What has to take place in us for a sermon to help us “come to our senses”?
7. Audience Appropriate, 2 Timothy 4:1-5
 - a. Why should most sermons in a Sunday morning setting be aimed at Christian disciples rather than non-Christian persons?
 - b. What is an appropriate response to a sermon I didn’t want to hear (one that is “out of season” for me personally)?