

Preaching Practicum

Dr. Steve Schell | October, 2020 | Week 8 Class Notes

Writing an Outline

The Importance of Writing an Outline

- Don't copy anyone else's style. Be you, but have a good outline.
- Start somewhere and end somewhere. Don't ramble or go off on tangents.
- Example: preaching class at LIFE Bible college: I started requiring the students to present their outlines to the class so they could be corrected a week before the sermon was given. The effectiveness of their sermons changed dramatically. One student commented: "I didn't think my classmates could move my heart like this!"
- Illustrate each major point with a story or example from the Bible or from practical experience.
- Leave time at the end of each sermon to allow the congregation to respond to what they heard or to present the gospel. Don't hurry through this important moment. This response is the goal of the sermon: you want to reach their hearts not simply increase their knowledge.
- Here is a form that provides a simple outline for a Biblical sermon. Let's use the 3 steps we have just completed to fill it in:

Sermon Outline Form

Opening Prayer

Title

Text

Introduction

Proposition

Key Question

Transitional Sentence

Point 1

Explanation

Point 2

Explanation

Point 3

Explanation

Illustration

Transitional Sentence

Conclusion

Ministry Plan

Closing Prayer

- Title: Write out a title that captures the purpose of the sermon in no more than four words.
- Text: List only the verses you will actually read out loud. Research and practice names so you can pronounce them properly and easily.
- Introduction: Identify the felt need your sermon will address and show us how this truth will help us. Leave us hungry for an answer. Make us want to listen.
- Proposition: What is the main truth this passage teaches us? (What does it mean?)
- Key Question: Write out the question you will ask of the proposition that will be answered by your points.
- Transitional Sentences: Write a statement that moves our attention from the point you just made to the next point.
- Points: Each point should be a short statement that provides one specific answer to the key question you asked earlier.
- Illustrations: Tell a story that lets us “watch” this truth in action. Don’t read this even if you’re telling a Bible event. Relax and let it flow.
- Conclusion: Tell us how God wants us to respond to what we have just heard! What changes do you hope will take place in us if we believe this truth? What blessings can we expect will come to us if we obey it?
- Ministry Plan: How will you help the congregation respond to your message? How will you minister this truth to them?

Sharing our Outlines

- Now, who is willing to let us see your outline?