



# Preparation and Delivery of Sermons

## Lesson 7

### What Preaching Should Be

#### 2 Timothy 4:1-2 – Colossians 1:25-29

Most of you have heard lots of preaching in your day. Some of it you probably thought was good. I suspect that you have heard a few *duds* too. You've probably heard about the old country preacher who opened one of his wife's chest of drawers while she was in town. To his surprise there were 11 eggs and \$10,000.00. When she came home, he asked her. She explained that through the years she'd made a habit of putting an egg in the drawer for each of his poor sermons. Man! He felt great that there were only 11 eggs there after 40 years. "Where did you get the \$10,000.00?" "Oh! Every time I got a dozen eggs I sold them and kept the money." Yea! We've all heard a few of those.

Why have you thought some sermons were good while others weren't? (I'm not talking about sermons you liked or disliked. Some of the best sermons can really kick your shins and you won't like them very much.) My intent here is to give you a little gauge for measuring the quality of a sermon. Be careful that you don't become a judge of sermons and miss the message.

#### ***Preaching should be:***

#### **I. BIBLICAL.**

##### **A. The Bible. 2 Timothy 4:2.**

1. Deal with Bible points, stories, texts and issues.
2. Never just stories, arguments, facts, etc. No *skyscrapers*.
3. Stories and illustrations must remain the salt and pepper; not crux.

##### **B. Not just about the Bible.**

1. So much preaching talks a lot about the Bible but never gets into the Bible.
2. It's not good preaching unless it gets into the Word of God.

#### **II. EXALT CHRIST.**

##### **A. Christ is the centerpiece of the Bible.**

1. "We preach Christ crucified" (Colossians 1:23).
2. The whole Bible points to Christ. He's "the spirit of prophecy" (Revelation 19:10). Forward to, at and back to Him.

##### **B. In one way or another every sermon should point to Christ and exalt Him.**

1. Some sermons dealing directly with Him. *Life of Christ*.

2. Some pointing to Him. *O.T. and the natural world*. Types, etc.

3. Others extolling and explaining His ramifications. *Acts-Revelation*.

**C. Every sermon should draw men to Him. John 12:32** “*If I be lifted*”

**III. FULL OF GOOD, SOLID CONTENT.** Meaty.

**A. Plenty of truth, issues, scriptures, proofs, illustrations.**

**B. Never mostly filler with meager substance.**

**IV. WELL ORGANIZED.**

**A. Structured and systematic.** Never just thrown together/helter-skelter.

**B. Planned and designed to take a listener somewhere in a good way.** Consider the sermons included in the Bible. Always pointed and clear.

**V. INTELLECTUAL AND EMOTIONAL.**

**A. Intellectual.**

1. Always challenging to the mind and reason.

2. **Acts 17.** Paul in Thessalonica and Athens “*reasoned.*” **Isaiah 1:18**

**B. Emotional.**

1. Challenging and stimulating to the feelings and emotions. Touching the heart. Intellect alone can be so cold and heartless. **2 Corinthians 3:6**

2. From the heart of the preacher. He must believe it and have passion

**VI. TIMELY.** Sermons should fit the need and occasion.

**VII. FREE OF PATHOLOGIES.**

**A. Pathologies.** Such as straw-man putdowns, rudeness, crudeness, rabbit-chasing, meanness, misuse of pulpit to *whip* people, *cuteness*, over-balance of humor, inside jokes, poor use of the language, repetitive use of words or phrases, asking for “Amens,” wed to notes, timidity, cockiness, etc.

**B. Distractions.** Such as jingling keys or change, tugging at clothing, gum-chewing, lisps, monotone voice, mumbling, eyes to ceiling or floor, repetitive gestures, etc.

**VIII. DELIVERED WELL.**

**A. Enunciated and presented in a concise, articulate manner.**

**B. Stand up, speak up, shut up.**

**C. Both preacher and audience should always keep in mind that preaching is a two-way street. Both should be respected.**