

SERMON BUILDING

FIRST COURSE in the Subject:

Homiletics

by Paul Gericke

CARIB BAPTIST PUBLICATIONS

© Copyright 1973 by Paul Gericke

Carib Baptist Publications
7000 Alabama St.
El Paso, Texas 79904

All rights reserved. The reproduction or transmission of all or part of this book by any form or means, without the written permission of the publishers, is prohibited, with the exception of brief portions in magazines and/or newspapers.

Editions: 1973, 1975, 1991
Fourth Edition: 1997

Dewey Decimal Classification: 251
Classify: 1. Preaching
2. Sermons

ISBN: 0-311-72511-2

Printed by the Baptist Spanish Publishing House
El Paso, Texas 79914

BSPH Art. No. 72511

.5 M 2 97

CONTENTS

Recommended Textbooks	4
Preface	5
Ministerial Training by Guided Study	6
Unit I: PRINCIPLES OF PREACHING	9
Lesson 1: The Nature, Importance, and Objectives of Preaching	11
Lesson 2: The Preacher and the Message of Preaching	21
Unit II: PREPARING THE SERMON	31
Lesson 3: The Preparation for Sermon Building	33
Lesson 4: The Bible and the Sermon	43
Lesson 5: The Foundations of the Sermon	53
Lesson 6: The Outline of the Sermon	61
Lesson 7: The Materials of the Sermon	69
Lesson 8: The Development of the Sermon	79
Lesson 9: The Illustration of the Sermon	91
Unit III: PREACHING THE SERMON	101
Lesson 10: The Application of the Sermon	101
Lesson 11: The Style of the Sermon	109
Lesson 12: The Delivery of the Sermon	119
Appendix A: Sermon Outline Form	129
Appendix B: Sermon File	131
Appendix C: Recommended Books for a Preacher's Library	135
Available Study Guides	139

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

Level 1 :

The Study Guide: Sermon Building

Levels 2 and 3:

The Study Guide: Sermon Building

Brown, H. C., Jr.; Clinard, H. Gordon; and Northcutt, Jesse J. Steps to the Sermon.
Nashville: Broadman Press, 1963.

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

Blackwood, Andrew W. The Preparation of Sermons. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1948.

Broadus, John A. On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons. New and revised edition
by Jesse B. Weatherspoon, New York: Harper & Brothers, 1944.

Koller, Charles W. Expository Preaching without Notes Plus Sermons Preached without
Notes. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 1970.

Mounce, Robert H. The Essential Nature of New Testament Preaching. Grand Rapids,
Mich.: Baker Book House, 1970.

Ramm, Bernard. Protestant Biblical Interpretation. New revised edition. Grand Rapids,
Mich.: Baker Book House, 1970.

Sangster, W. E. The Craft of the Sermon. London: Epworth Press, 1954.

Stevenson, Dwight E. and Diehl, Charles F. Reaching People from the Pulpit. New York:
Harper & Row, 1958.

PREFACE

The subject of this Study Guide is preaching, that is, the proclamation of the Word of God. This includes the field of homiletics, which is the art or science of preaching. The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To understand the nature and importance of preaching;
2. To understand the calling to preach and the message of preaching;
3. To learn how to build or construct sermons;
4. To learn how to preach or deliver sermons.

In this first course of study, the discussions deal with the general principles of preaching and the building of sermons. The emphasis is on those aspects of the art of preaching which relate to the construction of messages based on the Word of God. The primary purpose is to show preachers how to build sermons in such a way that they might be preached effectively.

The proclamation of the Word of God has been the central task of the leaders of God's people since the times of the prophets and apostles and through the ages of the Church. God has revealed His Word through His messengers and uniquely in person through Jesus Christ. Whether this proclamation has been called prophesying, preaching, teaching, witnessing, or speaking for the Lord, He has chosen to reveal His message to men through the spoken Word. When His messengers have failed to proclaim His Word faithfully, or His people have failed to heed His Word, they have missed His blessing, have lost their way, and have come under His judgement. When the Word has been preached and heeded, His blessings have come and His people have been in turn a blessing. The Church through the ages has been strongest and accomplished the greatest for the Kingdom when preaching has been central in her ministry, and when preachers have proclaimed the Gospel with boldness.

It behooves those who have been called to preach God's Word to prepare themselves thoroughly for this high calling, to understand His message clearly, to interpret it faithfully, and to declare it with clarity and forcefulness so that men might know His will and way and accept His message. The Study Guide has been prepared with the hope and prayer that those men called of God to preach the Gospel will be helped to accomplish their task for the Lord.

This Study Guide is divided into three units: Principles of Preaching, Preparing the Sermon, and Preaching the Sermon. These units include a total of twelve lessons, each of which covers an important area of study. Each lesson begins with a general discussion of the topic to be studied. The most important aspects of the topic are discussed. Additional information is included on matters not treated in the textbook. More detailed information is provided by the books recommended for study. Steps to the Sermon serves as the additional textbook for Levels 2 and 3. All quotations and references are from the King James Version of the Bible, but students are also encouraged to read other translations for comparison.

The student should read first of all the introduction to a unit for an overview of the material and then read the discussion of the topic of the first lesson in the unit. He should then read the questions at the end of the lesson which pertain to his level of study. The assignments in the textbook and the Bible should then be read, keeping the questions in mind. The questions should then be answered to the best of his knowledge. If a student has difficulty with a question, he should bring up the matter at the next seminar session. Additional questions are also provided for seminar discussions. The seminar leader may assign these to advanced students so that they might assist in leading the discussions.

The student is urged to set aside a period of time each day for concentrated study, beginning the day following the seminar meeting. He needs a quiet place where he can spend an hour or two of uninterrupted study. The student at Level 2 or Level 3 should obtain a notebook or file folder for the answers to questions on his level since space is only provided in the Study Guide for the answers to questions at Level 1.

New Orleans
June, 1973

Paul Gericke

MINISTERIAL TRAINING BY GUIDED STUDY

Ministerial Training by Guided Study is designed to introduce students on various levels of academic preparation to the Bible and related areas. This is not a correspondence course, nor the traditional lecture to make quality theological training available to all students. Family and church responsibilities and lack of academic prerequisites and finances prevent many men and women who have been called of God from improving their ministry through training. These obstacles can be overcome by an approach which emphasizes self-study and weekly small group discussions. The study guides are designed for students on three levels of preparations:

1. Students with some primary education
2. Students with some secondary education
3. Students with some university qualifications

Although this course is designed primarily for pastors and ministerial candidates with no seminary training, laymen and lay preachers can also benefit from some of the courses. Pastors with divinity degrees might use some of the study guides as refresher courses while serving as leaders of study groups and conveners of the weekly seminars.

Study guides are used to direct private and group activities in the mastery of the content of a subject. They contain the basic content for each subject and recommend supplementary sources for a more advanced study. Questions are included to direct the attention of the student to the important facts in the lessons and to provide an immediate response to the material read. Weekly seminars of approximately an hour for each subject provide opportunities for the discussion of issues related to the subjects and their practical application in contemporary life. A teacher or tutor guides the seminar discussions, but the students from all three levels present and discuss their ideas. When students come to the seminar with a basic understanding of the lesson, the seminar can be dedicated to enrichment of the subject and to discussion of the practical use of the material in the life of the Church.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE STUDY GUIDE

Text and Learning Activities

The Study Guide is designed primarily for home study. When the Guide is opened, the text appears on the left side of the page, and questions requiring an immediate response to the material read are on the right. The student should read a paragraph before reading and answering the question or questions for that paragraph. If there are no questions for a paragraph, he may wish to make a few notes on that paragraph and move on to the next. The questions and answers should be covered with a strip of paper (see following page) until the paragraph has been read and the student is ready to answer each question. Then the cover sheet should be moved down the page far enough to enable the reading of the question and the writing of the answer. The answer according to the text appears immediately under the question. After the student has written his own answer, he may then compare it with the given answer. If the two are not the same, the paragraph in the text should be read again.

Home Study Exercises

A **Home Study Exercise** appears at the end of each lesson. The Study Guide contains the basic content for each lesson, and the questions of the **Basic Assignment** are to be answered by all three levels. After reading the text and doing the learning activity on each page, the student should be able to answer most of the home study questions without further reference to the text. These questions are self-testing exercises. If a student is unsure of the correct answer, he has not adequately learned the material in that particular section, and he should review until he is sure that he understands the content. Some questions call for more extensive answers and require concentrated effort for mastery. The completed questions serve as a summary of the lesson and should be helpful as a review.

Students on *Levels 2 and 3* are required to do **Supplementary Assignments** in addition to the basic exercises. The supplementary activities sometimes include a reading assignment in another book with questions to be answered.

Level 3 is required to do **Advanced Assignments** in addition to the basic and supplementary work. This work will vary according to the availability of library resources. Sometimes there will be questions over a parallel reading assignment in a recommended resource book. At other times, the questions will require independent or individual research. Bible dictionaries, encyclopaedias, and books on the subjects of the study guide are sources which should be consulted. A **Bibliography** at the end of the study guide indicates where additional material may be found.

Seminar

It is suggested that the students of all three levels in a geographical area meet for an hour each week with a teacher or tutor to discuss the lesson with reference to:

1. problems encountered in home study in answering questions or in understanding the textual material;
2. the application of the lesson to the practical work of Christian ministry and conduct;
3. the significance of the lesson as a whole and its place in the total programme of ministerial training.

The fragmentary questions of the lesson may sometimes be answered without getting a picture of the lesson as a whole. It is also possible to learn the facts about Christianity without seeing their application in the life of the Church. The student is responsible for getting the detailed information of the lesson in his home study. Understanding the over-all meaning of the lesson and its practical application should be the goal of the seminar.

Some seminar questions have been included with each lesson. Their purposes are:

1. to stimulate interest (some are controversial questions which have not been resolved by scholars);
2. to guide in the beginning of the seminar discussions;
3. to direct attention to problems related to the materials studied;
4. to require original thinking which will lead to suggestions for the practical application of the material.

Teacher or Tutor

The teacher or tutor may offer other seminar questions which are more relevant in a given situation. He should feel free to use any approach he chooses as long as the discussion remains related to the material of the lesson. It is his responsibility to prevent the seminar discussion from departing from relevant issues.

The teacher may find that a brief test at the beginning of the seminar will be helpful. The test will encourage students to more adequately prepare their home study assignments and enable the teacher to evaluate the progress of each student. Two or three questions from the basic studies should be sufficient. Students who are not making satisfactory progress may need personal help and encouragement in preparing their lesson. They should not be overlooked!

LEARNING ACTIVITY

Use this sheet of paper to cover the learning activity on each page.

When you have finished reading each paragraph, slide the sheet down just far enough to expose the learning activity for that paragraph. If there is no activity, continue to the next paragraph.

Write your answers

Then slide the sheet down farther to expose the suggested answers.

Compare your answers with the suggested ones. If they do not agree, reread the paragraph.

Continue to the next paragraph.

Cut on this line