

## U N I T    I I

### PREPARING THE SERMON

Unit II consists of discussions of essential matters involved in the preparation of the sermon. Each discussion is designed to point out the principles and provide ways and means of building a sermon.

Lesson 3 is a discussion of the preparations necessary for effective sermon building and delivery. This involves the preparation of the preacher, including his body, mind, and heart; the preparation of the lives and the gatherings of the people; and the general and specific preparation of the sermon. Lesson 4 is a study of the nature of the Bible and its relationship to the sermon. The discussion covers the inspiration, the authority, the revelation, and the interpretation of the Bible in relation to the sermon.

Lesson 5 is a study of the basic foundations of the sermon, including the text, the subject, the title, the proposition, and the objective of the sermon. Lesson 6 is a discussion of the outline of the sermon organized around the foundational elements. This involves the classification of outlines according to method and subject and the organizations of outlines, including the introduction, the body, and the conclusion.

Lesson 7 is an investigation of the various sources for ideas and materials of the sermon and the ways to store and index these materials. Lesson 8 is a discussion of the ways to develop the sermon involving the types of patterns of development, the explanation of materials, the use of argument, and the development of sermon series. Lesson 9 is a study of the purposes, the types, the sources, and the uses of illustrations.

LESSON 3

THE PREPARATION FOR SERMON BUILDING

Certain preparations are necessary for effective sermon building and delivery. These involve the preparation of the preacher, the preparation of the people, and the preparation of the sermon.

The Preparation of the Preacher

Like the Apostle Paul, every preacher called of God is a "chosen vessel" to bear the name of the Lord before the people to whom he will be sent (Acts 9:15). The preacher, therefore, needs to accept this calling and dedicate himself wholly to the task set before him. He must remember that he is a vessel or instrument to honor God and thus must see that he is useful for the Master's use, prepared and ready for any good service for Him (2 Tim. 2:21).

The preparation of the body

The body of the Christian is the temple of God in which the Spirit of God dwells. This temple is holy, and thus if anyone defiles or destroys that temple, God will destroy him (1 Cor. 3:16-17). Therefore, Paul disciplined his body as the athlete preparing for a race and kept it under control and in subjection so that when he preached to others, he would not himself become unfit and disqualified for his task (1. Cor. 9:24-27).

The preacher should then flee from youthful lusts and follow after righteousness, faith, love, and peace (2 Tim. 2:22). He should be especially on guard against sexual immorality (1 Thess. 4:3-5), for this has been the ruin of some preachers. The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil and has caused some to wander from the faith, bringing upon themselves great sorrow (1 Tim. 6:10). The love of this world has caused some to forsake their task like Demas (2 Tim. 4:10). In fact, the preacher should avoid all questionable practices lest he become a stumbling block to the weak (1 Cor. 8:9). Therefore, the preacher should review his behavior before he preaches to see if there is anything that would cause someone to stumble or hurt his testimony, for he must truly practice what he preaches.

[Empty box for notes]

Every preacher called of God is a " \_\_\_\_\_ " to bear the name of the \_\_\_\_\_ before the people to whom he will be sent.

(chosen vessel, Lord)

CHOOSE THE CORRECT PHRASE AND WRITE IT IN EACH BLANK: Spirit of God  
temple of God

The body of the Christian is the \_\_\_\_\_ in which the \_\_\_\_\_ dwells.

Like Paul, the preacher should discipline himself as an \_\_\_\_\_ preparing for a \_\_\_\_\_.

(temple of God, Spirit of God, athlete, race)

LIST THREE THINGS THAT A PREACHER SHOULD GUARD AGAINST IN HIS LIFE.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

(sexual immorality, love of money, love of the world)

[Empty box for notes]

Furthermore, the preacher should take care to keep his body strong and fit for proclaiming the Gospel. Some have suffered from ill health because of overeating, lack of rest and sleep, bad habits, overwork, or lack of exercise. Bodily exercise is profitable. Ten or fifteen minutes of exercise each day will give the preacher greater endurance and alertness, and will contribute to a longer life of useful service. Weakness of body does not necessarily disqualify a man from preaching, for Paul at times was weak (1 Cor. 2:3; 2 Cor. 10:10; 12:10). For the preacher must realize that he is weak if he is to know the power of God (2 Cor. 4:7). However, like Paul he should discipline himself as the athlete so that he is in the best condition for the work of preaching. Consider the many miles and the numerous hardships he suffered in his journeys, indicating that generally he must have been in good physical condition.

The preparation of the mind

The mind generally refers to the faculty of thinking, knowing, or understanding by which a person discerns or makes judgements. This is the usual New Testament meaning. At the moment of salvation, the Christian is given a new mind, the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16). The Christian, especially the preacher who leads others, should cultivate this mind or attitude that Jesus manifested, the mind of humility. He took the form of a servant, humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death (Phil. 2:3-8). Spiritual pride and self-righteousness have been the downfall of some preachers, for God alone should be glorified in body and spirit (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

The preacher should remember that God has not given him a spirit of fear, but of power, of love, and of a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:6-7). As he dedicates himself wholly unto the Lord, he is transformed or changed continually into the likeness of Christ by the renewing of his mind (Rom. 12:1-2). He should avoid petty debating and empty and worldly talk, which often lead men away from the Word of Truth (2 Tim. 2:14-18). He should grow in grace and in knowledge and should learn all he can about God and the world by study and research. But he should be on guard because knowledge tends to make a person proud, but love edifies, or builds up (1 Cor. 8:1). He should always have a willing and ready mind in preparation for his tasks (2 Cor. 8:12; 1 Pet. 5:2).

*Some things which would contribute to a strong and fit body are:*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ eating,
2. right amount of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,
3. \_\_\_\_\_ habits,
4. proper \_\_\_\_\_.

*(proper, rest, sleep, good, exercise)*

*IS THIS STATEMENT TRUE OR FALSE?*

*The new mind which the Christian receives at the moment of salvation is the mind of Christ. \_\_\_\_\_*

*(true)*

### The preparation of the heart

The heart is the very center of the existence of man, including all of his moral, rational, and emotional faculties, and is the seat of his inward life. The decisions of the heart determine the behavior of man. Jesus told his disciples that out of the treasures of the heart, the mouth speaks (Matt. 12:34-35). Since the preacher is one who speaks for the Lord, he must be certain that his heart is right. He should follow the example of his Lord and be meek and lowly of heart if he is to persuade men (Matt. 11:28-30). He too should love the Lord his God with all his heart, and soul, and mind (Matt. 22:37).

### The Preparation of the People

The people must also be prepared for the preaching of the Word of God. This includes both the Lord's people and those who need to receive Him as Savior and Lord. Their hearts and lives must be prepared for receiving the Word. The occasions for hearing the Word must also be prepared, that is, the situations in which the people are gathered together to listen to the preacher.

### The preparation of their lives

The people must be prepared to hear the Word of God. John the Baptist was called to be a prophet. He was to go before the Lord and prepare His way and to bring knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of sins (Luke 1:76-77). John came preaching the Gospel to the people (Luke 3:18), urging them to repent (Matt. 3:1-6) and pointing them to the Messiah, Jesus Christ (John 1:29-30). Every preacher of the Gospel has the same responsibility to prepare the people of God by preaching repentance. God's people must be right in order that He might work through them to reach others. They must repent, that is, turn from self and sin and follow Him in service. Through them the lost will come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

This was the example that the apostles set at the beginning of the ministry of the early Church. The Lord after His resurrection instructed His disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait until they were given power to witness for Him (Luke 24:46-49). After His ascension, they went to Jerusalem to an upper room where they prayed continually with one accord (Acts 1:12-14). Then, on the day of Pentecost they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak about the wonderful works of God as the Spirit directed (Acts 2:1-11). Then Peter, speaking for

*It is important that a preacher's heart  
is \_\_\_\_\_.*

*(Compare your answer with the text.)*

*The preacher of the Gospel has the  
responsibility of preparing the \_\_\_\_\_  
of God to hear the \_\_\_\_\_ of God  
by preaching \_\_\_\_\_.*

*(people, Word, repentance)*

the apostles, preached the Gospel to those assembled, interpreting the experience and the Scriptures foretelling this good news (Acts 2:14-39). With many other words he continued to testify and exhort them to repent, and about three thousand received his message and were baptized (Acts 2:40-41). This preparation was marked by obedience, for the people obeyed the Lord and did what He commanded; by prayer, for they set their hearts right and called upon Him; by being in one accord, for they agreed together to serve the Lord and testify to Him; and by being filled with the Holy Spirit, for they received the power of God to testify to Christ with zeal and boldness. This type of preparation continued in the early Church and was a major factor in its effectiveness in reaching many for Christ (cf. Acts 2:42-47; 4:23-33).

The preparation for their gatherings

Preparations for gathering people together to hear the Word of God are also important. A survey of the Book of Acts reveals that the apostles took every regular gathering of people and every special occasion to preach the Word of God. The day of Pentecost, when people from all over the known world were present, was the first great opportunity to preach the Gospel (Acts 2:1-41). The apostles preached in the temple and in the synagogues as long as they were welcomed. They took the opportunities at the gatherings during Easter and other feast days, even as the Lord Himself preached and taught. They even testified and preached when they were brought into court. All preachers should take every opportunity to proclaim the Word of God at appointed times of religious services on Sundays and other holy days, but they should also look for opportunities during national holidays, community and public gatherings, sports events, family gatherings, weddings, funerals, and other occasions.

The apostles preached in any place they could get a hearing—in the temple, in the synagogues, at homes, in public places, in court rooms, in the market place, by the city gates, in the streets, or on the highways. They had no church buildings, for these did not appear until the second century. If a church building is available, it should be used, but often more people can be reached in the outdoors or in public buildings where people may feel more at ease. The important matter is that people can see and hear the preacher, and thus efforts should be made to keep the people quiet and reverent when the message is proclaimed. If possible the people should be seated. Provisions should be made to keep disturbances and disruptions to a minimum. Provision should be made especially to care for babies and small children. The use of a well-trained

**MATCH EVIDENCES WITH THE PREPARATIONS OF THE PEOPLE ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST.**

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| — filled with the Holy Spirit | 1. set their hearts right and called upon Him           |
| — obedience                   | 2. obeyed the Lord and did what He commanded            |
| — in one accord               | 3. received the power to testify with zeal and boldness |
| — prayer                      | 4. agreed to serve the Lord and to testify              |

(3, 2, 4, 1)

**LIST SEVERAL OCCASIONS FOR PREACHING THE WORD OF GOD OTHER THAN SUNDAYS AND REGULARLY APPOINTED TIMES.**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

Wherever preaching is done, it is important that people can \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the preacher.

(see, hear)

group of ushers is most helpful in keeping reverence. A well-planned programme is also needful with allowance for free and spontaneous expressions of devotion and responses to preaching.

### The Preparation of the Message

The preacher should make preparations for the messages that he proclaims. This includes both general preparation for preaching and special preparation for specific messages.

#### The general preparation

The preacher should first of all be prepared through general study for his task. The Apostle Paul revealed his concern for books and his need for study when he urged Timothy in his letter to bring his books, especially the parchments which were probably copies of Old Testament Scriptures (2 Tim. 4:13). Furthermore, he urged the young preacher to do his utmost to prepare himself saying, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). He was to study earnestly so that he could correctly analyze and accurately interpret the Word of God.

Every preacher should prepare himself by reading the Bible both devotionally for personal growth and systematically for general preparation for preaching. He should study the Bible exegetically, that is, interpreting the Scriptures verse by verse and book by book. He should also study it theologically, that is, studying the teachings or doctrines of the Bible. He should establish a definite programme of regular Bible study according to his own background and need. Various translations of the Bible should be consulted, including parallel versions. A knowledge of Hebrew and Greek would be an asset with such helps as the Hebrew and Greek texts, grammars, and lexicons. Sound Christian literature would be of valuable aid, such as Bible dictionaries, concordances, atlases, handbooks, introductory surveys, and commentaries. The preacher should also consult other religious literature, including Biblical, theological, ethical, historical, and practical studies. A study of books on preaching and of sermons of outstanding preachers, including recordings of messages, would be most helpful. He should also keep abreast of writings in other fields, such as philosophy, psychology, sociology, education, science, language, literature, the arts, history, and biography.

*The purpose for earnest study by a preacher is so that he can correctly \_\_\_\_\_ and accurately \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God.*

*(analyze, interpret)*

*Bible reading should be both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.*  
*Bible study should be both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.*

*(devotional, systematic, exegetical, theological)*

*IS THIS STATEMENT TRUE OR FALSE?*

*Writings in other fields, such as psychology, literature, and history, are of little value to a preacher. \_\_\_\_\_*

*(false)*

The specific preparation

In preparing for a specific message the preacher should first of all seek guidance from the Lord through prayer. Paul requested prayer that the message would be given to him to make known the mystery of Christ boldly (Eph. 6:18-19). The preacher should pray for a Scripture passage upon which to base his message. If he is led to an idea or subject first, he should seek a passage that expresses the idea or subject. He should then seek guidance in the interpretation of the Scriptures and in the development of the passage or subject. Only after a careful study of the passage, consulting several versions, and the development of an outline should the preacher consult commentaries and other books. This procedure would guard against the danger of depending on other men's interpretations and using other men's materials rather than his own; but, on the other hand, consulting other opinions would protect against interpretations of passages and outlines of materials not indicated in the Scriptures. Then the preacher should seek explanations, illustrations, and applications of Scripture from life and literature, keeping in mind the will of God as revealed in the Bible and the needs of men as revealed in the world.

What should be the first step in preparation of a message? \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER THE FOLLOWING STEPS OF PROCEDURE IN THE ORDER WHICH THE PREACHER SHOULD FOLLOW TO AVOID DEPENDENCE ON OTHER MEN.

- \_\_\_ Consult commentaries and other books.
- \_\_\_ Pray for a Scripture passage as basis for his message.
- \_\_\_ Seek explanations, illustrations, and applications of Scripture from life and literature.
- \_\_\_ Seek guidance in interpretation of Scriptures and in development of the passage or subject.

(seek guidance from the Lord through prayer, 3, 1, 4, 2)

Home Study Exercise

Basic activity (Levels 1, 2, and 3)

A. The Study Guide

1. Every preacher like the Apostle Paul is a chosen vessel to do what? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The body of the Christian is \_\_\_\_\_ and is indwelt by the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Like the athlete, the preacher should \_\_\_\_\_ himself in order to be in the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Preachers, like all Christians, are given a new mind in salvation, which is the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What are some of the things that cause the downfall of the preachers and that should be avoided? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Since a preacher speaks for the Lord, he must be certain that his \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. The preacher has the responsibility of preparing the \_\_\_\_\_  
by preaching \_\_\_\_\_.
8. On the day of Pentecost Peter through his preaching prepared the people as indicated  
by what four things? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What are some of the occasions for preaching the Word of God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. In every opportunity, the important matter is that people can \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ the preacher.
11. In general preparation how should the preacher prepare himself? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. In specific preparation what should the preacher do first of all? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What procedure should the preacher follow to guard against dependence on other men?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. The Bible

1. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20.

The body as the temple of God is \_\_\_\_\_.

What is the danger in defiling that temple? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Since the Christian is bought with a price, what should he do with his body?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Romans 12:1-2.

What is the reasonable service of the brethren? \_\_\_\_\_

How is the Christian changed? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read Acts 2:41-47.

Through his preaching, Peter prepared the people to follow the Lord in what ways?

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4. Read 2 Timothy 2:15. Compare other translations.

What should a preacher do to prepare himself as an approved workman? \_\_\_\_\_

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How should he handle the Word of Truth? \_\_\_\_\_

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Supplementary activity (Levels 2 and 3):

Read the pages 66-68 of the textbook.

1. What is involved in a general **programme** of study of preaching?
2. What should a preacher include in a **programme** of Bible study to prepare himself for preaching?
3. List the things that R. G. Lee has done in sermon preparation.
4. From the Bible references in the Study Guide, name the things the preacher should not do and the things he should do in his personal preparation.

Advanced activity (Level 3):

1. Describe in detail what you feel a preacher should do to prepare himself in body, mind, and heart for the task of preaching.
2. Explain why you feel preparation of the people and their gatherings are necessary for effective preaching.
3. Outline a **programme** of sermon preparation that would be best suited for you.

### Seminar Discussion

1. What are the things that preachers can do to help prepare themselves in body, mind, and heart for preaching?
2. Discuss the many opportunities preachers have to proclaim the Gospel and the ways they can prepare people to hear the message. Discuss also the problems involved in these situations.
3. Prepare an outline of things that are necessary for every preacher in preparing a sermon.