

Evaluating our Pulpit Ministry

Big Idea: Pastors need to continue to develop their skills as communicators. To do this, it might be profitable for us to spend some time in our pastoral gatherings to interact on a few parts of preaching. As we do so, want to avoid comparing ourselves to each other to produce competition, humiliation, or pride, but rather we want to grow in our awe of God's Word, our repentance for our sins and failures, our joy in being a minister for Him, our building one another up in the faith, and our skills in knowing God and the people to whom we are called to serve, and how to preach well. We are serving one another in love, and so we charitably interact for His glory and the good of His church (and churches). Read through these links (or others on how they do sermon preparation) as you think through the questions below:

<https://www.preachingtoday.com/skills/2009/november/timkelleronhowhepreparessermons.html>

<https://www.preaching.com/articles/a-preaching-interview-with-warren-wiersbe/>

1) Exposition:

- How do you determine the schedule you will have for preaching? (who will preach, how often, and what Biblical books or subjects you will be presenting)
- What does your studying for a sermon look like? How much time do you anticipate you will need for message preparation? At what point do you consult commentaries or sermons? How much consideration of your church audience should be included?
- When (in the week) do you want to be done your sermon preparations? What do your notes look like and how much do you rely on them? (*Are you willing to bring in one of your sermon notes to encourage others?*)
- What, if any, practice might you do in preparation for your delivery? Afterwards, do you have any (official) way to assess your message for substance, Biblical content, gospel clarity, language, and presentation? How do you know if it met the goal that was intended?

2) Quotation:

- What do you believe is the purpose of using a quotation in a sermon?
- What are some of the rules or advice you might use concerning quoting someone in a sermon? Is it wrong to never or seldom use quotes in sermons? Is it wrong to always quote the same people? Is there more "weight" in quoting from living people more than dead ones, or vice versa?
- Is there a "right way" and a "wrong way" to use quotations? What is "in bounds" and "out of bounds"? Generally, how long is a "too-long quote", in your opinion?

Next month: Illustration and Application