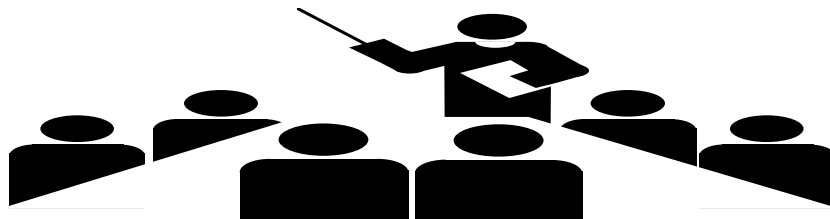


PREACHING SEMINAR



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Formal Elements of the Sermon

PREACHING SEMINAR

Rev. Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

TOPIC: THE FORMAL ELEMENTS OF THE SERMON

I. The Importance of Arrangement

A. The Value of a Plan

1. Its importance to the Speaker
 - a. It aids in invention and development.
 - 1) It affects creativity.
 - 2) It enables clarity of thought.
 - 3) It enables simplicity and sharpness.
 - b. It enables in smooth transition.
 - c. It makes recall and retention easier.
 - d. It enables ones feelings to flow naturally and freely in the sermon.
2. Its Effect upon the Audience
 - a. It makes the sermon easier to understand.
 - b. It limits the misunderstanding of the message.
 - c. It makes the sermon more pleasing.
 - d. It helps to keep the audience's attention.
 - e. It makes the message more persuasive.
 - f. It makes the message easier to remember.

B. The Qualities of Good Arrangement

1. Unity – a sense of oneness in the sermon as a whole.
2. Order – the various parts of the sermon in relation to the whole and to each other.
 - a. A careful distinguishing of the ideas
 - b. A sequence of ideas which make for continuity.
 - c. A movement toward a climax.
3. Proportion – giving proper time and attention to the various parts of the sermon.
 - a. Natural symmetry – in proportion to their relation to each other & to the entire sermon.
 - b. Specific design – in proportion to the object of the sermon or the importance of the points.
4. Progress – forward movement toward a climax.
 - a. Climax is determined by the sermon objective.
 - a. Materials are chosen & arranged accordingly.

C. The Study of Arrangement

II. The Introduction

A. The objects of the Introduction

1. To create interest in the subject.
2. To prepare the audience for understanding it.

B. The Source of the Introduction

1. The text or context
2. The subject to be discussed
3. The occasion
4. The problem
5. The objective
6. The life-situation
7. The story or illustration
8. The striking statement
9. Imagination

C. Qualities of a Good Introduction

1. Its thoughts are close to, yet distinct from the discussion & naturally lead to the discussion.
2. It usually has a single thought.
3. It avoids the use of broad & commonplace generality
4. It does not promise too much.
5. It is adapted to the particular discourse.
6. It is not long.
7. It is simple, yet carefully prepared.

III. The Discussion

A. The Plan

1. It is simple, yet striking.
2. It allows the proposition to fix its boundaries and enhance its unity, order, proportion and progress.

B. The Question of Division

1. Divisions aren't necessary, but are usually of service to hearer & speaker in preparation & delivery.
2. The number of divisions depends upon the message; its simplicity, vividness, & variety are guidelines.

C. The Character of the Divisions

1. The divisions should exhaust the subject proposed.
2. The divisions should be distinct and clearly cut.
3. The divisions should be symmetrical.

D. The Problems of Order and Management

1. Divisions aimed at instruction and conviction should precede those aimed at feeling and will.
2. Negatives should precede positives.
3. Divisions & subdivisions should be stated with exactness, concisely, & be suggestive & attractive.
4. Divisions may be announced depending on speaker & message

IV. The Conclusion

A. The Basic Rule: Careful Preparation

B. Guiding Principles

1. Natural & appropriate
2. Unmistakenly personal in its aim
3. Alive & energetic
4. Definite & clear in thought and expression

C. The Method of Conclusion

1. Recapitation
2. Application
3. Direct Appeal
4. Pastoral exhortation, encouragement, or warning
5. Comprehensive & impressive restatement of the subject
6. Appropriate illustration or anecdote
7. The text itself restated

D. Relevant questions

1. How long?
2. How and should it be announced?
3. Should always be positive.

V. Transition

A. The Value of Transition

1. It saves the preacher from obscurity
2. It helps the preacher keep the audience's attention
3. It helps the preacher in recalling the sermon
4. It contributes to progressive movement
5. It will test the unity of sermon

B. The Method of Transition

1. The Relation Method
2. The Connecting Word
3. The Connecting Phrase
4. The Third Idea or the Bridge
5. The Summary
6. The Question
7. The Rhetorical Devices