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**INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES**  
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**WHY EXPOSITORY PREACHING IS BEST**  
**IFCL 6a (Advanced Lecture 8)**

**INTRODUCTION**

Sermons can take different forms. They can be topical, textual, or what is referred to as expository. As we will see, an expository sermon enables the preacher to accomplish the goal of preaching, which is to read the text, explain the text, and apply the text. (1 Timothy 4:13).

A topical sermon will combine verses from around the Bible that talk about the same topic. An example would be marriage which is mentioned in Ephesians 5, 1 Peter 3, and Genesis 1. In this case, the preacher would use the information in all three of these chapters to create a sermon about marriage.

A textual sermon would take a short passage as an introduction then preach a message based on what is found in those verses with no necessary connection made with the context of the passage. An example would be a sermon about the pastor's role to teach the Bible to the Christians in the church using the John 21 passage where Jesus told Peter to "feed my sheep." But neither a topical nor a textual sermon really interprets, explains, or applies the truth found in the passage in context.

An expository sermon, on the other hand, emphasizes only the passage being considered along with its context, and it will normally concentrate on a single text of scripture of any length.

**I. A DEFINITION OF EXPOSITORY PREACHING**

- A. Definition: An expository preacher is one who opens the Bible and explains the meaning, even explaining what is difficult to understand, and then makes the appropriate application. (1 Timothy 4:13)
- B. The source of an expository sermon
  - 1. The message finds its full source in Scripture, not tradition, not philosophy, not psychology, only Scripture. (Colossians 2:8, 18)
  - 2. The message is taken out of Scripture through careful study. We let the passage dictate what the message of the sermon will be.
  - 3. The message comes from the normal meaning of the passage in its historical context. What the words and message meant to the human author and to the original reader is what it means to us as well. A passage can have many applications, but only one meaning.
  - 4. The sermon communicates the God-intended meaning.
  - 5. The meaning of the passage is then applied to life today. (Nehemiah 8:8; Acts 20: 26-27)

## **II. ADVANTAGES OF EXPOSITORY PREACHING**

- A. It achieves the intent of preaching better than topical or textual forms of preaching, The intent of preaching should always be to deliver God's message.
- B. It promotes preaching that has the full authority of Scripture.
- C. It magnifies the importance of God's Word.
- D. It provides a storehouse of preaching material. Preaching book by book, chapter by chapter, and even verse by verse gives the preacher a lifetime of new sermons.
- E. It causes the pastor to be known as a man of God's Word.
- F. It ensures the highest level of Bible knowledge for the church.
- G. It leads the church to think and live biblically.
- H. It encourages depth and completeness in each sermon.
- I. It forces the preacher to try to explain the hard-to-interpret verses also.
- J. It allows the preacher to handle broad theological themes. Over a long period of time, all of the themes in the Bible will be covered, not just the preachers favorite themes.
- K. It keeps preachers away from preaching their favorite topics over and over, which is what will happen if the preacher has to come up with a topic to preach on each week.
- L. It prevents the preacher from inserting his own ideas.
- M. It guards against misinterpretation of the biblical text because it forces the preacher to explain the meaning in context.
- N. It imitates the preaching of Christ and the apostles as seen in Acts 8:25-40 and Luke 24:13-27.
- O. It brings out the best in the expositor because he has spent time studying the Bible and is then capable of explaining the Word of God accurately.

### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. Our only authority lies in the Scripture we preach.
- B. We are just a messenger.
- C. God gave us the message. It is found in the Bible. We have the responsibility to deliver God's message to our church without changing it, and we are responsible to help them understand how to apply it to their lives.
- D. Expository preaching is hard work.
  - 1. It takes time to prepare a good sermon that will feed the congregation spiritually.
  - 2. It takes time to study a passage enough to be able to explain it clearly and accurately.

The challenge to all of us is to that we need to commit ourselves to reading, explaining, and applying God's Word. Remember the challenge in Ezra 7:10, "For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel."