

Hello. /We will begin the tenth lecture on homiletics. /We have been studying preparation of sermons. /There are seven parts in preparing for sermons, and we are currently studying the sixth part, the structure of the sermon.

/We will separate the structure of sermons into four parts. First, the classification of main topics, and the introduction of the sermon. /Next, the conclusion of the sermon, and then choosing the title of the sermon.

/(1) Classification of main topics. /When classifying the main topics, we must know ① with what attitudes we must perform this with. /It is better for a preacher to set aside the classifications of subjects or main topics until after he has thoroughly studied the biblical text.

/The preacher must perform a literal exegesis of the main biblical text, and he must faithfully study the text. /Then we must first grasp what it is that the Holy Spirit wishes to convey to God's people.

/It is better for us not to make classifications until we have thoroughly studied the text and understood it as a single subject. /This is because the biblical text must first capture the heart of the preacher.

/The text must first capture the heart of the preacher so that the preacher can clearly deliver God's word in his sermon. /The preacher must not convey his own thoughts or will before he delivers God's word.

/We studied the importance of expository sermons in our previous lectures. /Expository sermons properly deliver God's word to believers. /Therefore, the preacher must faithfully study the biblical text and organize the contents into main topics.

/The preacher must first carefully study the main idea of the text. /Then after he clearly understands the main idea, he must study the supporting ideas within the main idea.

/Once he has carefully studied the supporting ideas, he must then study ways in which he could combine the supplementary factors of the supporting ideas into one. /He must first study the main idea, and after he carefully studies the supplementary factors, he can then proceed to preach on that one subject.

/Hence, the sermon will be consistent with one theme from beginning to end. /Then the sermon will become diverse through the consistency of the supplementary factors.

/Again, sermons must have a single theme, and within the subject there must be a diversity in contents of the biblical text. /In order to prepare sermons this way, we must understand the following two things.

/We must first analyze the main text. /After we analyze every part of the text, we must then put it together to form a single theme. /Analysis and synthesis are important. /There

must also be a process within the synthesis, in which we can classify the main topics of sermons.

/We must classify the main topics of sermons through such analysis and synthesis. /Then as a result, there will be many topics throughout sermons. ② Let's look at the relationship between the main topic and the theme.

/The theme is a concept that discloses the entire biblical text. /The theme is the sermon's core content that the preacher wishes to convey to his congregation. /However, the main topics are where the theme is explained. /Let's look at the chart.

/The theme is a clear main idea. /The main topics are supplementary explanations of the clear theme. /Furthermore, the theme becomes more clear when the main topics support one another.

/We must be careful of the following when we think about the relationship between the theme and the main topics. /We must be careful of three things. /First, the main topics must never be the same as the theme.

/If a main topic includes the theme, there would no longer be a need for that main topic. /The theme and a main topic cannot be the same.

/Second, /the contents of a main topic must not be the same as the contents of another main topic. /The contents of main topics must never overlap. /Each main topic is in an equal relationship with one another.

/The main topics must support the theme. /Therefore, it is a bit illogical to include the contents of one main topic in another main topic.

/Third, /the preacher must not choose main topics that are not in accord with the theme. /Certainly, there are many biblical passages that include different ideas.

/If the preacher cannot take the contents of the text to form one theme, he must then take the time to reconsider his theme. /If this happens, it would mean that the theme does not sum up the entire main biblical text.

/③ Let's look at important principles in choosing main topics. /As we previously studied, the structure of the main text must be connected to the structure of the sermon. /Therefore, when we structure the sermon, the structure must come from within the structure of the text.

/In order to find the meaning of the biblical text in expository sermons, we must properly classify the contents of the main text. /Thus, we must faithfully interpret and study the biblical text as we prepare for sermons.

/We must make sure that the structure of the text and the classification of the main topics

is consistent. /The structure of the text is the mirror that reflects the classification of the main topics of a sermon. /The structure of the sermon is shown through the structure of the text, the mirror.

/In order to classify the main topics, the preacher must put the Bible, which was recorded through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, first. /It is the most proper attitude for a servant of God's word to be faithful to the Bible. /Yet, there is one more thing we must add to this.

/The classification of main topics is not a simple summary of the main biblical text. /A summary of the text is a simple plot summary. It itself is not a main topic.

/For example, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Jesus was arrested. Jesus died on the cross. These plot summaries are not main topics.

/The main topics must include core faith-based ideas from the biblical passages. /The core faith-based ideas must become spiritual food for believers.

/When believers hear the precise contents of the main topics, they will receive spiritual food from God's word. We must also prepare main topics that will move the hearts of believers who hear God's word.

/Then let's discuss the second principle in classifying main topics. /Main topics must be logical. /Man's language is logical. /When we speak logically, our congregation will understand logically the things we say.

/When we speak in logical order, our congregation will understand better. Furthermore, God's word, the Bible, is even more logical. /When we read the Bible, there are times when we do not understand what the Bible is saying.

/Sometimes it seems like the Bible says one thing and then says something else. /Then does this mean that the Bible is not logical? /This means that the one reading the Bible has failed to understand the meaning.

/Therefore, when we cannot understand the Bible, we must diligently and closely study the Bible as we read it. /Preachers, especially, must be able to grasp the unfolding logic in the Bible.

/When they understand the unfolding logic, they can then logically record their main topics. /The contents of the main topics must be logical in order for us to properly explain the theme.

/The order of the main topics must also be logical. /When the order is logically formed, the entire sermon will be logical. /The contents of the main topics must also be logically laid out.

/I believe that this is extremely important. /Normally, many preachers' classifications of main topics are not in logical order. /Therefore, you must logically write out your classifications of main topics.

/Third, /the main topics must be organically connected. /Each main topic exists individually. /One main topic cannot include another main topic. /Yet, this does not mean that each main topic are separate in every way.

/Each main topic must be organically connected in order to thoroughly explain one theme. /There must be good transitions between each main topic.

/When this happens, the entire sermon will consist of several main topics, and the sermon will be an organically connected sermon. /The structure of the entire sermon will be arranged orderly and harmoniously under a single theme.

/We discussed earlier that the structure of the sermon is like the skeleton. /The bones of a human skeleton is connected to one another through the joints. /In the same way, the main topics must be connected to one another, and when they are organically connected, the sermon will naturally flow.

/Fourth, /there must not be too many main topics. /Some reformist preachers claimed, "It is best for sermons to have three main topics." /Hence, many preachers were trained to organize their sermons into three main topics.

/However, it is not right to be confined to a set number of main topics. /The number of main topics must absolutely be determined according to the main text. /There can be two or three main topics depending on the logical flow of the main text of the sermon.

/The number of main topics can change according to the contents of the main text of the sermon. /Yet, we must remember one thing, which is that it is not good to have too many main topics. /This is because the congregation will not be able to remember all the main topics.

/If there are too many main topics, believers will not remember the contents of sermons, and they will become distracted. /I believe that it is good to choose less than four main topics. /I personally try to choose two main topics for each sermon.

/I hope that you will study hard and choose the number of sermons that works best for you. /Fifth, /let's discuss the number of words and the length of sentences of main topics.

/There is no need to intentionally choose a number of words or the length of sentences of main topics. /Yet, there is a need for the number of words and sentence structures to be similar in order that there would be unity in the main topics.

/However, that itself is not important. /Still, descriptions of main topics must not be too long. /If possible, it must be concise and easy to remember. /Here, we will wrap up our

discussion on the classification of the main topics.

/Next, (2) we will discuss the introduction of the sermon. /① The importance of the introduction. The introduction pulls the hearts of the congregation to the sermon.

/Believers live different lives every week and gather at church on Sundays.

/A sermon must have a good introduction in order to freshen and pull together the hearts of believers. /The preacher must faithfully study the main biblical text, form a theme and main topics, and must study the introduction.

/The preacher cannot form an introduction without sufficiently studying the main topics. /Hence, we studied the classification of the main topics before we began this study on the introduction. /We must pull the congregation's interest to the main text through the introduction.

/One way to pull the congregation to the sermon's theme, is to reveal the core contents of the main text in the introduction. /It is at times acceptable to explain the reason for why we chose a certain passage of the Bible.

/It is also acceptable to begin the introduction with things going on in the world today. /However, it is most important that the introduction delivers the main points of the sermon to the congregation.

/That way, the congregation will gain interest in the sermon and be pulled to the contents of the sermon. /The introduction must make the congregation want to hear the sermon. /If the introduction of a sermon does not attract the hearts of the congregation, it will be very difficult for the rest of the sermon to do so.

/Then what must we do to make sure that our sermons are like this? /We must make the congregation feel an intimate connection with the sermon. /The congregation must feel that the preacher is preaching about an important problem.

/When they feel it, their hearts will focus on the sermon. /What must the believer do to form an intimate relationship with the contents of sermons? /This would be the application of the sermon.

/The contents of a sermon must form a deep relationship with the congregation in order for there to be proper application. /The application begins from the introduction. /Application does not only take place in the body of the sermon, but from the introduction.

/It is all right if we are not competent preachers. /We must study questions or difficulties that believers may have.

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/② Let's then look at seven things that we must be careful of in the introduction of the sermon. /This is the first thing we must be careful of. /The introduction must be short. /The congregation will grow weary if the introduction is long. /Then they will lose interest in the sermon.

/The preacher must make sure that the congregation is focused on the theme of the sermon. /If a sermon is thirty minutes long, the introduction should be about five minutes long. /Second, /the introduction must use simple and plain words. /The preacher must not use fancy words.

/Fourth, /the preacher must be precise in his expressions. /All expression in sermons must be precise. /The introduction, especially, must clearly tell of the preacher's intention.

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/Fourth, /the introduction must not include controversial or judgmental statements, warnings, rebuke, and etcetera. /Controversial statements or rebuking words will close off the hearts of believers. /The congregation is filled with people with different ideologies.

/The preacher must especially not condemn others. /Condemning words will create resistance in the congregation. /Words of rebuke or warning must come naturally when the preacher interprets and applies the main text.

/The preacher must attempt to rebuke and change the hearts of the congregation through the Bible. /It is not right for a preacher to attempt to change the congregation through his own words, his own rebuke, and his own strength.

/Fifth, /the introduction must avoid quotes from famous people. /It is not good for a preacher to show off his knowledge before the congregation. /Man's words of wisdom cannot come before God's word.

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/Sixth, /the contents of the introduction must not overlap with the body of the sermon. /The theme of the introduction must not be the same in any way with the main sermon. /If that happens, the contents of the introduction will be repeated in the body of the sermon.

/Then the introduction will not actually be an introduction. /The contents of the introduction must be related to the purpose of the sermon or the theme of the sermon. /It is important that the introduction lead the sermon into the purpose and theme of the sermon.

/Seventh, /the introduction must not begin with the preacher's excuses. /There are moments when the preacher wishes to explain himself. /He wants the congregation to understand his situation.

/However, that is merely an act of seeking sympathy from the congregation. /When a preacher makes excuses, he will not be able to inspire the congregation.

/Today we discussed the introduction of the sermon. /The beginning of everything is important. /Likewise, the introduction of the sermon determines the success or failure of preaching.

/We will conclude the tenth lecture on homiletics. /Thank you.