

Hello. /We will begin the sixth lecture on homiletics. /We will continue our studies on chapter 3, the classification of sermons. /Last time, we discussed the different classifications of sermons, and we also studied expository sermons in more detail. /Our sermons must be expository sermons.

/5. Liberalists' form of preaching. /There are many forms of preaching nowadays that are not expository preaching. /We must know the theological background to figure out why there is a lack of expository preaching. /Liberalists who appeared in the modern times do not believe in the inerrancy of the Bible.

/Even if they speak of biblical inerrancy, they claim that biblical inerrancy is limited. /They criticize biblical texts based on human knowledge. /We call this, "textual criticism," or "source criticism."

/Liberalists see the Bible through doubtful eyes, through textual criticism or source criticism. /Then what is textual criticism and source criticism that liberalists speak of?

/They statistically study different expressions in the Bible, and they study the author and the situations they were in when they made their recordings. /This critical approach of the Bible is the result of seeing the Bible as human writings, and hence, the criticism.

/They do not accept the fact that "the Bible is entirely without error because it was recorded through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit." /Therefore, liberal preachers fail to understand their purpose to "deliver God's word."

/They do not seek God's will or teachings of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. /They emphasize simple ethics or morals through the Bible. /They do not speak of the spiritual truth, but rather, speak of miscellaneous stories.

/They rely on their eloquence to tell believers to participate in the church and in social activities. /Their sermons do not consist of God's word, and hence, there is no life. /They do not have the power of God that saves dead souls.

/Amos 8:11 says, "'The days are coming,' declares the Sovereign LORD, 'when I will send a famine through the land-- not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.'" /We live in such a time.

/The apostle Paul commanded Timothy, "Preach the word." /It is most natural for a preacher to preach God's word. /However, we live in a time where preachers misinterpret God's word.

/Therefore, we must become true preachers and purely deliver God's word. /We must not obscure God's word like others. /Pseudo doctors have no knowledge of illnesses.

/Pseudo doctors falsely diagnose patients' conditions. /Such doctors fail to properly heal their patients, and thus, the patients may lose their lives. /Pastors are doctors for the

soul. /As doctors for the soul, we preachers must heal with God's word.

/However, when preachers fail to deliver God's word and speak irrelevant words, and thus, fail to heal spiritual illnesses, they are like pseudo doctors. /Such preachers will be responsible for their actions before God on the Day of Judgment.

/The Bible is a double-edged sword. /Therefore, preachers must take the sword of the word and pierce the spirits, souls, and joints of believers so that they would be healed. /Any sermons that are not based on the Bible, as liberalists preach, cannot heal souls.

/Then let's look at the sixth point. /6. Preachers must be aware of their forms of preaching. /We studied the importance of expository sermons. /True preachers must remain faithful to the internal structure of the Bible.

/The "internal structure" refers to cautiousness of the internal flow of the Bible, and also the witnessing of the Bible according to the internal flow. /This would be expository preaching. /Such sermons must clearly reveal the aim of the author of the biblical passage.

/Preachers must find the main topics and subtopics of a biblical passage, and they must reveal the meaning of the passage. /Then they must give sermons that believers will be able to apply to their lives. /We must also not stop at simply helping believers understand the Bible.

/We must make sure that believers first understand the biblical text, and then we must move the hearts of the believers. /Believers must repent of their sins through the Bible.

/Then believers must be changed so that they live godly lives. /This is what a true sermon is. /However, we must be careful of the following forms of preaching if we want to reveal God's word through our sermons.

/We must look at the wrong forms of preaching because there are trending forms of preaching in this generation. /There is a reason why we are studying homiletics at this time. It is so that we would distinguish wrong forms of preaching from right ones, and also so that we would not preach in such ways.

/At this time we will look at six forms of preaching that we must avoid when giving expository sermons. /④ Sermons that concentrate only on one or two verses of the Bible. /There are many verses in the Bible that we are familiar with.

/Those verses are truly important. /However, preachers sometimes choose one or two verses for their sermons. /These sermons are most likely topical sermons.

/If preachers focus on one or two verses, their sermons will have little to do with the biblical text, and they will add various quotations to their sermons. /When they preach in this way, they will at times miss the context of the biblical text.

/Expository sermons cannot emphasize one or two verses. /It is more important for preachers to cover the context of the biblical text, especially the context preceding and following the main biblical passage, and then they will be able to deliver the purpose the author is trying to get across.

/It is also necessary that we quote other verses in the Bible when we preach. /Yet, quotations must be limited to only when they are truly necessary. /Too many quotes from different books in the Bible will confuse the contents of sermons.

/Then believers will have a difficult time understanding what it is that the preacher is trying to convey. /Believers will have a difficult time grasping the theme of the sermon. / There was a renowned preacher named Charles Haddon Spurgeon in nineteenth century England. /He was a famous preacher. /His comparisons and descriptions were outstanding. /He considered the biblical text important, but he also focused on one or two places of the chosen text.

/In recent times, scholars who study expository preaching have been criticizing Spurgeon's sermons. /Among the scholars is Derek W. H. Thomas, a professor who criticized Spurgeon's sermons. /He said that Spurgeon added contents to his sermons that had nothing to do with the biblical text.

/He also criticized Spurgeon saying that he never once gave successive expository sermons. /I am not criticizing Spurgeon at this time. /Spurgeon's sermons were not expository sermons.

/Therefore, we must be very careful about the form of preaching that focuses on one or two verses of the Bible. /Let's look at the second form of preaching that we must avoid. /
② Sermons that forcefully interpret the biblical text.

/All preachers have their own features. /Each person understands the truth and preaches in different ways. /As a result, each preacher emphasizes a different doctrine or will.

/We must be careful of this. /Some preachers overly emphasize repentance. /Some overly emphasize faith. /Yet, the Bible speaks of both repentance and faith.

/Therefore, preachers must not simply assert their thoughts, but must deliver the contents of the biblical text. /What must preachers do then to not assert their own thoughts, but rather, speak of the biblical text?

/Preachers must first put aside their own thoughts. /Then we must read the Bible through an objective pair of eyes. /We must not read the Bible through a subjective point of view.

/We must also understand what the author was trying to say. /It is necessary to refer to other interpretations as well. /We must see how others interpreted the Bible, especially from a traditional Christian point of view.

/We must study the interpretations of John Calvin, Martin Luther, or other ancient patriarchs. /Those who do not refer to other interpretations and think, “The Bible is my only reference,” or “I only preach the Bible,” are in serious error.

/Preachers who do not refer to other interpretations or completely ignore other interpretations will be in error of forcefully interpreting the Bible. /When we interpret the Bible, we must especially be careful of comparisons or symbolism.

/The Bible includes many parables and symbols. /We call these, allegories. /This is called an “allegory.” /For example, the sheep indicate the believers. /The gate for the sheep symbolizes Jesus.

/Moses or David in the Old Testament sometimes symbolize Jesus. /This interpretation right here is a correct allegorical interpretation. /However, there are times when preachers go overboard with allegorical interpretations.

/For example, famous biblical scholars in the Middle Ages interpreted the Bible in this way. /Biblical scholars said that literal interpretations of the Bible were elementary interpretations. /They claimed that there needed to be a “spiritual interpretation” after a literal interpretation and an allegorical interpretation.

/They were correct in some ways. /However, if everything was interpreted in that way, preachers would be in great error. /Such interpretations in the Middle Ages appear to have been an influence of Greek philosophies. /They overly emphasized spiritual interpretation.

/They gave excess meaning to specific incidents, characters, or expressions in the Bible. /They lost the true meaning of the Bible because they overly emphasized certain things.

/Let’s look at another example. /In the Middle Ages, some biblical scholars claimed, “The focus of the entire Bible is Christ.” /This certainly is a true principle. /We must find Christ in all parts of the Bible.

/However, they began to overly apply that principle to every passage, and hence, they connected Christ to every interpretation. /We previously spoke of redemptive historical interpretations.

/When we interpret the Bible, we must interpret the Bible through God’s redemptive history. /This is a commonly used method of biblical interpretation today. /A redemptive historical interpretation is an acceptable method of interpretation.

/However, there are again times when this becomes excessive. /There can be an error when the entire Bible is interpreted through a redemptive historical interpretation. /We must deliver the Bible to believers as spiritual food.

/Yet, it is wrong to only use spiritual interpretation. /It is also wrong to use only one kind of interpretation when interpreting a certain word or phrase. /Again, it is important to find what the passage is saying in its context.

/Next, let's look at the third form of preaching we must avoid. /③ Sermons on systematic theology. /We must discover what God's will is in biblical texts. /Yet, there are preachers who focus on teaching a doctrine, rather than find God's will in the Bible. /Such preachers attempt to apply a certain doctrine to the biblical text.

/Naturally, they will demonstrate their own doctrines instead of preaching about biblical passages. /Preachers who preach using systematic theology must be careful not to overstep the boundaries of systematic theology.

/If they do so, they will interpret the Bible within the boundaries of systematic theology instead of looking at the biblical text as a whole. /Systematic theology exists to properly interpret the Bible. /However, the Bible does not exist for systematic theology.

/Therefore, there is the possibility that sermons that stress systematic theology will distort the Bible. /There is the possibility that preachers will come across a completely different conclusion. /Preachers who preach using systematic theology overly quote biblical passages in order to back up their doctrine.

/They also include many main topics and subtopics in one sermon to support systematic theology. /Such sermons will be knowledge-centered. /They will lack the ability to plant a specific theme into their sermons.

/I do not think that sermons that include too much are good. /I call these sermons, "Department store sermons." /There are many goods at department stores.

/Yet, there are always only a few things that we absolutely need. /Preachers must use their preaching times to deliver a few of God's word to believers. /Next, let's look at the fourth form of preaching to avoid. /④ Sermons that are like seminary lectures.

/Sermons primarily appeal to the intellect. /Sermons must fundamentally display knowledge and the intellect. /However, it would be wrong if sermons ended with a conveyance of information.

/Let's look at one example. /One preacher defined the meanings of Greek or Hebrew words in his sermons. /It is necessary for one to define the meanings of Greek and Hebrews words when he prepare for his sermons.

/However, bringing that information onto the pulpit and preaching about it is not right. /Preachers must study in depth so that they would recognize the exact meaning of biblical texts. /They must also study the circumstances of the time of incidents in the Bible.

/However, it would not be right to focus only on the biblical background or a certain time

period. /It is not right to add information on archaeological findings or biblical criticisms into sermons.

/That will not be enough to influence the lives of believers today. /Sermons that focus on biblical knowledge can appeal to the intellect of the audience. /However, sermons that are like lectures will not inspire the audience.

/Believers with considerable biblical knowledge will gain some knowledge when they hear lecture-like sermons. /However, common believers will not gain anything through lecture-like sermons. /Such sermons are monotonous.

/We must refer to Jesus' sermons. /Jesus delivered the worthy truth with easy words so that the people could easily understand. /There are cases where seminary students preach with what they learn in seminary.

/It is absolutely necessary for you to gain a lot of knowledge through seminary lectures. /However, you must be careful that the lectures do not become your sermons. /Next, let's look at the fifth form of preaching we must avoid.

/⑤ Sermons that are caught up in application and not focused on biblical texts. /We must first thoroughly study the Bible before we preach. /Yet, some preachers do not study the passages they plan to preach on.

/Instead, they emphasize application. /Some believers who do not know the Bible well say that they were blessed through these sermons. /However, this is the act of deceiving believers.

/These preachers try to please the ears of their congregations. /Preachers do not preach about the Bible but preach about little bits of this and that. They ultimately tell useless stories. /Such preachers rely on their abilities and skills.

/These preachers seek social problems or general education in preparation for their sermons. /They sometimes use the Internet to look up information. /Now, what would the congregation gain when they hear these sermons? /The congregation may find these sermons delightful.

/However, these sermons do not include God's word, and they do not last. /These sermons have nothing to do with the souls of believers. /I'm sure you are familiar with Psalm 23:1-3.

/True shepherds lead their sheep to green pastures. /They lead them to quiet waters. /They guide them to paths of righteousness to restore their sheep's souls. /I pray that you will become true pastors who are like true shepherds.

/We must first lead the sheep to green pastures, or God's word, to feed on. /Then after they are nourished with God's word, we must lead them to quiet waters so that they

would digest God's word.

/The sheep must eat well and digest well, and ultimately, their souls must be restored. This is the purpose of true shepherds. /True shepherds guide their sheep to paths of righteousness.

/However, there are many preachers today who speak of things that have nothing to do with the biblical text. /We must feed the pure truth of God's word to the sheep. /Let's look at the sixth form of preaching we must avoid.

/⑥ Sermons that focus on one book of the Bible. /Expository sermons reveal biblical passages the way they are. /It is wrong if a preacher focuses only on one book of the sixty-six books of the Bible in his expository sermons.

/You might wonder if such preachers exist, but they certainly do exist. /There was a preacher who did this in Puritan times. /We must study the Puritans, and we must take after them.

/However, the following is something that we must be careful of. /There was one preacher in the Puritan times who preached about Job for twenty-four years. /How long is twenty-four years?

/From one point of view, his sermons can be a good example, as the Book of Job is a good book. /His sermons probably had depth of the contents of the Book of Job. /Still, would his sermons be recommendable?

/Such preachers cannot provide spiritual food each week to believers who hear their sermons. /This form of preaching does not agree with the principles of common preaching. /There are preachers even today who focus on just one of the Gospels.

/There are preachers who preach on the Gospel of John all throughout the year. /There are preachers who plan out in advance their sermons for an entire year. /There are preachers who choose sermons and topics for an entire year in advance.

/There are preachers who preach in the order of doctrines in systematic theology. /For example, they preach about the doctrine of God. /Then they preach about soteriology.

/Then they preach about ecclesiology and eschatology, according to the order laid out in systematic theology. /This is too mechanical.

/Proper sermons deliver God-given spiritual food according to each circumstance in each generation. /Hence, preachers must diligently seek the Bible to discover what it is that the Holy Spirit wants to reveal to them.

/Preachers must also discover the spiritual food that their flock need in prayer. /We studied the importance of expository sermons in detail in this lecture. /Preachers must

preach through the Bible.

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/God gave us revelation through the sixty-six books of the Bible. /Living sermons deliver the historical facts recorded in the Bible to the congregation.

/Hence, preachers must move the believers and change their lives through their sermons.

/With this we will conclude the sixth lecture on homiletics. /Thank you.