

Hello. /We will begin the eighth lecture on homiletics. /We studied preparation of sermons. /Last time, we looked into the first method in preparing for sermons, “study of the biblical text.”

/At this time, we will study 2. the structure of the biblical text. /If a preacher has thoroughly interpreted and studied the biblical text, it is then time to think about the structure of his sermon.

/However, in order for the preacher to plan out his structure for his sermon, he must first understand the intention of the author of the book of the Bible. /If he thoroughly read the text and studied the text, he can figure out the intention of the author of the book.

/He must study the intention of the author in recording the Bible, and then he must figure out most importantly, the “one single concept.” /Keep in mind, the “one single concept.”

/The author of the book of the Bible must have unfolded God’s word with some kind of logic to explain that one single concept. /It is important to understand the logic by which the Bible was written, in order to understand the structure of the biblical text.

/We just listed three things. /First, we must understand the intentions of the authors of the Bible. /Then we must grasp the one concept of the text. /Then, we must understand the logic behind it.

/We will separate the second method, the structure of the text, into three parts. /(1) We must understand the intention of the author. /The Bible is God’s will that is given to us.

/The Bible is God’s word. /It is God’s word, but it was explained in a way that man would understand through his insight. /Furthermore, the Bible is explained in a way that is fitting with man’s logic and knowledge.

/God’s word does not say one thing and proceed to say another, nor does it go back and forth. /Therefore, the preacher must clearly understand the author’s intention of the biblical text.

/The meanings in contents of the Bible are very deep. /Thus, it is difficult at times to easily grasp the intention of the author. /Jesus’ parables and words of revelation are especially more difficult.

/Even so, the preacher must thoroughly study the text and fully understand the intention of the author. /What would happen if a preacher does not even know the intention of the author?

/The preacher will most likely speak of meaningless things that have nothing to do with the biblical text. /Things like this must not happen. /Thus, in order for us to fully understand the intention of the author, we must read the Bible a lot.

/We must not fail to understand the context. /We must carefully read the biblical text from the beginning to the end. /For example, if we were to preach on Genesis, we would have to read the beginning of Genesis and also the end, and we must figure out the reasons for why Moses wrote the book.

/If we were to preach on Romans, there would be the need to thoroughly read Romans chapters 1-16. /We must thoroughly understand the flow of the book, the style of writing, and what the author was trying to assert.

/At times, we must know the historical circumstances of the time the Bible was written. /We must study and understand the customs of the time. /After we understand the intention of the author, we must (2) grasp the one single concept.

/There is one single concept in a biblical text that the author wishes to illustrate. /The second step is to figure out what that important concept is. /There are cases when several concepts are included in a biblical text.

/However, it is necessary that we figure out the most important concept. /It is right for us to preach beginning with the most important concept. /There can be differences in recordings of certain incidents as a result of the different points of view that the text was written in.

/For example, the Gospels record the acts of Jesus. /The four Gospels tell us about one specific incident. /The Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke tell of the same incident but from different perspectives.

/Matthew was written for a Jewish audience. /Luke was written for a Gentile audience. /Matthew frequently uses the expressions, “kingdom” and “kingdom of heaven.”

/Luke uses the expression, “kingdom of God,” instead of “kingdom of heaven.” /This may not be greatly important. /However, it is necessary to study the author’s purpose in how he recorded the book.

/Luke records many cases of Gentiles believing in Jesus and receiving salvation. /It is important to understand the one significant concept of the author of the text.

/The Books of Kings and the Books of Chronicles both record Israel’s history. /They both record Israel’s history, but we can see that there is a difference in the perspectives of the Books of Kings and the Books of Chronicles.

/When we preach, we must understand the perspective of the author of the text. /Then we must discover the one single concept through the text.

/Next, let’s look at the third part in understanding the structure of the text. /(3) We must understand the logic behind the text. /After we understand the intention of the author, and then the concept of the text, and then we must understand the logic behind the text.

/Every author writes with his own logic. /The Bible is especially written logically as God's word. /When each author recorded the Bible, he logically recorded his intentions.

/Each author of the Bible develops his intentions through his own logic. /Therefore, the preacher must understand the structure of logic of each author. /I'm sure this can be difficult to understand. /Let's look at an example.

/The structure of logic is like putting marbles through a single thread. /When several marbles are stacked through a single thread, it eventually becomes a necklace. /Even if there are many marbles, they will be of no use if they are not put through a single thread.

/The marbles will not become a beautiful necklace. /When the marbles come together to become one, they can then become one necklace. /In the same way, the preacher must figure out the one significant logic of the biblical text.

/The preacher must know how the contents of the text were developed in the structure of the text. /The preacher must discover a single logic in the biblical text. Yet, what happens if he discovers more than one logic?

/If there is more than one logic in the text, it shows that there is a problem with his choice of text. /There are cases where preachers choose texts that are too long.

/In such cases, he must return to the step in choosing the text and studying the text. /There are also times when the author's logic is not fully established in the text. /In such cases, it means that the text is too short or there is another problem.

/Hence, when a single significant logic is not established, we must return to the text and review the chosen text. /We have studied the structure of the text up until now.

/To review, we must understand the intention of the author, understand one single concept of the text, and we must comprehend a single significant logic of the text. /Now, let's move onto the third method in preparing for sermons.

/3. Central proposition of the text. /As we previously discussed, there is a primary single concept in each writing. /The single concept can be described as a central proposition.

/There must be several supplementary factors to explain the central proposition. /The central proposition cannot stand alone. The logic cannot be explained with the supplementary factors alone. /Let's look at this picture.

/When we successfully study a biblical text, we will discover the central proposition through the biblical text. /The central proposition can also be described as the "main factor."

/However, there can be many supplementary factors that explain the central proposition. /

The supplementary factors are all connected through a significant and logical structure in order to explain the central proposition.

/Understanding of the “one single concept” is ultimately the understanding of the “central proposition.” /To understand the single logic means to understand how the supplementary factors are connected through a logical structure.

/The supplementary factors ultimately exist to explain the central proposition. /There will be a problem if the supplementary factors exist with a central proposition. /If there are many supplementary factors but no central proposition, the preacher did not successfully understand the biblical text.

/If you understand this, please take the time to listen to my explanation one more time. /The main factor cannot stand alone. /An explanation will be necessary because it will be unstable on its own.

/Several supplementary factors are necessary in order to explain the main factor. /The main factor will be unstable without supplementary factors. /Let’s look at an automobile as an example.

/If a car lacks certain parts, the car will not be able to show its full worth. /It is only when the car has all its parts that it can fully show its worth. /There is also a problem if there are many parts but no main factor.

/In this way, each supplementary factor is necessary, and the main factor is necessary as well. A car can only run well if all the parts come together. In the same way, sermons can become complete sermons with all its parts.

/Therefore, it is necessary for preachers to discover both the main factor and supplementary factors at the beginning of their sermon preparations. /However, this does not mean that preachers can discover the main factor and the supplementary factors at the beginning if they try.

/They might not be able to find this at the very beginning, but we must study the Bible while thinking about this. /When preachers carefully study the biblical text, the central proposition will become clear to them.

/Preachers can figure out the exact central proposition when they clearly grasp the concept and logic behind the text. /As we just discussed, the central proposition of the text is like the “heart” of a human body.

/There are many parts to a human body. /The many parts function properly through the blood pumped through the heart. /The central proposition of the text is the heart. A sermon can become a good sermon when the central proposition and each supplementary factor become successfully connected.

/It is ultimately not easy for a preacher to successfully grasp the central proposition of a text. /Preaching will become easy when the preacher can clearly recognize the central proposition. /The preacher's words will be logically laid out for the audience when he bases his sermon on the central proposition.

/The audience will also clearly understand the point the preacher wishes to get across when the preacher preaches logically. /It is important for the preacher to understand the central proposition in order for him to be a great preacher.

/However, what happens if a preacher preaches without understanding the central proposition? /The preacher will then speak without understanding what he is saying. /The audience will not understand his sermon.

/Hence, it is important that we understand the central proposition. /We will further discuss the central proposition of a text later, but the purpose and theme of the sermon is also closely related. /The title of a sermon ultimately comes from the central proposition.

/4. Purpose of the Sermon. /In the processes of preparing for sermons, we discussed how to study the text, the structure of the text, and the central proposition of the text. /All the contents we studied are all in some way connected to the text.

/These three steps are all related to the text. /We also studied that each author of the Bible had his purpose in recording the text. /Now, we must take the text and preach on it.

/The next step is to form a purpose of the sermon from the preacher's point of view. /It is very important to choose a purpose of the sermon. /The preacher does many things on the pulpit. /He explains the text.

/He also gives appropriate analogies. /He uses gestures to explain the Bible's meaning. /However, his sermons are meaningless, no matter how hard he tries, if there are no changes in the lives of his audience.

/Even if a preacher teaches his audience about important biblical doctrines, it will be meaningless. /If there is no relationship between a believer's life and God's word, biblical knowledge or doctrines will be useless.

/Therefore, preachers must clearly decide on purposes for their sermons. /Then they must strive to change the lives of their audiences through their purposes. /At times, some preachers say that their sermons are the works of the Holy Spirit.

/When believers express that they were blessed through the sermons, these preachers think, "That is enough." /Some preachers think that it is their duty to leave everything to the Holy Spirit while they deliver God's word.

/This is partly true. /Preachers can give good sermons when the Holy Spirit ultimately gives believers hearts of understanding. /However, this type of thinking can deceive

preachers.

/The Holy Spirit God gives grace when we prepare for sermons well and preach with a specific purpose. /God works through preachers who are faithful in their duties.

/Therefore, preachers must make thorough preparations as preachers. /After preachers faithfully study the text, they then choose the purpose of their sermons. /Then, how must preachers choose the purpose of their sermons?

/Let's look at the first way. /(1) The preacher must consider the purpose of why the biblical text and its entire book were written. /For instance, if a preacher preached about a passage in Genesis, he must figure out why the entire Book of Genesis was written.

/The preacher must first think about the purpose of the writing from a large scale. /He must consider why the author of the Bible recorded a certain book of the Bible. /He must also consider what the author wanted to get across to his audience when he recorded the Bible.

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/Next, let's look at the second way. /(2) The preacher must consider the reason for why the text is included in the Bible. /For example, if a preacher preached about a passage in Genesis, he must think about the reason for why that passage is specifically in that place in Genesis.

/He must fully understand the context of the Bible in order to understand the context of a biblical passage. /The preacher must also study the historical situation of the time the text was written.

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/Let's look at the third way to choose the purpose of a sermon. /(3) Preachers must think about what God wants to accomplish in the present. /God, who worked in the past in the biblical times, also works today.

/The Holy Spirit, who led believers to the truth in the past, leads us to the truth today as well. /Therefore, preachers must know how the Holy Spirit will guide us through God's word.

/We must think about what it is that the Holy Spirit wishes to accomplish today. /In order for us to know the Holy Spirit's purpose, we must thoroughly know the levels of faith of believers.

/We must think about the spiritual food that believers need most at the moment. /That is how we decide the purpose of sermons. /When preachers successfully choose the purpose of sermons, they will be able to help believers apply God's word to their lives.

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