

Hello. /We will begin the ninth lecture on homiletics. /The ninth lecture will be on chapter 5. /Chapter 5 is about **organizing the sermon**. /Previously, we said that a preacher must study the text in order to choose a purpose for his sermon.

/Take a look at what we studied last time. /We must first study the biblical text. /Then we must thoroughly understand the structure of the text. /Then we must find the central proposition in the text.

/Once we understand the central proposition, we can then finally think about what the purpose of the sermon is. /We have studied up until the fourth step, the purpose of sermons. /These four steps were fundamental preparations for sermons.

/Now, fifth, we will study the **theme of sermons**. /Then we will need to grasp the **structure of sermons**. /Then lastly, sermon preparations end with writing out the sermon.

/The fifth, sixth, and seventh steps all use expressions pertaining to sermons. /Therefore, the steps up until now can be seen as “concrete work for preaching.” /Up until now, we underwent the process of objectively understanding biblical texts.

/When the preacher thoroughly studies the biblical text and is blessed through God’s word, he will discover spiritual food in God’s word. /Now, the preacher’s eyes must turn towards his audience.

/The preacher must take the contents of the biblical text and deliver it to the audience in the form of a sermon. /Then, God’s word will be delivered to the audience, through the preacher, as the word of truth. This is spiritual food.

/When the preacher turns his eyes from the biblical text to the congregation, that is, when the biblical text becomes words of a sermon, he must be careful of a few things. /First, we will study three parts of **the attitudes of preachers**.

/First, the preacher must become captivated by the message of the biblical passage. /The preacher must have strong conviction of the biblical text. /The preacher must hold on to the text, pray and meditate on it, and must have burning passion in his heart.

/Any sermons that do not move the hearts of its congregation show that the preacher was not moved in his heart by the passage. /Therefore, fundamentally, the preacher must have strong passion to preach.

/In some cases, it may appear as if the preacher is not a good preacher. /However, he might preach with great passion. /Hence, those who hear his sermons become greatly blessed.

/This happens when the preacher captivates the hearts of his congregation. /Some preachers speak very loudly when they preach. /I’m not saying that all preachers must

always speak loudly.

/Yet, when a preacher is confident in God's word, his voice will have power and he will speak with confidence. /His voice will have power, and he will also move the hearts of his congregation.

/Therefore, preachers must have passion for the Bible, God's word. /**Second**, the preacher must truly love his congregation. /The purpose of preaching is to feed the congregation spiritual food.

/In order to do so, the preacher must know the spiritual states of the believers. /He must also know how the Bible will apply to the believers' lives. /When the preacher knows the states of the believers, he will then be able to properly know how to prepare for his sermon.

/Believers today live richer lives than believers in the past. /However, their spiritual states are not richer. /Believers live in the midst of anxiety and tension. /They are lonely even when they are surrounded by people.s

/Believers today carry various problems as they live in a world of fierce competition. /Therefore, preachers must know what believers are going through, and they must heal them with God's word.

/Preachers must pray and meditate on God's word as they prepare to preach to their congregations. /Preachers must truly and deeply love and care for their congregations, and they must make good preparations to preach God's word.

/The **third** part. /Preachers must make sure that the Bible is applied to the believers' lives. /A sermon is a good sermon when the Bible is applied to the believers' lives. /If the Bible is not applied to believers' lives, it will merely become an objective truth and a historical fact.

/Therefore, preachers must find the point of contact between the biblical text and the believers' lives. /Any sermons that do not have application or points of contact are merely sermons about doctrines that have nothing to do with believers. /Someone once said the following.

/"Pastors must properly interpret the Bible, and the congregation must apply it to their lives themselves." /However, God's word was not only given to believers in the past, but to believers today as well.

/We already discussed that preachers are servants of God's word. /Preachers, who are servants of God's word, must properly interpret biblical passages and must reveal God's will. /Then they must clearly deliver God's will to their congregations.

/Preachers must lead their congregations to look upon Jesus Christ. /Not only that, but

preachers must hold believers by their hands and lead them to Jesus.

/It is difficult for preachers to take believers by their hands and lead them to Jesus until the end. /Preachers must make great efforts in interpreting biblical texts, and they must also make great efforts to help believers apply it to their lives.

/Yet, each application in each sermon must be special. /If there is an implication of the same application in each sermon, it cannot be a special application. /The application must first be suitable to the biblical text. Next, we must show believers how to apply the text to their lives in different ways.

/We will study application in more depth in the next lecture. /At this time we are studying organization of sermons. /Again, after we choose the passage we must then ardently turn our eyes toward our congregations and prepare for sermons.

/From here, the order in preparing for sermons include the theme of the sermon, structure of the sermon, and writing sermons. /In chapter 5, we will study just the theme of the sermon and the structure of the sermon.

/1. The theme of the sermon. /What is the meaning of the theme of the sermon? /When a purpose of a sermon is established, the theme of the sermon must come next.

/In a way, the theme of a sermon can be seen as the same as the structure of a sermon. /However, the two should be homiletically separated. /The “purpose of the sermon” can be seen as the goal to reach through the sermon.

/(1) Definition of theme of the sermon: direction and method in accomplishing the goal. /If the goal of sermons is a mountain peak, then the theme of the sermon is the process in reaching the mountain peak.

/There are many paths we can take to reach the goal in reaching the mountain peak. /We can also walk or run, and the ways all vary. /When we read a biblical text, there is a distinct, core idea that the author of the book wants to convey.

/However, there are many ways to express the single core idea. /Therefore, the preacher must choose a method by which he will help believers reach the goal. This is how the preacher chooses the theme of the sermon.

/This may be difficult to understand. Let’s go over it again. /In order for a preacher to accomplish the goal of his sermon, he must choose a method by which he will help believers reach the goal, and this is the step in choosing the theme of the sermon.

/A preacher can prepare for his sermon without a theme of his sermon. /However, homiletics has always emphasized the need to choose themes for sermons. /Let’s consider the need for themes of sermons.

/Usually, when believers are asked what they remember of the sermon they just heard, many do not remember. /Some believers remember maybe one or two verses that they liked.

/Why does this happen? /This happens because the theme of the sermon is not clear. /Because the theme of the sermon is not clear, the contents of the sermon become complex. /Thus, the Bible is not effectively delivered to the congregation.

/We compose the themes of sermons because a preacher must know what he will preach on, in what ways he will preach, and that he would have a clear understanding of this.

/(2) We will discuss the **need for the theme of the sermon** in three parts. /**First**, the theme of the sermon is necessary in order for the sermon to be an organic sermon. /Please remember the word, “organic.”

/Every sermon has a central idea. /The central idea must spread through the contents of the entire sermon. /Sermons must not consist of factors that do not have anything to do with one another.

/When many factors come together as one theme of the sermon, that sermon will be a good sermon. /We call this coherency.

/In order for many factors to become one theme, it is necessary for us to compose the theme of sermons. /Next, the **second** reason for the need for the theme of the sermon. /The theme is necessary when we consider believers of the church.

/Believers are blessed through clear contents illustrated in sermons, and they are nurtured by them. /Therefore, we must make sure that believers discover a single important point in every sermon. /When believers find it, it will become their spiritual food.

/What would then happen if there were many themes in one sermon? /The believers would lose concentration and become confused.

/Therefore, a clear theme of a sermon is necessary when considering the congregation. /Next, let’s look at the **third** reason. /Third, the theme of the sermon is necessary for preachers as well.

/A preacher can preach well when a single theme governs him from the beginning of his sermon until the end. /When someone hikes, he plans out a course and thinks, “I will take this path.”

/In the same way, when the preacher has a clear process in mind and thinks, “I will preach in this direction,” he will preach well from beginning to the end and will reach the purpose of his sermon.

/We have studied the need for the theme of the sermon. /Next, we will study ways to

illustrate the theme of the sermon. /We will discuss, “How to correctly illustrate the theme of the sermon.”

/The theme of the sermon is a concept that the preacher wishes to explain. /The theme is also an assertion of the preacher’s proper judgment. /The theme of the sermon is also a kind of declaration towards the congregation.

/If the theme of the sermon is a declaration and a concept, it cannot be described in one word. /Yet, there is a problem if it takes a long time to explain the theme. /Therefore, the theme of the sermon must be written out in one sentence.

/A sentence includes a subject and a verb. /The preacher takes the theme and leads believers to reach the goal of the sermon. /Therefore, a sentence declaring the theme of the sermon must be like the following.

/First, the theme must be short. /Believers must be able to remember the theme. /The preacher must also proceed to preach on the theme. **/Second, the theme must be clear.**

/The theme must be clear so that believers can easily understand it. /Also, believers will receive God’s word more easily in their hearts when there is a clear theme. **/Third, the theme must not consist of overly common ideas.** /An excessively vague theme will not be engraved onto the hearts of believers.

/Common ideas will not properly illustrate specific natures of biblical texts. /For example, let’s think about the word, “repentance.” /Repentance is very important. /However, in a way, repentance has an excessively broad meaning, and it can also be a common expression.

/We can apply repentance to whatever passage of the Bible we choose. /However, if repentance is emphasized in every sermon, it will fail to move the hearts of the congregation.

/Therefore, when we preach on repentance, there is the need to speak of thorough repentance, or repentance by pouring out one’s heart before God, or a more specific kind of repentance. /Yet, it is also not good to choose a theme with a limited message.

/There are many substances in a biblical text. /However, if the theme is limited, the preacher will not be able to explain the substances in full. /Therefore, the theme of the sermon must not be overly common and it also must not be too limited in message.

/Fourth, the theme should be illustrated with words from the biblical text if possible.

/This is because it is necessary to plant the Bible in the hearts of believers. /The preacher must help believers remember words of the Bible and not the words of the preacher.

/We are currently discussing ways to compose the themes of sermons. /It is not easy to come up with a theme that is appropriate to the biblical text and is also what believers

need in their lives. /However, it is meaningful for the preacher to choose a theme that fits the biblical text.

/When a preacher chooses a proper theme, it shows that he successfully understand the text. /If a preacher preaches with a proper theme, he will plant trust for his sermons in his congregation. /Therefore, the preacher must commit plenty of his time into composing a one-sentence theme for each of his sermons.

/Now, if he successfully composed his theme, how must he then deliver it to his congregation? /It is acceptable to tell believers the theme of the sermon after the introduction of the sermon.

/It is important that the congregation clearly understand the theme of the sermon along with the preacher. /When the congregation knows the theme of the sermon, they will better understand the entire sermon.

/What about putting the theme of the sermon on the weekly bulletin? /It is acceptable to gather the congregation's attention by putting the theme of the sermon on the weekly bulletin. /It is all right to print out the theme. However, it is not good to write out the contents of the sermon in detail on the bulletin.

/If the congregation were to know the contents of the sermon in advance, they will have lower expectations of the actual sermon. /Hence, the congregation will lose interest in the sermon. /Therefore, it is good to put a concise theme on the weekly bulletin.

/We have discussed the **theme of the sermon** up until now.

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/Next, we will discuss the sixth part of preparing for sermons, **the structure of the sermon**. /This is the sixth part. /The next step is to prepare the structure of the sermon. /If the theme of the sermon was the heart of the sermon, the structure of the sermon is the skeleton of the sermon.

/The structure of the sermon must be solid so that the sermon will not be disorderly. /At this time we will study the **structure of the sermon**. /The structure of the sermon must first include a **main topic** from the main text.

/In order for the main topic to be successfully delivered to the congregation, there must first be an **introduction**. /In order to plant the main topic into the spirits of the congregation, there must also be a **conclusion**. /in the structure of the sermon, there must first be a main topic from the main biblical text.

/If the main topic comes from the main text, there must also be an introduction in order to successfully deliver the main topic to the congregation. /Lastly, there must be a conclusion to firmly plant the main topic and its contents in the congregation.

/Thus, we will discuss the structure of the sermon at this time. First, we will look at classification of the main topic and the introduction. Then we will discuss the conclusion, and at the end we will discuss the title.

/Let's look at the **classification of the main topic**. /Believers today do not want to hear complicated sermons, but want sermons that have one purpose and are not burdensome.

/Preachers must carefully observe changes in each time period. /Preachers must also strive not to make the contents of the sermons too complex. /However, preachers must above all be honest in preaching God's word.

/We must take into consideration the states of believers, but we must first be honest before God's word. /This is because preachers are servants of God's word.

/This is because preachers are servants who deliver God's will. /Therefore, preachers do not decide the main topic. /Preachers must choose the main topics by being faithful to the biblical text.

/When preachers make good classifications of the main topics, the congregation will be able to successfully understand sermons.

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