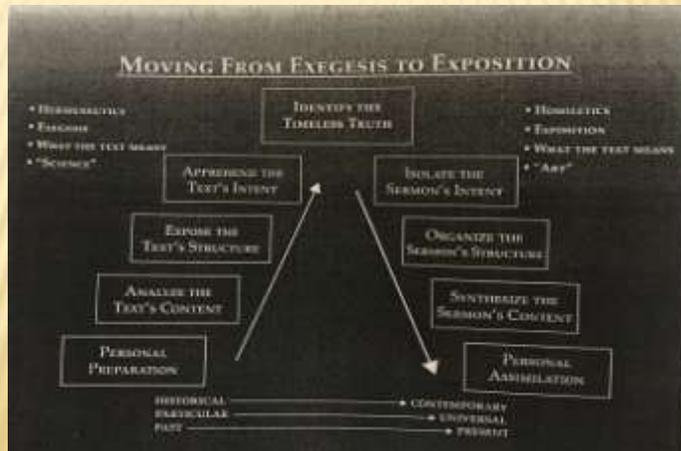


Part 3

**HOMILETICS – SERMON PREPARATION:
UNIFIER**

Preach the WORD

✘ This is our goal.



Preach the WORD

✘ Homiletics

- + Now we are moving to the writing and delivering of sermons.
- + The focus is exposition instead of exegesis.
- + The aim is timeless truths that speak to the present audience.
- + The goal is persuasion.
- + This is where the art comes in
 - ✘ Based on the personality and creativity of preacher but must be grounded in the meaning of the text discerned during exegesis.



Preach *the* WORD

✘ Homiletics vs. Exegesis

- + Homiletics expresses the timeless idea that the exegesis revealed.
- + It is relevant to the audience.
- + Exegetical expression:
 - ✘ The prophet Nathan confronts David over the sin of adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah.
- + Homiletical expression:
 - ✘ God will expose sin in the believer's life. This is how you can expect God to deal with you.



Preach *the* WORD

✘ Organization – the sermon must be organized.

- + Organization reflects essentials of art, beauty, and communication. It is a means by which unity (of the message) is achieved.
- + If our ideas are not clear to us and we have not expressed them well, then the confusion in our mind will be shared by the congregation.
- + The sermon has to feel like it is going in a specific direction. Listeners should be able to discern the flow.
 - ✘ In most cases, it is the preacher's failure if the audience does not know where you are in the text, main point, or message in general.



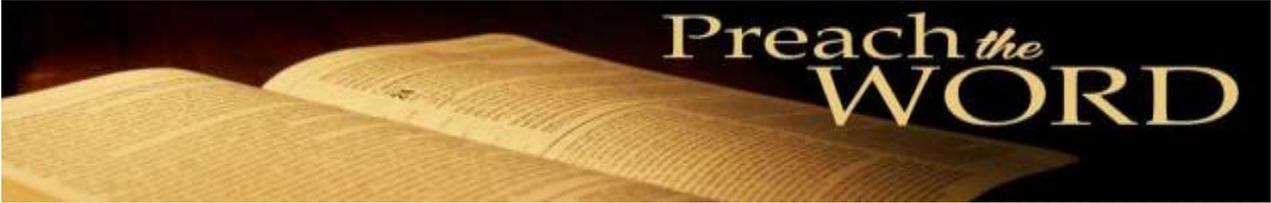
Preach *the* WORD

- ✘ The Unifier
- ✘ This is the most important part of the sermon since it provides both the main point (i.e. timeless truth) and the sermon's organization.
 - + Unifier – the central idea around which the sermon is built.
 - + For the sake of simplicity and impact, it is important that a sermon have one main idea, but it will be developed through several sub points.
 - + You do not focus on one nugget and let the rest go unspoken. If you select a single preaching unit (a pericope), it will have one unifying idea.
 - + This gives it singleness of thought which leads to impact. It is not a buckshot or scatter gun, but instead is like a rifle.
 - + Developing the unifier often involves much thought.



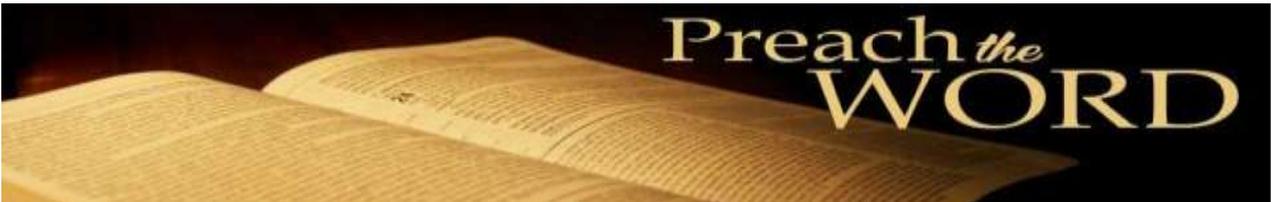
Preach *the* WORD

- ✘ There are four kinds of unifiers I will show you.
 - + Which one you use depends on certain variables.
 - ✘ The personality of the preacher
 - ✘ The nature of the text.
 - + The unifiers we will discuss are as follows:
 - ✘ A theme to be explained.
 - ✘ A proposition to be argued.
 - ✘ A subject to be completed.
 - ✘ A story to be told.



Preach *the* WORD

- ✘ Theme to be explained.
 - + It is the sermon in a nutshell. This simple sentence provides a summary of the whole of the sermon.
 - + The theme is the central thrust of the passage expressed in a simple sentence.
- ✘ When done right, the sermon structure is actually present in the simple sentence.
 - + Example: *God's past grace empowers your present walk and ensures your future standing (1 Cor 1:4-9).*



Preach *the* WORD

- ✘ Theme to be explained (continued)
 - + How do we get there?
 - + First, ask and answer two questions:
 - ✘ What is the subject of the passage (i.e., what is it talking about)?
 - ✘ What does the passage say about the subject? This is where you get the "complement."
 - + Second, you then put these two answers into a complete sentence.
 - ✘ If done right, the sentence summarizes the text and has the sub-points within it.
 - + Things to remember: Must be short (aim for 9 words or less); must be indicative or declarative; must be clear and understandable. It cannot be a question.



Preach the WORD

× Theme to be explained (continued)

- + Let's apply it to 1 Cor 1:4-9.
- + What is the subject?
 - × God's saving grace (v. 4).
- + What does the passage say about the subject?
 - × This grace was given to the Corinthians in the past and spiritually enriched them (vv.4-6).
 - × This past grace presently causes you to lack nothing you need as we await Christ's return (vv. 7).
 - × This grace also guarantees our future salvation (vv. 8-9).
- + Put these answers together in simple sentence that is declarative, clear, and brief.
 - × *God's past grace empowers your present walk and ensures your future standing (12 words).*



Preach the WORD

× Theme to be explained (continued)

- + You can see the sub-points in the single sentence.
- + *God's past grace empowers your present walk and ensures your future standing.*
 1. God's Past Grace
 2. It Empowers your Present Walk
 3. It Ensures your Future Standing.
- + From here, you have the full roadmap for your sermon. Write everything to support and build off the single sentence main point.
 - × The people will know where the sermon is going. They will remember the point.
 - × Make sure what you say explains and applies the text.



Preach *the* WORD

- ✘ A Proposition to be argued.
 - + The unifier is a complete sentence that is worded in such a way that it either invites further inquiry or requires proof or defense.
 - ✘ It follows a linear pattern of logic, where there is a provocative statement (unifier) that is then proved by the text.
 - ✘ It forces a person to be attached to the text itself.
 - + There are four parts to this method
 - ✘ Proposition – statement that evokes further questioning by listeners. The question it evokes must be answered by the text.
 - ✘ Interrogative – natural question that arises out of the proposition (who, what, when, where, where, how, or which).
 - ✘ Key word – Plural noun that serves as categorical label for all the text's answers to the question.
 - ✘ Transitional sentence – includes key word, enumerates the points, and ties everything to the text.



Preach *the* WORD

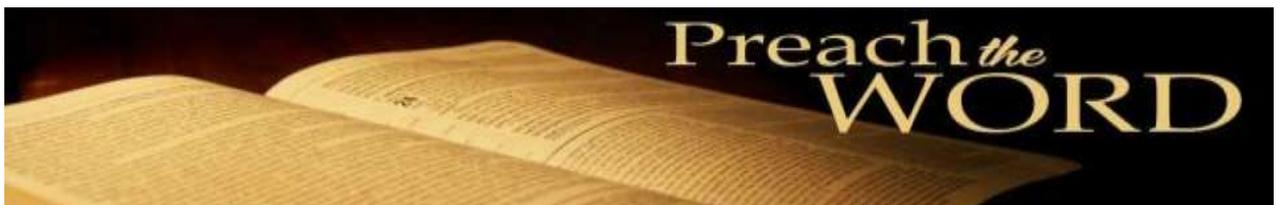
- ✘ A Proposition to be argued (continued).
 - + Using Luke 13:1-9, here is what it looks like.
 - + Proposition: Jesus tells you what your greatest concerns need to be.
 - + Interrogative: What.
 - + Key word: Concerns.
 - + Transitional sentence: In Luke 13:1-9, Jesus reveals two chief concerns.
 - ✘ Repentance (vv. 1-5).
 - ✘ Fruitfulness (vv. 6-9).
 - ✘ These two outline points answer the interrogative. They also fit the key word category (i.e., concerns).
 - + It is important to have a good introduction to set this all up.

1 Corinthians 10:12-19

Text	Key Verse	Application
12	12	
13	13	
14	14	
15	15	
16	16	
17	17	
18	18	
19	19	

Proposition: There are huge consequences for those who do not believe.

Exposition: I want to know what the text says about the subject of the text.



✘ A Subject to be completed

- + It is similar to the theme to be explained, but it does not include the complement in the single sentence unifier.
 - ✘ The complement is listed in outline form.
- + First, you ask what is the subject.
- + Second, you ask what does the passage say about the subject?
- + Then you simply state the answer to the first question, and give an outline of the answer to the second question.
- + This is probably easier to do than the others, but it may have less impact.


 The header features the text "Preach the WORD" in a serif font, with "Preach" in a smaller size and "the" in italics. The background is a dark, warm-toned image of an open book with its pages slightly blurred, creating a sense of depth and focus on the text.

- ✘ A Subject to be completed (continued)
 - + Using 2 Cor 9:6-7 as an example, here is how it is done.
 - + What is the subject?
 - ✘ Attitudes about Christian giving.
 - + What does the text say about the subject?
 - ✘ Believers should give generously.
 - ✘ Believers should give intentionally.
 - ✘ Believers should give joyfully.
 - + Unifier – Believers should have the right attitudes about giving.
 - ✘ They should give generously, intentionally, and joyfully.


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- ✘ Story to be told
 - + This is unique to narratives.
 - + It can either be inductive or deductive. All the other approaches are only deductive.
 - ✘ Deductive tells you the point up front, and then shows it in the sermon.
 - ✘ Inductive does not tell you the main point (unifier) in the beginning, but leads you there through the story of the text, and surprisingly drops it on you in the end.



Preach *the* WORD

✘ Story to be told (continued)

- + If it's going to be inductive, then it goes like this:
 - ✘ Story → Theme → Application.
- + If it's going to be deductive, then it goes like this:
 - ✘ Theme → Story → Application.
- + Since the deductive approach is similar to the other kinds of unifiers, we will focus on inductive.
- + Inductive.
 - ✘ Your exegesis has convinced you the narrative points to one timeless truth.
 - ✘ You save it for the end, but instead your outline points build up to the final conclusion.

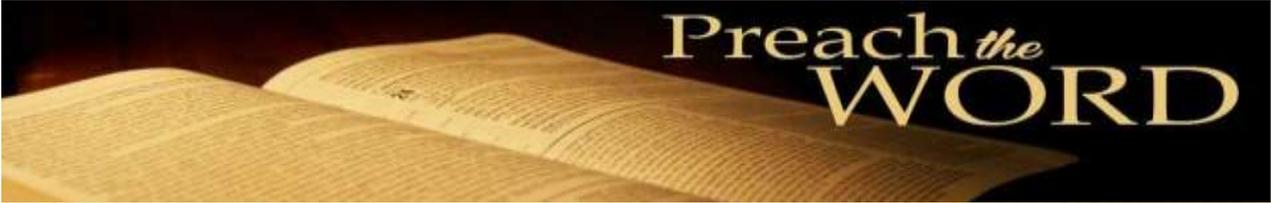


Preach *the* WORD

✘ Story to be told (continued)

✘ We will use this with 1 Sam 15.

- + In the introduction you introduce the subject. In this case, you talk about the difficulty of obedience. Another man (King Saul) of another era struggled with this too.
- + You then preach the text scene by scene, and then once it is done you tell everyone what it all adds up to.
- + What does God want you to know? In His eyes, your disobedience is like witchcraft and idolatry!
 - ✘ The trap is sprung, and everyone who once thought disobeying God was no big deal have just been confronted in the same way Saul was.
- + From here you finish with strong application.
- ✘ It mimics life since we experience life inductively.



Preach *the* WORD

✘ The Unifier concluded

- + Once you have figured out the unifier, you pretty much know what you are going to write in the sermon.
- + It takes a lot of intense thought to figure out the unifier, but once it is done, the sermon is already organized before you write a single word.
- + This makes writing the sermon much faster. It also makes the sermon much easier to follow.