

SERMON PREP HOW TO by Brett Baggett (4.26.21)

I. GENERAL SERMON PREP

I) Context

- What type of book is this? What is the theme of the book? What has the writer previously said? Who is he writing to? When is he writing?

II) Text Work

- You need to have looked at every word in the text in the original language or you will not be able to confidently teach and preach it.
- Blue Letter Bible is free—get the app, bookmark the website.

III) Big Idea/Theme (*black text*)

- What is the big idea or theme of the verses? Sometimes this can be a rephrasing of your outline but other times it has to be remain more general and big picture.

IV) Divisions/Main Doctrinal Points

(black background, white text)

- What are the doctrinal and practical points in the text? This serves as the bones or skeleton of the sermon.
- If you have sub points, state the main point in the sub point if at all possible. Write them like you will say them.
- Read and re-read and re-read and apply J.C. Ryle's booklet "Simplicity in Preaching."

II. SPECIFIC

Under every heading/division/point:

I) Explain (*black text*)

- Carry it in your mind, unless you need to write out brief definitions or explanations. This will help you look in the eyes of the listeners more and not be so glued to your notes. Do not get bogged down in talking about everything interesting. Get to the point.
- "Preach the word" **2 Tim. 4:2a**

II) Cross reference (*yellow background*)

- Short, not long passages.
- If you need to quote a longer passage, consider summarizing it and then quoting one verse.
- "Be ready in season and out of season" **2 Tim. 4:2b**

III) Proclaim (*orange background*)

- Apply or emphatically state a point.
- Be direct.
 - Say "you" generally rather than "I" or "we."
 - Say "you must" generally rather than "you should."
- "reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching." **2 Tim. 4:2c**

IV) Questions (*red "Q" before*)

- Make the listeners audit their soul.
- “3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.” **2 Tim. 4:3-4**

V) Children (*red text*)

- Address the children specifically with a point or metaphor that they should be able to more easily understand.
- “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” **Ephesians 6:1**

VI) Illustrate (*green background*)

- Metaphors, figures of speech, word pictures.
- Preach like Jesus, His prophets, and His apostles.

III. HELPFUL ADDITIONS

I) Quotes (*blue background*)

- Short and to the point.

II) Catechism (*purple background*)

- The Baptist Catechism, An Orthodox Catechism, Westminster Larger Catechism.

III) Creeds and Confessions (*purple background*)

- Orthodox Creeds and Confessions, The 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith, Synod of Dort,

IV) Hymn quote (blue)

- One verse, preferably. This can help the listeners understand why we sing this particular song.

IV. CLOSING CHECKLIST

I) Gospel / Christ / Call to repentance and faith

- Where are you calling for the verdict and making certain Sola Fide and Solus Christus are clear?
- “Do the work of an evangelist” **2 Tim. 4:5**

II) Intro / Conclusion

- “Do not build your front and back porch before you build the house.” — **Steven J. Lawson**

III) Memorize and Pray

- “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, or stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.” **Psalm 1:1-2**
- “So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.” **1 Corinthians 3:7**

16. THE SURPASSING WORTH OF KNOWING CHRIST: Philippians 3:8-9

by Brett Baggett on Sunday, September 13th, 2020

Q. What is your most precious possession? **Theme:** "The value of knowing the infinitely valuable Christ; the profit of knowing the mesmerizingly precious Son of God; the gain of knowing the majestically great Jesus"

I. KNOWING CHRIST JESUS IS WORTH MORE THAN EVERYTHING ELSE PUT TOGETHER (v. 8a)

PHILIPPIANS 3:8a "Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

I) What does a Christian count as loss? Everything besides Jesus.

- Sailors throw everything overboard to gain their lives and not sink into the ocean; Christians throw everything overboard—their sin and self-righteousness, indeed everything the world has to offer—in order to gain Christ Jesus and know Him as their Lord.
- What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? Nothing.
- What does it profit a man to forfeit the whole world and gain Christ? Everything.
- **A Christian counts everything as loss besides Christ Jesus!**

II) Why does a Christian count everything as loss, besides Jesus? Because of the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ their Lord.

- In Matthew 13:44-46, Jesus tells two parables, back to back. I) Treasure hidden in a field. II) Pearl of great price.
- **CALVIN:** "Whoever is not satisfied with Christ alone, strives after something beyond absolute perfection."
- **Notice, Paul does not say "knowing about Christ Jesus my Lord."** No no no. This is an experiential knowing; an intimate knowing; an affectionate communion between the Christian and the Christ.
- **I want not only to know OF Him; I want to KNOW HIM.** I want not only to know of his nailed-scared hands, I want to hold them! I want not only to believe that His side was pierced, I want to walk next to it! I want not only to glory in the lips that uttered "my God my God why have you forsaken me?" As He was crushed for my sins on the cross, I want His lips to kiss my head! I want not only to walk where his feet walked, I want to kiss His feet! I want not only to go to Heaven and then The New Earth, I want to go there to be with the King, Jesus Christ my Lord!
- *Oh the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord! He was crucified for my sin; can I not crucify my sins for Him?*
- **I know Him but dimly now through the Bible and God the Holy Spirit; but I shall one day know Him fully face to face!**
- **Q.** Do you know Jesus? Is He the ultimate reality and treasure in your soul and your life? **In Christ, you at least know this a little*
- **I think CHARLES SPURGEON was right when he said:** "He who does not long to know more of Christ, knows nothing of Him yet."
- You who are NOT truly in Christ by repentance of sin and faith in Him, hear me:
If you are Christless, you are treasureless!
- **Oh you may think you have many valuables in this life, but they are a shadow—the substance is Christ!** They can be ripped from your fingers at a moments notice, but Jesus has promised to "never leave you nor forsake you" if you belong to Him.
- **You who are in Christ, you have everything you need for everlasting joy IN HIM.**
- **Mark this down:** Jesus is not merely the prize-giver; Jesus is the prize! He is not just the blesser; He is the Blessing! Jesus is not simply the way to eternal life; He is eternal life!

II. KNOWING CHRIST JESUS MAKES EVERYTHING ELSE PUT TOGETHER LOOK LIKE TRASH (v. 8b)

Philippians 3:8b "For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ"

- **This is why the Puritan SAMUEL RUTHERFORD said:** "They lose nothing who gain Christ."
- **A Christian is not someone who says,** "what do I have to give up" as much as they say "what CAN I give up to gain Christ?!"
- Q.** Which question do you ask: What MUST I give up to know Jesus? or What CAN I give up in order to know Christ Jesus my Lord?
- **To consider everything in the world as worthless in order to know Christ Jesus is like giving up trinkets for the Treasure;** to give up the whole world for Jesus is like giving up an evening for Eternal life; to count everything as loss to have Christ is but giving up a shadow for the Substance!
- **C.S. LEWIS:** "We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us. Like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."
- **A mature Christian is someone who knows this reality:** if you put every pleasure, praise, possession, profit, and person in the entire world on one side of a scale and then Jesus on the other, Jesus Christ outweighs it all.
- **This is why JIM ELLIOT gave his life to reach those who had never heard the gospel of Jesus.**
He said: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."
- **Pile up all the worlds possessions, all the worlds praises, all the worlds power, all the worlds profit, all the worlds physical pleasures, all of the worlds people, and Christ outweighs them all! CHRIST OUTWEIGHS THEM ALL!**

Q. Now, how does Jesus in reality become your Supreme Treasure?

A. When you look to Him in faith, clothed in the gospel!

III. THE WORTH OF KNOWING THE SUPREMELY WORTHY CHRIST (v. 9)

Philippians 3:9 "and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—"

- **Sola Fide.**
- **CALVIN:** "Faith is like an empty, open hand stretched out towards God, with nothing to offer and everything to receive."
- **Faith says,** "Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling. Naked come to Thee for dress, helpful look to Thee for grace. Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me Savior or I die!"
- **Let the world, the flesh, and the devil rage—Christ's imputed righteousness shall stand!**
- I) Oh look to Christ being born into this world as a man, even as a baby, and hear Him say to you from that manger, "For your righteousness."
- II) Look to Christ saying **no to sin and yes to obeying His Father at every turn**, and hear Him saying to you, "This if for your righteousness."
- III) Look to Christ being scourged with whips and beat upon the head with rods yet keeping silent, and hear Him saying to you, "For your righteousness."
- IV) Look to Christ carrying His own cross to Golgotha and collapsing under its weight, and gasping for air as His face rises out of the dirt hear Him saying to you, "For your righteousness."
- V) Oh look to Christ letting the nails be driven through His hands and feet, and willingly laying on the wood, hear Him saying to you with splinters in His back, "For your righteousness."
- VI) Look at Christ hanging on that accursed tree, becoming a curse for you, bearing the awful wrath of God for your sin, and hear Him say to you from the cross, "For your righteousness."
- VII) Look to Christ buried in the tomb, and hear Him say to you, "For your righteousness."
- VIII) Look to Christ three days later arising from the dead as conqueror, folding His burial cloths, walking out out of that grave, and hear Him saying to you, "For your righteousness."
- IX) Oh look to Christ ascended back to heaven and standing as your Advocate at the right hand of the Father, and hear Him say to you just before He takes His seat, "For your righteousness."

If when you see Jesus you were to ask him, "What did it cost you to make me a Christian?" I think he would say, "Everything." And if he were to ask you "What did it cost you to be a Christian?" you would reply, "Everything." What greater love is there between two beings than between those who each gave up everything to have the other?

Oh give up everything you possibly can to GAIN CHRIST, for He has given every drop of His blood to SAVE YOU!