
Preaching Workshop 2017

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I. Introduction AULVIE

A. Welcome

B. Purpose

1. Strengthen the brothers to a vital task
 - a. Especially beginners
 - b. But also experienced
2. Encourage good attitudes and practices
3. Illuminate pitfalls
4. Mutual edification
 - a. We want this to be a participatory conversation, not a lecture
 - b. Walen and Chad will present prepared material to stimulate conversation
 - i. But this is not intended to teach Walen's Method or Chad's Method
 - c. Albuquerque's Elders directed and approved this effort

C. Plan

1. Multiple sessions with breaks
 - a. Why preach?
 - b. What to preach
 - c. Preparation
 - i. Preparing yourself
 - ii. Preparing the sermon
 - d. Sermon delivery
 - e. Growth as a preacher

- II. Why preach?** AULVIE
- A. The charge to preach
1. Jesus' charge to his disciples
 - a. Great Commission Matt. 28: 18–20
 - b. “Preach ye upon the housetops” Matt. 10: 27
 2. God's plan to save men requires preaching I Cor. 1: 17–25
 3. The charge passes from generation to generation II Tim. 4: 1–2
- B. Motivation
1. As a servant or steward I Cor. 9: 16–17
 - a. For God's glory, not the preacher's
 2. In the interest of the hearers I Cor. 9: 19–23
 3. Love of the truth (Phil. 1:15-19)
- C. Why not preach?
1. Greater damnation James 3: 1
 - a. Offend a Little one Matt 18: 5-7
 2. Not all brethren are talented for preaching (I Cor. 12)
 - a. A brother with little preaching talent may do well to find other avenues of service
 - b. But most have enough talent to serve well
 - c. Most are able to improve with experience and effort
 - d. Talent can be hard to recognize without trial
 - i. Many good preachers have overcome weak beginnings
- D. Why the church needs multiple teachers
1. Mutual edification (I Cor. 14: 26–31)
 2. Multiple preachers can better edify a congregation than can a single preacher (Eph. 4: 11–16)
 - a. Our different styles and personalities complement the whole, as the parts do the body
 3. To fulfil the Word of God, to warn and teach every man, and present them perfect in Christ (Col. 1: 25–29)
- E. Discussion
1. *What if a talented brother doesn't want to preach?*
 - a. *Effect on him*
 - b. *Effect on the lost*
 - c. *Effect on the congregation*
 2. *Have you ever heard a sermon delivered with bad motivation?*
 - a. *Was it edifying?*

III. What to preachWALEN

A. Oracles of God

- 1. This means, literally, using the words of God I Peter 4:11
 - a. Jesus’ command: “What I tell you, that speak; what ye hear, that preach”(Matt 10: 27)
- 2. Figuratively, as God’s mouthpiece
 - a. Speak on behalf of God

B. Lying prophets Jer. 23: 1, 9–10, 16–17, 21–22, 25–40

- 1. A demand fulfilledII Tim. 4: 3–4
- 2. The consequence of man’s doctrine: vain (useless) worship Matt. 15: 7–9
- 3. Must be silenced.....Titus 1: 10–14

C. Discussion

- 1. *What causes preachers to use words of man instead of words of God?*
 - a. *Pride in one’s own insight*
 - i. *Valuing one’s own opinion*
 - b. *Personal or partisan agendas*
 - c. *Reliance on extra-biblical sources (especially poor ones)*
 - d. *Laziness*
 - e. *Listener demand*



IV. Deep Preparation

A. Preparing the preacher (spiritual preparation)WALEN

- 1. Success and failure in preaching are usually determined before the sermon begins
 - a. They depend on qualities the preacher brings with him to the pulpit
 - i. His pre-existing character traits
 - ii. His current attitude
 - iii. The quality of his preparation
 - b. If you get these things right, it is unlikely you will fail in the delivery
- 2. Put priority on your own spiritual preparation to be fit to preach
 - a. Prioritize that above preparation of the sermon
 - b. Pray for your fitness during preparation of the sermon and before you step up to the pulpit
- 3. *Get yourself out of the way!*
 - a. This maxim, diligently applied, will keep you out of numerous pitfalls

- b. The sermon should not be about you or what you think
 - i. If it is, you are a lying prophet
- c. Your success lies not in what people think of you
 - i. But rather in what godly benefit (edification) the hearers gain
- 4. Immerse yourself in the word.....II Tim. 2: 15
 - a. Nothing can take the place of preparation
 - b. Many kinds of failure arise from inadequate preparation
 - i. Hesitancy, confusion, falsity, disorganization, lack of focus, rambling
 - (i) Uncontrolled length
 - ii. Distracting compensations in the delivery
 - (i) Stridency and bluster
 - (ii) Clowning and cozying
 - (iii) Apologies and self-consciousness
 - c. Two kinds of preparation are necessary
 - i. Intensive preparation
 - (i) Measured in hours
 - (ii) Focused on the sermon
 - ii. Deep preparation
 - (i) Measured in years
 - (ii) General knowledge and understanding of the Bible
 - d. Commit to learning the whole Bible.....II Tim. 3: 16
- 5. *Discussion*
 - a. *Have you heard sermons where the preacher interfered with the message?*
 - i. *How?*
 - b. *Have you gotten in the way of your own sermon?*
 - i. *How?*
- 6. An effective preacher has these qualities (traits and attitudes):
 - a. He is humble before God
 - b. He relies on God to supply his lack
 - c. He fears God, not man
 - d. He works diligently to be fit for duty

- B. Preparation for the IMMATURE (young or beginning) preacherCHAD
1. An effective preacher relies on God to supply his lack
 - a. At first you will lack many things that you see in your elders
 2. Youthful preachers are usually noticeably fearful
 - a. But typically the fear is misdirected toward audience and self
 - i. It is natural to fear the audience
 - (i) You should respect your elders and have concern for what they think
 - ii. It is also natural to fear your own weakness
 - (i) Most listeners will understand and forgive shortcomings in a novice preacher
 - iii. But your true fear should be reserved for God..... Prov. 9: 10
 3. Don't be too ambitious at first
 - a. Focus on reading the scripture aloud in an effective manner
 - b. Be cautious and sparing with commentary and opinion
 - c. Believe in God, not yourself
 - d. Don't overestimate your own abilities
 - e. Don't underestimate the power of the word of God
 - f. It's not about you!
 4. Have respect, not fear, for your audience
 - a. Avoid simply saying what you think the audience wants you to say
 - i. Men pleasing is forbidden.....Eph. 6: 5-7
 1. In this context, your "masters" are the listeners because you are serving them
 5. Concentrate on what the Bible says II Cor. 4: 1-2
 - a. "Let no man despise thy youth"..... I Tim. 4: 12
 6. Trust God to develop confidence and maturity in you
 7. Train yourself to be diligent..... 1 Tim. 4:8
 - a. In study
 - b. In meditation
 - c. In prayer
 8. *Discussion*
 - a. *What are you personally afraid of when you stand up to preach?*
 - b. *Is your fear helpful or unhelpful?*
- C. Preparation for the MATURE preacher
1. An effective preacher is a humble preacher
 - a. Many a fine preacher has been undone by pride Prov. 16: 18-19
 - b. True humility is powerful II Cor. 12: 7-10
 - c. It's not about you!

2. Retain a healthy fear of God
 - a. Maturity and experience usually conquer (or at least reduce) fear of the audience
 - b. But only a fool enters the pulpit without fear of God
3. Guard against self-indulgence
 - a. You are not as interesting as you think you are!
 - i. Your opinions and politics
 - ii. Hobbies and experiences
 - iii. Likes and dislikes
 - iv. Predictions and worries, etc.
 - (i) These can have some small place if used with humility and judgment
 - (ii) But they mostly represent self-indulgence
 - b. Resist temptation to flatter yourself
 - i. Claiming or implying long hours of deep study
 - ii. Claiming profound insights and original thoughts
 - (i) Your sermon is proof enough of your quality
 - (ii) If you're selling yourself, you are a false prophet
 - c. You show contempt for your audience when you indulge yourself
 - i. They came to hear God's word
 - ii. They need to hear God's word
 - iii. They don't need to hear about you
4. *Discussion*
 - a. *Have you heard self-indulgence in preaching?*
 - b. *Have you practiced it?*
5. Guard against faulty relationships with the audience
 - a. Men pleasing.....(Eph. 6: 5–7)
 - i. Itching ears.....(II Tim. 4: 3)
 - b. Audience flattery
 - i. Your audience needs Godly encouragement, comfort and consolation
 - ii. They do not need false praise and false assurances
 - c. Condescension and contempt
 - i. Condescension (thinking yourself superior to your audience) will create barriers, rendering the message ineffective
 - ii. Contempt (thinking your audience stupid) is poisonous and difficult to conceal
 - d. Agenda preaching
 - i. Preaching to a particular person or segment of the congregation, especially in contempt
 - ii. Airing arguments that should be conducted in private

6. Guard against complacency
 - a. A serious student finds his study grows ever deeper in the Bible
 - i. The gospel reveals a righteousness that grows “from faith to faith”.....(Rom. 1: 17)
 - b. Boredom with the scripture indicates some spiritual problem
 - i. Callousness
 - ii. Worldliness
 - iii. Declining faith
 - c. If you find the word of God dull, the audience will find your sermon dull and unedifying
 - i. Zeal for God’s word will make your sermon compelling and effective
 - d. Success can bring pride, self-sufficiency, and laziness(Luke 12: 16–21)
 - e. Difficulty and failure can bring despair and resignation (I Kings 19: 1–4); Rom. 11: 2–4
 - f. Trust God, not yourself
7. These battles are never permanently won
 - a. Disastrous failure can follow one careless entry into the pulpit
 - b. The damage—offenses, injuries, false doctrines—can last forever
 - c. You must gird yourself properly *each time* you enter the pulpit



V. Intensive Preparation

- A. Understanding content and form in a Godly sermonWALEN
 1. Two elements of content
 - a. Scripture
 - b. Commentary
 2. Two moods of purpose
 - a. Preaching
 - b. Teaching
 3. Two forms of organization
 - a. Expository
 - b. Topical
 4. These three classifications of content and form are not absolute or mutually exclusive
 - a. Nearly all sermons contain a mixture of both elements and both moods
 - i. The balance will vary considerably according to the need
 - b. Expository sermons have topical segments, and vice versa

B. Elements of content

1. Scripture—reading or quoting *texts* (passages of scripture)
 - a. If this element is absent or weak, the sermon is almost certainly false prophesy
 - b. This element is sometimes used in isolation
 - i. Unadorned reading of scripture is good and right on some occasions Deut. 31: 10–13
 - (i) It is not prone to error
 - ii. But it isn't really a sermon
 - (i) It doesn't fully satisfy the meaning of preaching
 - (ii) It doesn't correspond to most examples of sermons in the Bible
 1. Jesus' audience awaits his explanation after his reading Luke 4: 16–22
2. Commentary—expressing *ideas* (topics) related to the scripture
 - a. Context and explanation
 - i. Correlation and connection
 - ii. Contrast and classification
 - b. Application and consequence
 - i. Exhortation and rebuke
 - ii. Encouragement and consolation
 - c. Commentary draws heavily on the preacher's spirit (personality)
 - i. Therefore, it is highly vulnerable to error
 - (i) But it is a fundamental element of preaching, whereby men are saved
 - (ii) God understands the need for commentary and endorsed it in his plan of salvation
 - d. We must shoulder the burden to preach the truth and avoid error
 - i. Success demands deep preparation
 - ii. Carelessness guarantees failure

C. Moods (modes) of purpose Matt. 11: 1; Acts 5: 42

1. Teaching aims to *instruct*
 - a. Its character is gentle and thoughtful (as of a tutor)—intellectual
 - b. It explains and interprets
 - c. It seeks *understanding* and *edification*
2. Preaching aims to *persuade*
 - a. Its character is forceful and authoritative (as of a king's herald)—emotional
 - b. It exhorts and rebukes
 - c. It seeks *response* and *action*

D. Forms of organization

1. Expository
 - a. An expository sermon organizes the *ideas* around the *text*

- E. Preparing a sermonCHAD
1. Choosing the subject
 - a. For many preachers, this is the most difficult task of all
 - b. This problem is corrected by proper deep preparation
 - i. Recollection of scripture fades with time and distraction
 - (i) And with it fades confidence in the power of the Word
 - ii. Good habits of sustained study will supply subject matter
 2. Study materials
 - a. Factual
 - i. Concordances, interlinear bibles, dictionaries, maps
 - (i) Generally neutral but not 100% trustworthy
 - (ii) Multiple resources can give a more complete picture
 - b. Interpretive
 - i. Commentaries, paraphrases
 - (i) Often useful but very dangerous
 - (ii) Always reflect the character and biases of the author, for good or ill
 - c. Factual/interpretive
 - i. Chain references, topical bibles and study bibles
 - (i) Mostly neutral but susceptible to subtle bias
 3. *Group discussion and demonstration*
 - a. *What study materials do you use?*
 - b. *How do they help you?*
 - c. *What weaknesses do they have?*
 4. Giving other men's sermons
 - a. Reliance on other men's sermons is unwise, for several reasons
 - i. You will be inclined to propagate their errors, biases and weaknesses
 - ii. Your growth as a preacher can be stunted
 - iii. The audience rightly expects that they are hearing your sermon
 - (i) They will rightly allow for what they know of your own weaknesses and biases
 - (ii) When you give them someone else's sermon, you deceive them and may cause confusion
 - b. Other's men's sermons can stimulate your thought and influence your sermons Heb. 10: 24
 - i. You are responsible for verifying biblical truth
 - c. Occasionally quoting other men's work is acceptable
 - i. But book-report sermons should be avoided
 - (i) Use your study materials to prepare yourself
 - (ii) Argue your points from the Bible

5. Organizing your thoughts

- a. Allow the Bible to direct your thoughts during development
 - i. Especially in topical sermons, it is natural to decide what you want to say and then look for scripture to support it
 - (i) This is not necessarily wrong, but it is highly prone to bias and agenda-driven sermons
 - ii. Suggested study method
 - (i) Use study materials to find relevant scripture
 - (ii) Read and meditate on them for a while
 - (iii) Pray
 - (iv) Allow the Holy Spirit to direct the course of the sermon
 - (v) Allow yourself plenty of time
 1. The meditation (fermentation, gestation) may require days or weeks
- b. Organize with sound objectives in mind
 - i. Truth
 - ii. Clarity
 - iii. Effective communication
- c. Organized notes require organized thoughts
 - i. Which will enable an organized sermon
 - (i) Which enables comprehension by your audience

6. Editing

- a. Sometimes it is necessary to leave good material out to keep more important material from being overwhelmed
- b. You may want to break your sermon into installments
- c. Check your sermon for good flow
 - i. Is it logical and comprehensible?
- d. Rehearse your delivery
 - i. Especially portions that are difficult or sensitive
- e. Seek help from trusted mentors and advisors if you need it

7. Commit yourself to the labor of preparation

- a. Time and focus
- b. Prayer and meditation
- c. Attitude



Lunch Time

F. Group practice session

1. Prepare a five-minute expository sermon
2. Prepare a five-minute topical sermon

VI. DeliveryWALEN

A. Technique

1. Rhetoric—the art of using language to communicate effectively—is an ancient art, and innumerable sources are available for advice and training
 - a. Most of them are not concerned with godliness
 - i.* Traditional emphasis was on politics
 - ii.* Study them if you want, but with caution
 - b. Effective godly preaching does not depend on rhetorical skillsI Cor. 2: 1–5
 - i.* But it can be mightily enhanced by them.....Acts 18: 24–28
 - ii.* We might reasonably infer that Apollos’s charisma was part of the basis for the sectarianism afflicting the Corinthians.....I Cor. 3: 4–6
 - iii.* Good rhetoric, if it becomes prideful (for preacher or audience), becomes a hindrance rather than a helpI Cor. 4: 6
 - c. Recommendation: develop your rhetorical skills, but not at the cost of your humility
2. For the godly preacher, the Golden Rule supplies most of what he needs to know of rhetoric
 - a. Preach as you would like to hear
 - i.* Not in the sense of having itching ears, but in the sense of an honest disciple earnestly seeking God’s truth
 - (i) You don’t want to be confused
 - (ii) You don’t want to have to struggle to hear or understand
 - (iii) You don’t want to be bored, insulted, held in contempt, etc.
 - b. Preach so as to provide the most benefit to the listener with as little distraction and impediment as you can manage
 - i.* Get yourself out of the way
 - ii.* Aim for clarity
3. Language skill
 - a. Poor language skill burdens the listener
 - i.* Inhibiting understanding
 - ii.* Causing confusion
 - iii.* Robbing attention
 - iv.* Tiring the brain
 - b. Paul’s determined modesty did not include poor language skill
 - i.* He certainly wrote well, and his recorded speeches are skillfully done
 - c. Good language skill facilitates communication
 - i.* These skills take time to learn
 - d. If your language skills are weak, do your best for now and try to improve with time
 - i.* Recommend paying attention to good language by listening and reading
 - (i) Perhaps with English courses

- (ii) But don't overestimate the value
 - e. Most of the apostles came from humble backgrounds
 - i. Fishermen certainly did not study rhetoric
 - ii. Yet they became powerful preachers
 - (i) They listened intently to Jesus for several years
 - (ii) They trusted God, not themselves
 - (iii) They believed the message
- B. Powerful preaching comes from deep preparation
 - 1. When you are convicted and passionate about God's word, you naturally preach with boldness
 - 2. Bold humility Jer. 17: 5-8
 - a. Pray for this Eph 6: 19-20
- C. The Spirit of God in the preacher II Tim. 1: 7
 - 1. Not timid
 - 2. Powerful
 - 3. Loving
 - 4. Disciplined mind
- D. Bad habits
 - 1. Poor grammar
 - a. Run-on sentences
 - i. Often conjoined with a series of "ands"
 - ii. Moments of silence give the ear what punctuation and paragraphs give the eye
 - b. Incomplete sentences
 - 2. Fluff and filler
 - a. Verbal tics
 - i. "Um," "Ah"
 - ii. "You know"
 - (i) These tend to be unnoticed by the preacher himself
 - (ii) But they distract and burden the listener
 - 1. Recommend listening to recordings to see how you do
 - b. Bluffing and stalling
 - i. These express insecurity
 - (i) ("I'm still talking, don't interrupt me while I figure out what to say")
 - c. Using pompous language
 - i. Sometimes a "big word" will communicate better
 - (i) But when a simple word will do, it is usually stronger
 - ii. This is another indicator of insecurity

3. Using clichés
 - a. Ex.: “Stubborn as a mule,” “on fire for God,” ...*other examples?*
 - b. Clichés are symptomatic of careless thought
 - i. Occasional use is fine, but if you depend on clichés, you aren’t preparing well enough
 4. Rambling after rabbit trails
 - a. Symptomatic of an undisciplined mind
 5. Excessive repetition
 - a. Some carefully chosen repetition can reinforce important points and aid memory
 - b. But it irritates the listener once he’s gotten the point
 6. Hedging
 - a. “Probably, kinda, sorta, maybe”
 - b. Use hedging language only to express genuine uncertainty, not insecurity
 7. Hyperbole (exaggerating)
 - a. “The most important thing...”
 - b. Moderate use of hyperbole is fine, and appears in scripture
 - i. But excessive hyperbole is like monetary inflation
 - (i) It devalues everything you say
 8. False humility
 - a. A vain, prideful preacher pretending to be humble only compounds his insult to the audience
- E. Good habits
1. Speak simply, plainly and clearly
 2. Speak naturally (in your own voice)
 3. Plan what to say and how to say it
 - a. Careful choice of words
 4. Speak inclusively
 - a. “We” and “us” often communicates better than “I” and “me” and “you”
 - i. You generally want to emphasize commonality with the audience
 - (i) Too much “I” and “me” betrays self-absorption
 - (ii) Too much “you” can seem aggressive, judgmental, harsh, self-righteous
 5. Declarative strength
 - a. Active voiceActs 7
- F. Pacing and inflection
1. Use pacing expressively
 - a. Slow down for thoughtful emphasis
 - b. Speed up for excitement
 - i. A little goes a long way—keep it natural

2. Use vocal inflection expressively
 - a. But avoid showiness
3. Control the length
 - a. Apply the Golden Rule
 - b. “Stand up, speak up, and shut up”
 - c. Calibrate yourself against audience reaction during and after the sermon
 - d. Better too little than too much
 - i. After some point, effort and time are wasted
 - (i) This varies considerably with the quality of the preaching
 1. It is natural and appropriate for a beginning preacher to be very brief
 - ii. But some Biblical sermons were quite lengthyActs 20: 7
 - (i) Modern audiences seem to tolerate less
 1. This should be taken into account, but not unto men-pleasing
 2. Edify and rebuke—do not indulge—weakness in the audience
 - (ii) *Discussion*
 1. *What’s the difference between men-pleasing and agape love?*

G. Equipment and props

1. Microphones
 - a. Learn proper technique with each mic you use
 - i. Microphones designed for speech generally have the following properties
 - (i) They are directional
 1. Point them at your mouth
 - a. Not away from you or toward the ceiling
 - b. If you get plosives (loud popping p’s), point the mic at your mouth from a different angle
 - i. Plosives are generally directed downward from the lips at about 45°
 - (ii) They are designed for close distances (but not contact)
 1. Usually a few inches is best (say 4” to 6”)
 2. Lapel mics should be worn high on the chest
 - a. Usually, when a preacher moves the mic down his lapel, he only thinks it’s too loud
 - i. If it really is too loud, it’s better to adjust the amplification rather than compromise the mic
 - ii. Longer distances and bad direction cause several problems
 - (i) Increased reflected (reverb) signal relative to direct
 1. Coloration of sound and loss of clarity
 2. Instability (feedback)

3. With lapels, more sound of papers, hands and clothing
 - (ii) Improper levels of amplification and recording
- iii. Learn the switches
 - (i) Some mics have a confusing “standby” position
 1. It is designed to prevent switching clicks, but it usually just causes user errors
 - (ii) Don’t handle the switch during use!
 1. This causes drop-outs
- iv. Check the battery indicators before the sermon
- v. Keep your hands away from the business end of the mic
- vi. Position lapel mics so they don’t abrade clothing
 - (i) It’s easy to forget you’re wearing a lapel mic, and induce feedback by clasping your hands over it
- vii. Never blow on a microphone
 - (i) This can tear the fragile diaphragm
 - (ii) And it sounds dreadful
 - (iii) A little light tapping is okay
 1. But it’s best just to learn to hear that it is on
 2. Ask the audience if you are unsure
 - a. But be aware that this is distracting and makes you seem insecure
- viii. Recommend practicing with the mic sometime when no one’s around
- ix. Recommend donning lapel mic before start of service

H. Visual aids

1. PowerPoint, props
2. Taste and judgment are key to effective use
 - a. Does this visual aid really improve my communication or does it distract?
 - i. Visual aids run easily to the entertaining and indulgent
 - ii. Sobriety is essential in a godly preacher

I. Appearance

1. Your grooming communicates before you even speak
 - a. It tells the audience what respect you have for them and for God
 - i. Is it sober and respectful?
 - ii. Is it distracting?
2. Dressing appropriately helps to shape your mood
3. Get some sleep
4. Drink some water



J. *Group practice session: deliver the 5 minute sermons we wrote earlier*

VII. Growth and Perseverance SELF-STUDY

A. Mature courage

1. Tackling difficult or contentious subjects

- a. Study to Show thyself approved II Tim. 2: 11–16
- b. Prayerful consideration..... Col. 1: 9–12
- c. Strong Meat Heb. 5: 12
- d. Earnestly Contend for the Faith.....Jude 1: 1–4

B. Dealing with criticism

1. Humility under rebuke

- a. Willing to admit mistakes..... James 5: 16
- b. Teachable..... Prov. 15: 31
- c. Patiently endure chastening Heb. 12: 4–11

2. Courage in adversity

- a. Persistent in adversity John 4: 34
- b. Not slothful Heb. 6: 10
- c. Not soon wearied Heb. 12: 1–3
- d. Keeping the faith..... I Tim. 4: 6–8

C. Dealing with praise

1. Persistence in humility

- a. Recognize who made us I Cor. 4: 7
- b. God resists the proud I Pet. 5: 5
- c. Humble yourself under God I Pet. 5: 6
- d. All good gifts are from God..... James 1: 16–17

D. Encouraging one another

- 1. Provoking to love and good deeds Heb. 10: 24–25

E. Preaching improves the preacher

- 1. Encourages study because we don't want to be ashamed Acts 17: 11–12
- 2. Helps prepare us for teaching unbelievers Col. 4: 5–6
- 3. By teaching others we learn more ourselves I Pet. 3: 14–16