PENNNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE
LAY LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

FOUNDATIONS FOR
EXPOSITORY PREACHING

PART 2

Andrea Parchment
PA Conference Lay Leadership Instructor
Expository sermons are meant to be a demonstrable and reliable connection between the author’s and original audience’s understanding of a given text and our interpretation today.
THINK.
INFORM THE MIND

FEEL.
INSTRUCT THE HEART

DO.
INFLUENCE BEHAVIOR
FROM TEXT TO SERMON

1. Study of the text |
2. Structure of the text |
3. The Central Proposition of the text |
4. The Purpose bridge |
5. The Central Proposition of the sermon |
6. Structure of the sermon |
7. Preaching of the sermon
STUDYING THE TEXT

Seeing the details of a text (scripture)

Seeking meaning from the details

- Words
- Relationships
- Asking Questions
- Answering Questions
- Long words
- Unusual words
- Repeated words
- Grammatical Thought
- Chronological/geographical
- Contextual Genre
- Words
- Relationships
- Words
- Relationships
- Words
- Relationships
STRUCTURE OF THE TEXT

Identify Bones (Markers)

- Grammatical Keys
- Content Cues

Separate Big Bones from Small Bones (Major vs. Minor Markers)

Understand Force of Big Bones (Major Markers)

Lay out (Outline) Bones (Markers) by their importance

Summarize the Text

Causes, Reason, Result, Purpose, Means, Time, Place, Manner

Content changes
- Intro of new subject
- Repetition
- Change in form of statement

I.  
   A.  
      1.  
         a.  
            (1)  
            (a)
   II. 
      A.  
         1.  
         (etc.)
WE NOW COME TO THE MOST CRITICAL PART OF THE SERMON CREATION PROCESS – CRAFTING THE BRAIN OR THE PURPOSE OF THE SERMON.
WE WILL NOW CONSTRUCT AND CROSS THE PURPOSE BRIDGE.

When you cross this bridge, you will have gone from studying the Scriptures—a HERMENEUTICAL exercise—toward preaching the Scriptures—the HOMILETICAL exercise.
A VALID AND CLEAR PURPOSE OF THE SERMON ACCOMPLISHES THE FOLLOWING:

1. Focuses the introduction of the sermon on the need that will be raised in the sermon

2. Determines what must be included and/or excluded in the body of the sermon

3. Influences the sermon’s conclusion and any application

4. Helps in choosing the illustrations that will help accomplish the purpose of the sermon

5. Provides a more objective way to measure the proficiency or success of the sermon

I cannot exaggerate the importance of the purpose of the sermon as the key link from text to sermon.
DETERMINING THE PURPOSE OF THE SERMON

We will find the purpose of the sermon (construct the purpose bridge) by asking and answering the following question:

ON THE BASIS OF THE CENTRAL PROPOSITION OF THIS TEXT, WHAT DOES GOD WANT MY LOCAL CHURCH TO UNDERSTAND AND OBEY?
CONNECTING THE PURPOSE OF YOUR SERMON & THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TEXT

When you write out the purpose for your sermon built on the central proposition of the text, you will need to answer **two compatibility questions**:

1. **Can I make an exegetical or theological case that my sermon’s purpose is compatible with the purpose of the text?**
   This question enables one to be faithful to the text.

2. **Can I make a sociological or psychological case that my sermon’s purpose is compatible with the needs of my audience?**
   This question enables one to be relevant to the audience.
CONNECTING THE PURPOSE OF YOUR SERMON & THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TEXT

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THE PURPOSE OF YOUR SERMON IS YOUR AUDIENCE’S SPIRITUAL NEED

It is essential to be well acquainted with your audience. As you construct the purpose bridge, ask this critical question:

What are the needs of my audience in reference to the central proposition of this text?
Let’s review this part of the process with a familiar text:

Central Proposition for PSALMS 119:1-11

Theme:

Thrust:

Full CPT Statement:
Psalms 119:1-11

On the basis of the CPT, what does God want my local church to understand and obey?

What are the needs of your church?

What are some purposes that you can preach from this CPT?
You sermon purpose will begin with ‘To’...

Possible Sermon Purposes:

1...

2...

3...
PSALMS 119:1-11

Question 1: Can we make an exegetical or theological case that our sermon’s purpose is compatible with the purpose of the text?

Question 2: Can we make a sociological or psychological case that our sermon’s purpose is compatible with the needs of the audience?
THE CENTRAL PROPOSITION OF THE SERMON

THE SUBJECT AT IT’S CORE.
THE VERY HEART OF YOUR SERMON.
THE CENTRAL PROPOSITION OF YOUR SERMON

YOU COULD DO THE FIRST THREE STEPS AND TEACH BIBLICAL TRUTH.

YOU COULD ADD THE FOURTH STEP AND PROCLAIM BIBLICAL DEMANDS.

BUT THE LAST THREE STEPS ENABLE YOU TO PROCLAIM BIBLICAL TRUTH AND APPLICATION IN A RELEVANT AND PERSUASIVE MANNER.

The CPS takes you into the homiletical aspects of the sermon preparation process.
THE CENTRAL PROPOSITION OF YOUR SERMON – OFTEN CALLED THE ‘SUBJECT’

The subject answers the question, What is the sermon about? . . . Whether a sermon has two points or ten points, it must have one point; it must be about something.

– John A. Broadus
THE CENTRAL PROPOSITION OF YOUR SERMON

I have a conviction that no sermon is ready for preaching, not ready for writing out, until we can express its theme in a short, pregnant sentence as clear as crystal. I find the getting of that sentence is the hardest, the most exacting, and the most fruitful labour in my study. To compel oneself to fashion that sentence, to dismiss every word that is vague, ragged, ambiguous, to think oneself through to a form of words which defines the theme with scrupulous exactness—this is surely one of the most vital and essential factors in the making of a sermon: and I do not think any sermon ought to be preached or even written, until that sentence has emerged, clear and lucid as a cloudless moon.

—J. H. Jowett.
“If you can’t explain it simply, you don’t understand it well enough.”

Albert Einstein
THE CENTRAL PROPOSITION OF YOUR SERMON – (CPS)

Just as the text has a singular theme/thrust, your sermon must have a singular theme/thrust as well. For the CPS, you will ask the key questions of yourself rather than the biblical author.

**Theme:** What am I talking about?  
**Thrust:** What am I saying about what I am talking about?

It is often possible to turn the purpose of the sermon into the theme of the sermon.
THE CENTRAL PROPOSITION OF YOUR SERMON – (CPS)

Central Proposition for Ephesians 2:10

**CPT**
- Theme:
- Thrust:
- Full CPT Statement:

**Sermon Purpose:**

**CPS:**
- Theme:
- Thrust:
- Singular CPS Statement
THE CENTRAL PROPOSITION OF YOUR SERMON – (CPS)

Central Proposition for Isaiah 26:3

CPT
Theme:
Thrust:
Full CPT Statement:

Sermon Purpose:

CPS:
Theme:
Thrust:
Singular CPS Statement
THE CENTRAL PROPOSITION OF YOUR SERMON – (CPS)

Central Proposition for Isaiah 61:10

CPT
Theme:
Thrust:
Full CPT Statement:

Sermon Purpose:

CPS:
Theme:
Thrust:
Singular CPS Statement
THE STRUCTURE OF THE SERMON

THE SKELETON OF THE SERMON
THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR SERMON

ALL SERMONS, GENERALLY SPEAKING DIVIDE INTO THREE MOVEMENTS – INTRODUCTION, BODY, & CONCLUSION.

SERMONS ARE USUALLY DEVELOPED IN ONE OF TWO WAYS: DEDUCTIVELY or INDUCTIVELY.

In a DEDUCTIVE sermon the CPS is fully stated before you actually get into the body of the sermon.

In an INDUCTIVE sermon the CPS is fully stated at the end as summary or proof of your sermon.
THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR SERMON.
THE BONES IN SERMONS.

Big Bones          Medium Bones          Small Bones
Introduction       Sub-Introduction    Transitions
Body               Main Points          Subpoints

Conclusion

Sub-subpoints
# THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR SERMON.

**SHOULD A SERMON BE TEXT ORIENTED OR AUDIENCE ORIENTED?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Text Orientation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Audience Orientation</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>As the sermon relates to the text</em></td>
<td><em>As the sermon relates to the audience</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of CPT</td>
<td>Purpose of sermon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Introduction</td>
<td>Statement of CPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure of the sermon’s body</td>
<td>Structure of the entire sermon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Application</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
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THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR SERMON.

Title of Sermon
Bible Text

I. Introduction to the Sermon
   A. Sub-Introduction

II. Body of the Sermon
   A. First main section
      1. First sub-section
         a. First sub-subsection
         b. Second sub-subsection
      2. Second sub-section
   B. Second main section
      1. First sub-section
   C. Second main section

III. Conclusion

Often the outline of the body of the sermon will follow the major divisions (but not the exact words) of the text’s outline in step 2.
THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR SERMON.

BODY STRUCTURE

The structure of the body of the sermon will be similar (not identical) to the structure of the text. If your text had three main points, the body of your sermon will usually reflect that number. If your structure had two subpoints under your first main point, so will your sermon’s body.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 2 (Text Structure)</th>
<th>Step 6 (Sermon Structure)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Verse 1-3</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Verse 4-6</td>
<td>Body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Verse 7-8</td>
<td>1. Verse 1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Verse 4-6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Verse 7-8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR SERMON.
POSSIBLE BODY STRUCTURE FOR EPHESIANS 6:10-12

I. God’s extraordinary strength is accessible to the ordinary Christian (vv. 10-11a)
   A. You must be strong (v. 10)
      1. You must be strong in the Lord (v. 10a)
      2. You must be strong in the strength of His might (v. 10b)
   B. You must put on the whole armor of God (v. 11a)

II. God’s extraordinary strength is sufficient for your strategy against satan (vv. 11b-12)
   A. Putting on God’s armor of strength enables you to stand against satan’s schemes (v. 11b)
   B. Putting on God’s armor of strength enables you to stand against satan’s system (v. 12)
      1. Satan’s system is not flesh and blood
      2. Satan’s system is supernatural hierarchy

III. Conclusion
SAVE (a) Point!

**STATE** the point
To help the audience clearly hear the point you are making, use contemporary and concrete language.

**ANCHOR** the point
Give authority to the point by anchoring it in the text.

**VALIDATE** the point
Explain why you have drawn this particular point from a text.

**EXPLAIN** the point
Here you probe the meaning of the point. Use your study (step 1) to help with your explanation.

**APPLY** the point
Sometimes a point needs to be applied right here and now. At other times it needs to be explained but applied later.
THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR SERMON.

Generally, in a deductive sermon, or one in which each main point is self-contained, application is made at each major point. We preach the first point and then the application, the second point and then the application, and so on.

In an inductive structure, or a sermon in which each main point builds to a climax or to the final central proposition of the sermon, your application may well be placed toward the end.
THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR SERMON.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEDUCTIVE</th>
<th>INDUCTIVE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Introduction</td>
<td>I. Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPS fully stated</td>
<td>CPS partially introduced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Body</td>
<td>II. Body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. S.A.V.E.</td>
<td>A. S.A.V.E.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(a)pplication</td>
<td>(a)pplication</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. S.A.V.E.</td>
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<td>(a)pplication</td>
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<tr>
<td>(may be placed here)</td>
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<tr>
<td>III. Conclusion</td>
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<tr>
<td>(may include application)</td>
<td>(may include application)</td>
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