

NEWSLETTER 2021-5

To: My Fellow Saints
Date: October 5, 2021
Re: **Items of Interest**

My blessed brothers and sisters it is such a great privilege and a blessing to be able to reach out to you. It's my prayer that this newsletter will shed some needed light on two important areas of our ministering. Time is limited and I will be as brief as possible and what is left unsaid can be followed up another time.

THE WEBSITE

The objectives of this website have been made clear in the introduction, please note: *"The objective is to make available, without cost or any financial obligation, the undiluted Word of God, wholly and solely to His honor and His glory."*

Beloved, the objective with which we commenced making these lessons available remains the same and in no way there is any hidden motives. Absolutely, no personal gain is intended, whether it is financial, personal popularity or any other personal factor. **It is strictly to the glory of God!!**

The lessons are study oriented and can be used as desired: individual, small groups, large groups, etc. and not limited to a particular local church or denomination but to all the saints of God. As promised I will do my best to have one lesson added every four weeks and it will be observed that each lesson can be discussed in at least two class sessions. For the review questions the answers are provided and it should be noted that other questions can be drafted from each lesson. The production of each lesson is a timely process during which there is much time spent in praying, meditating, research, etc. such is important because this is the Word of God and such I do not take lightly, especially in these days.

There are two major ways of preaching/teaching: Textual or Expository and Topical. God has used me to make Textual presentations and I will abide by His leading. I will include below a brief presentation on Textual and Topical Preaching.

WEBSITE UPDATE

1. We have commenced adding lessons for our new series, "Selected Psalms Phase 1". In September we added two lessons that covered Psalm 1 and recently we added Lesson 2 which covers Psalm 2. Psalm 3 is now in process and will be added when completed.
2. Please remember that the issue with the Chrome browser is limited to phone usage. As an alternative, for your phones, you may use Fire Fox or Internet Explorer. I have been using Fire Fox (used when I am not home) and it works fine. You may also keep your phone on rotate so you can flip your phone for a more comfortable reading.

I am out of time and must move on; may the following presentation be a blessing to you! Your continued prayers are greatly appreciated, God bless!!

I made this presentation for someone and see it necessary to present it today. I am not making any changes due to the importance of what was presented; definitely this is a limited presentation but should be of some help. May God be glorified.

Ratio of Textual to Topical Preaching

1. Opinion On Textual Preaching

The biblical basis for preaching including expository preaching can be found in many places in the Bible. It should be noted that 2 Timothy 3:16 is perhaps one of the most important references, for it states that Scripture is breathed out by God, which means that the Bible is actually God's Words – it is God's Word to mankind.

Interpretation is technical and grammatical exposition; this involves a careful drawing out of the exact meaning of a passage in its original context. Exposition is a verbal informative teaching that can be generally applied to any subject even more importantly to the Word of God.

Expository preaching is traditionally associated with the manner adopted from Jewish teachers of God's Word. In essence, expository preaching differs from topical preaching because topical preaching focuses solely on a specific topic and whatever references are used are all related to the topic, while expository preaching on the text and discusses various topics within the text, bringing out the intended meaning and message of the text.

It is imperative for a minister to resist the desire to present his own ideas, motivated by sheer externalism and man glory, etc. but instead he is to remain focused on "Thus says the LORD!" If he is going to effectively do that then he has to expound the Word of God, and as we say in years gone by we must "break down the Word" so that the people will understand, accept, and apply what God is communicating. To do so the minister has to exposit and exegete and explain what is within the Word of God. It is not for the preacher to take away, add to nor be influenced by public opinion, popularity, tradition or by what people think. God had given instructions to Jeremiah in regards to his assignment and people's reaction (Jer. 1:1-8). Note also that God touched Jeremiah's mouth (Jer. 1:9) because he needed help as the LORD'S messenger (See also Isa. 6:7). Herein, we see that God gave Jeremiah (and Isaiah) a message to deliver and should be done God's way to the benefit of the people and the glory of God. We the servants of God ought to present what message God desires to communicate to the people. Expository preaching is an effective and powerful means of delivering God's message as He desires.

Expository preaching requires time, diligence, effort, focused attention and the power of God to lead and direct God's way. The minister is not there to present his own creative idea or put on display of human ingenuity. Expository preaching/teaching takes time, the preacher must labor with the Word of God, listening to God and yielding to the leading of the Holy Spirit, our Teacher (Luke 12:12; John 14:26; 1 John 2:27). What the preacher receives from God those hours of labor and submission to God in his preparation that is what he must share with the people to their benefit and to the glory of God. Unfortunately, many want to hear only what they want to hear, what delights them and too many have been thus spoilt by preachers with itching ears and who speak in the flesh. We are all aware of the fact that the Word of God to many is offensive, especially when the truth is not desired, but it is our responsibility to say "Thus says the LORD" and do it with sincere love. Paul, for example, was persecuted and regarded as being offensive as a result he was persecuted, imprisoned, etc. and he likewise advised Timothy "watch thou in all things endure affliction" (2Tim. 4:5); and he was also given the charge to faithfully minister the Word of God (2 Tim 4:18). The truth of God's Word must be herald as He wants it because we are His ambassadors . . . **"Expository Preaching/Teaching" is the most effective way to do so!**

2. Opinion on Topical Preaching

Topical sermons are based on a specific subject, as one chosen by the preacher, the message presented is solely focused on that topic and whatever Scriptures are used. The preacher will choose his subject and select Scriptures to support the chosen topic, this is somewhat more like working on a research paper.

There are those who believe that topical preaching gives the preacher flexibility in his preaching/teaching. He for example might choose a topic on some current situation and he will use Scripture to support his topic. Topic preaching has become a popular way of preaching and this is noticeable among television preachers and certain churches.

Traditionally, topical preaching was not a norm and is not accepted by traditional clergy. It has been stated that topical sermons give too much freedom for a preacher to manipulate Scripture solely to fit the message of their likings, instead of focusing on God's Words under the leading of the Holy Spirit. Another negative issue is, despite the facts that a pastor sticks closely to the Bible, there are only so many topics that he can cover, which makes topical preaching limited over a long term.

While many dearly love and adhere to topical preaching it also has dangers (as indicated above). If is the only method used, the speaker can easily get trapped in the rut of only preaching on those topics that are of interest to him or those which are easily developed in a message. Likewise, the audience can become accustomed to "comfortable" or "exciting" messages, turning away from teaching that doesn't fit that model. A strict adherence to topical preaching will result in a stunted (*small, undersized, etc.*) understanding of the whole counsel of God, even though certain subjects will be

well understood. In some cases, a speaker may be tempted to think more of his own ideas than “rightly dividing the truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).

I was also asked to make an evaluation of the ratio between Textual and Topical preaching ... the following was my summarized account.

3. Ratio Textual to Textual to Topical Preaching

In my opinion the ratio of textual; to topical preaching is approximately 75/25.

The results of expository preaching far outweigh topical preaching. We have witnessed far greater accomplishments where emphasis was placed on expository preaching/teaching. We have seen stronger, more dedicated, tenacious, actively involved, wholeheartedly committed, etc. believers who were exposed to in-depth study of the Word of God.

We make reference once again to Matthew 13:1-23 where we have the various types of hearers; the productive hearers were those whose hearts were receptive to the Word of God which resulted in them becoming fruitful! How can the people understand the Word of God unless it is thoroughly shared with them (Acts 8: 26-39, NB v. 31)? Jesus Christ, Himself, was an exemplary expositor and we have seen the results (Matt. chaps. 5-7; etc.) The apostles themselves were expositors and God used them to turn the then world upside down (Acts 17:6) (See also Acts 5:21; 15:35; 18:11; 1 Cor. 4:17; etc.)

An expository sermon is following a book of the Bible, passage by passage to allow the text to determine the point . . . the message that God is communicating through His Word. Someone wrote the following in his observation about modern day preaching:
“Preaching is being replaced with performance, exposition with entertainment; doctrine with drama; theology with theatrics.”

The purpose of Scripture is to teach true doctrine, correct false doctrine, reprove immorality, and instruct a life of righteousness.

2 Tim. 2:3:16 NKJV

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

Mark 1:22 NKJV

“And they were astonished at His teaching, for taught them as one having authority, and not as the Scribes.”

Yours-in-Christ

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