

PREPARING AND PRESENTING THE MESSAGE

A. Preparation of the material

Question – What does the text, passage or story **SAY**?
Read it; read it; and read it again.

Question – What does the text, passage or story **MEAN**?
Use of versions, dictionary, concordance, commentaries etc.
How will your hearers understand it through the message, if you yourself have not mastered it?

N.B. A TEXT WITHOUT A CONTEXT IS A PRETEXT.

Question - What does the Lord want to say from this Text, passage or story?
Work to discover the **MAIN** theme.

Use of rough notes and marginal references. Watch for a shape to emerge.

Question - How can I give a message that has **NOT GRIPPED ME**? (Jeremiah chapter 20 verse 9) Part of preparation, **PRAY IT IN**.

B. Presentation of the message.

Having got the text or theme; having gathered together the material; perhaps having some sort of skeleton – how do we clothe it? (Illus.: – Dishing up a meal)

GENERAL OUTLINE (good for all methods)

- a. **AN INTRODUCTION.** This is necessary and has to be varied. It should arouse interest and bring the subject hopefully in view. Avoid stunts. **THINK OUT THE INTRODUCTION.**
- b. **MAIN STRUCTURE.** The place for the 'meat' course. Divisions are good (slices). Illustrations should not be forced. Illustrations have their place (use Scripture). Use of notes.
- c. **CONCLUSION.** Preach for a verdict. **THINK OUT** how you will end. Apply and leave to the Holy Spirit. Do not repeat the whole sermon.

METHODS OF PRESENTATION. (There are three main ones)

No. 1 TEXTUAL - Taking a text and preaching **ON** it not **FROM** it

- a. You must **EXPLAIN** the text (difficult words, Eastern customs).
 - b. You must **RELATE** the text to its setting.
 - c. You must **TEACH** the text (why it was said etc.).
 - d. You must **APPLY** the text (its bearing on everyday life).
 - e. Do not be afraid of **REPEATING** the text.
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Homework – Prepare a General Outline of a message for an ordinary evening service, on Hebrews chapter 9 verse 22 – 'And without shedding of blood is no remission'.