Christian
Art of Preaching

Pathfinder Honour

22nd August 2020-

Pastor Ian Sweeney
1. Discuss the reasons / benefits of earning a Christian Art of Preaching Honour.
2. Define homiletic and cite your resources.
3. Define exegesis and cite your resources.
4. Investigate the meaning and history of oratory.
   a. Define oratory
   b. Research a few of the great speakers of Adventist history, making a brief report of:
      i. A speaker from our early beginnings
      ii. A speaker from our modern history
      iii. A distinguished speaker in your country
   c. Cite your sources
5. Briefly describe the following, in terms of a sermon:

Characteristics:
   a. Thematic sermon
   b. Expository sermon
   c. Textual sermon

Parts:
   a. Introduction
   b. Body
   c. Illustration
   d. Call
   e. Conclusion
10 Requirements (6, 7)

• 6. Show the appropriate use of these tools:
  a. Biblical dictionary
  b. Biblical concordance
  c. Thematic Study Bibles
  d. Online sources (Bibles, dictionaries, concordances, study aids, illustrations)

• 7. Prepare and present a detailed outline of a sermon in writing
10 Requirements (8, 9)

8. Do one of the following activities:
   a. Participate in a course on Christian preaching (obtain a certificate)
   b. Preach for a church worship (turn in the sermon outline)
   c. Present a brief summary on an event that the Club or the church participated in. Have the outline of, at least, ten Christian sermons

9. Participate (or have participated) in the preaching at your church (or a district church) at least four times in the period of a year.
10 Requirements (10)

• 10. Obtain, for your personal collection, a book of sermon illustrations.
10 Requirements

We will cover 1 - 4 a. i.

Your homework will be 4 b. ii. - 10
These are not the benefits of preaching:
Real benefits of preaching:

1. Changed lives
Real benefits of preaching:

1. Leads to changed lives
2. Grow in a knowledge of God's Word
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3. Come to know Jesus
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4. Equips us for Christian service
   (Ephesians 4:11, 12: 1 Corinthians 14:12, 26)
Real benefits of preaching:

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4. Equips us for Christian service (Ephesians 4:11, 12; 1 Corinthians 14:12, 26)

5. Preacher grows in confidence
Different words for preaching:

- Homily/ Homiletics (Ancient Greek: ὁμιλητικός homilētikós, from homilos, "assembled crowd, throng“ , in religion, is the application of the general principles of rhetoric to the specific art of public preaching. One who practices or studies homiletics may be called a homilist, or more colloquially a preacher.

  [https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary)
Different word for preaching:

- Oratory... which is the art of skilful and effective public speaking

https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/oratory
Preaching, homily, oratory

Can be extremely beneficial or dangerous in the wrong mouths, Christians & others
Stephen Nelson Haskell (1833-1922)
S N Haskell (1833-1922) married Mary Haskell (1812-1894) when he was 17 and Mary 38!
1853 (age 19): Haskell accepted the Sabbath & the Second Coming of Jesus
Age 19: Haskell became self-supporting preacher—this is not what he looked like at age 19... we just have few pictures of the young S N Haskell
Haskell... highlights

Haskell was soon regarded as a tremendous preacher... and among his accomplishments

1. Ordained to ministry
2. New England Conference President
3. Helped found Atlantic Union College
4. Established 1st Tract & Missionary Society
5. Missionary: Africa, Australia
Following the death of Mary...

Haskell proposed marriage to...
1897 he married Hetty Hurd in Australia following a suggestion from Ellen White
Haskell preached at 1 of the 3 funeral services for Ellen White
“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth” (Rev. 14:13)
We have no question in reference to the faithfulness of our dear sister. She has been faithful and true as far as lay in her power to accomplish the work that God gave her to do. ... She has met the foe, Death; she has surrendered; but her works live. Being dead, she speaks and will speak as long as souls can be saved in this world.
Although a renowned preacher, Ellen White told him he “should do less preaching and more teaching!"

This birthed... Bible readings & lessons
Why different sermon types?

People have different needs!
Didactic: (teaching particularly morals)

Purpose: presentation of Biblical principles and ideals e.g Matthew chapters 5 - 7
Devotional Preaching

Purpose: draw listener toward God in adoration and homage e.g. Luke 24.13-32
Evangelistic Preaching

Purpose:

- present central themes of Bible to reach hearts and acceptance of Christ
Prophetic sermons

Purpose: preaching to the times from a Biblical perspective... *Amos 5:10-15*
Apologetic sermons

Purpose: a defence of the Christian position
e.g. 1 Peter 3.15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Acts 17.16-34
BUFFET SERMON
PARROT SERMON
JERICHO SERMON
Thematic Sermons

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A thematic message is a sermon which uses passages to support an argument about a particular topic, e.g., how should I treat people who hate me?
Thematic/topical sermon

Purpose: address issues faced by hearers from a Biblical perspective.
Thematic sermon—how to prepare

1. Define topic narrowly
2. Think through your Bible passages
3. Limit your Bible passages
4. Do faithful exegesis/interpreting of the Bible
5. Read the scripture through the eyes of others
6. How does passage & topic change me?
Textual Sermons

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A singular passage of the Bible is used as a jumping point to discuss a particular theme eg. John 3:16 love is giving.
Expository Sermons

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Expository

Purpose: to explain or clarify scripture
Every sermon needs a sermon structure

But the skeleton should not be obvious
Good sermons have

A good structure and foundation
Which is most important?

Introduction vs Conclusion
Introduction suggestion #1

1. Get on with it!
GET ON WITH IT!
Many speakers waste their time and strength in long preliminaries and excuses. Some use nearly half an hour in making apologies; thus time is wasted, and when they reach their subject and try to fasten the points of truth in the minds of their hearers, the people are wearied out and cannot see their force.

Instead of apologizing because he is about to address the people, the minister should begin as if he knew that he was bearing a message from God.
Shock & Awe..... Luke 6.20 (read) Jesus used a provocative shocking statement. Why was this a shock?
Introduction suggestion #3

Use a powerful quotation
Use an engaging story or illustration
Introduction suggestion #5

Pose a question
Introduction suggestion #6

Read your passage of scripture
A good way to start....

COME HEAR OUR PASTOR
HE’S NOT VERY GOOD
BUT HE’S SHORT

www.claycitychristian.com

3 point sermon
Principles for your sermon structure

Unity
Principles for your sermon structure
Principles for sermon structure

Symmetry
Principles for your sermon structure
Conclusion....

Purpose: answers the question, “so what now?”
Conclusion

Land the plane
Making your preaching more effective...

Understand & apply 4 points of communication & preaching
#1: The Golden Rule of Communication
#1: The Golden Rule of Communication

If they haven’t heard it....
You haven’t said it!
#1: The Golden Rule of Communication

If they haven’t heard it.... You haven’t said it!

Even Jesus struggled with this one....

John 2.19-22
What did you hear?
#2: Delivery is EVERYTHING!...
Well not quite
TIPS FOR GREATER PUNCH

• Time & Length
• Senses
• Drama
• Use sight & involvement
• Manuscript delivery
• Use your voice & know your congregation
BE ENERGIZED!

If you have the quickening grace of Christ to energize your movements, you will put earnestness into your sermons. Your subject will be clear and well-defined in your mind. You will not be lengthy in your remarks, neither will you speak hesitantly, as though you did not yourself believe what you were saying. Ellen White Review & Herald April 6, 1886.
Ministers of the gospel should know how to speak with power and expression, making the words of eternal life so expressive and impressive that the hearers cannot but feel their weight. I am pained as I hear the defective voices of many of our ministers. Such ministers rob God of the glory He might have if they had trained themselves to speak the word with power.

Gospel Workers p.87
Long discourses and tedious prayers are positively injurious to a religious interest, and fail to carry conviction to the consciences of the people. This propensity for speech-making frequently dampens a religious interest that might have produced great results.

4 Testimonies p.261
#3: Answer the question... So what?
Now the minister is not merely to present the Word of God in such a manner as to convince of sin in a general way, but he is to lift up Christ before his hearers. Christ's claims upon them are to be made plain. The people should be urged to decide just now to be on the Lord's side.—Letter 29, 1890.
To get a decision you must..... Ask for a decision
I must believe that the Holy Spirit can use me to reach someone for Christ.
(2 Tim 4:1 NIV) "In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: “ (2 Tim 4:2 NIV) "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction."(2 Tim 4:3 NIV) "For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear."(2 Tim 4:4 NIV) "They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths."
Biblical preaching has many advantages:

• Preacher grapples with Scriptures
• It is authoritative
• Instructs and educates the listener
• Enables preacher to handle difficult issues