

General Topics :: how to "come up" whit a sermon

how to "come up" whit a sermon - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2006/7/2 16:57

i know there are many preachers here... they are out in the street and in the pulpit.. im no preacher, i dont know if the term "come up" is the right one... but im intrested in how one build up a sermon? i dont belive that you use a 1, 2,3 method to do it... i know by prayor and by the holy spirit you recive a messege..or maybe a topic to preach on..but how do you build up the sermon ? since there will be no bibleschool for me.. then i might as well have you guys teach me :), so please do tell me how you do it...maybe you all have different methods...

gods peace to you
christian

Re: how to "come up" whit a sermon - posted by Combat_Chuck (), on: 2006/7/2 17:09

The best thing to do is know your Bible inside-out and upside-down; Be a man of prayer, obedience to the LORD, and humility.

Re: - posted by Combat_Chuck (), on: 2006/7/2 17:59

Ahhhhh the book of Micah says it best, 6:8

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and **what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?**

Re: how to "come up" whit a sermon - posted by Clutch (), on: 2006/7/2 18:21

Hi Hmm, :-) :-)

Check out the Ray Comfort downloads on this site. He has an interesting, and effective approach to street preaching if that is what you had in mind.

There's no new thing under the Sun, and everybody preaches something that they heard, saw, or read from someone else.

I'm not much on teaching Homeletics. But, read after great preacher/teachers, ie Finney, Spurgeon, Wesley, and you'll start to get an idea of how to prepare a message.

Also, there is a preacher on this site that I admire. He's Ron Bailey, and I'd read his Abraham devotional, and listen to his RORA downloads (Repentance, Regeneration, etc.)

Also, Chuck gave some sound advice.

Blessings,
Clutch :-P

Re: - posted by Combat_Chuck (), on: 2006/7/2 18:33

I was watching a history video last night, and it said George Whitfield (One of the greatest evangelists ever) never actually prepared a sermon. Does anyone know if this is actually true?

Adam

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/7/2 18:51

Preaching Through the Bible

Rev. W. A. Criswell

For eighteen years I preached through the Bible. I began at the first verse in Genesis and continued through the last verse in the Revelation. Where I left off in the morning, I picked up in the evening, and thus every Sunday, morning and evening, I followed the message of the Holy Scriptures. God blessed the procedure more than I could ever have hoped.

The response of the people was amazing to me. When I began the series, some of the most discerning church members said I would empty the house of the Lord. Nobody, they said, would continue to come to the services and listen to messages that waded through all those so-called dreary and empty chapters of the Bible. But God had placed it on my heart to begin preaching through the Bible.

The result is a finished story. So many people began coming to God's house that after a while they could not be packed in, although the auditorium is one of the most spacious in America. We finally had to begin holding two morning services. Now, at both hours the auditorium is filled. Our people began bringing their Bibles, reading their Bibles, studying their Bibles. They began witnessing to others as never before. More and more souls were saved. The spirit of revival and refreshment became the daily order in the house of the Lord. It was the greatest experience of my life.

Often I have seen preachers pace up and down the floors of their studies, trying to figure out what they would preach about the next Sunday. I have also found myself pacing up and down, perplexed over the sermon for the following Sunday. But our problems were different. Theirs was what to preach about, where to find a text, what to say. Mine was how to say all I wanted to about the blessed and Holy Scriptures. I found myself like a diver who brings up pearls from the bottom of the sea. For every gem that I brought to the surface and exposed to the congregation, there were ten thousand more lying on the floor of the ocean. It was a new and a marvelous day for me.

After completing the eighteen years of preaching through the Bible, I turned to some of the themes and subjects that greatly interested me along the way. I prepared a series of messages on the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures and another series on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. My preaching through the Bible those many years brought these subjects to the forefront of my mind. I now plan to turn back to some of the books of the Bible and for more extensive study. These messages on some of the key books will, I pray, be doubly meaningful to the congregation and me because of the years of background study we have shared together.

In preparation for these sermons, I always remember that I must have a message to deliver. I am not to preach just because it is 11:00 or 7:30. The Word must burn like a fire in my bones. This is something that God will do for a preacher. As I study the Holy Word, the message I want to deliver is born in my soul. It is a part of the miracle of the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. The Word is living and immediately relates itself to our present day and our present problems.

After selecting the Scripture message I am to present (it may be from a word, a sentence, a paragraph, a chapter, a whole book), I immediately begin gathering from every possible source all the information, discussion, and exposition I can find on the passage. I go through volumes of secular history and literature and every other known avenue of information and illustration. I work alone in my library every morning and write out all this material by hand. By the time I have gathered this extensive material to enrich my sermon, I have so thought about it and digested it that it has become a part of my own soul.

I do not hesitate to take anything from any place at any time that will help make the message clear and powerful. I believe in the old saying, "All originality and no plagiarism makes a dull preacher." A colorful word, a turn of expression, a thought or an illustration or a sentence—anything that I can find to enrich the sermon, I seize. To me everything is grist for the preacher's mill.

After I have gathered all this material together, I begin forming an outline of the message, so that I can use the material in introduction, in development, and in consummation. When a man teaches, he seeks to instruct the mind; but when a man preaches, he seeks to move the will. Every time I preach, the message is driving toward some kind of a goal. There is something that God wants these people to do, to believe, to respond to, to work at, to achieve; and every message ought to carry an appeal (and a dynamic one) for the accomplishing of that purpose.

To preach just to be preaching, to preach to be showy, or ostentatious, or brilliant, is a travesty on the name of religion.

Preaching is for a holy and heavenly purpose: to win the lost, to edify the saints, and to move a whole community and city and nation God-ward. Every time the preacher stands up to preach, he ought to have before him some definite thing he prays the congregation will do. It may be that he wants the people to tithe, or to read the Bible, or to quit their meanness, or to rear their children right, or to love God, or to witness to the lost, or to know what the Lord says about the end of the world and to prepare for that judgment. But whatever the sermon or the message, it ought to be directed toward the achievement of that holy purpose.

Now let me say a word about the method of the delivery of a sermon. Every man must make a choice that fits his own personality, but to me the only way to preach is without notes. By the time I have prepared the sermon, I do not need any notes. I know the message up and down, back and forth, in the middle and at both ends. I could start any place and preach in any direction, toward the front or toward the back. To get up in the pulpit and not know my message would be unthinkable. If it meant that little to me, how could I expect it to mean any more to others?

Notes are a nuisance and stand in the way. It would be unusual if I used notes in talking to you personally. When I talk to you personally, I do it face to face and heart to heart. When I preach to you, it will be no less personal. It will be eye to eye, mind to mind, soul to soul, with the fervent prayer that God will bless the message I seek to deliver. Do you suppose Peter preached his Pentecostal sermon from notes? Do you suppose Paul used notes for his incomparable message to the Ephesian elders at Miletus? I think they spoke out of the burning of their souls. May God grant that we do no less and no other today.

Re: Preaching Through the Bible - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/7/2 19:11

Wow Greg, this is remarkable. Am I understanding this correctly, that he took eighteen years to go through the bible?

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/7/2 19:15

Quote:

-----Am I understanding this correctly, that he took eighteen years to go through the bible?

Yes, I believe also that Chuck Smith goes through the bible every 2-3 years in His preaching. He does once service a week to go through the bible expositionally and the other service topical. It takes much perseverance to preach expositionally but I believe its the most effectual way to bring people into truth. Many brethren speakers on this site also have through the bible series.

Re: Rev. W. A. Criswell - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/7/2 19:33

If I had to rephrase that I would have said, that he *spent* 18 years preaching through the bible ... once. That is what is so incredible. I know J.Vernon McGee goes through it in about 5 years. Can relate to and love this;

Quote:

-----Often I have seen preachers pace up and down the floors of their studies, trying to figure out what they would preach about the next Sunday. I have also found myself pacing up and down, perplexed over the sermon for the following Sunday. But our problems were different. Theirs was what to preach about, where to find a text, what to say. Mine was how to say all I wanted to about the blessed and Holy Scriptures. I found myself like a diver who brings up pearls from the bottom of the sea. For every gem that I brought to the surface and exposed to the congregation, there were ten thousand more lying on the floor of the ocean. It was a new and a marvelous day for me.

Great stuff brother

Re: how to "come up" whit a sermon - posted by letsgetbusy (), on: 2006/7/2 21:26

hmmhmm,

This is something I am in a search for as well as yourself. I have tried quite a few different formulas, and while I think God works differently with different preachers, this is what works for me. I have found the best messages I have given, as far as I can tell, I have done with no extensive notes, and no hard fast plan as to what I am going to say. But rather one or two Scriptures, and four or five subject areas that I want to cover.

It seems that the more notes I have, as well as the more study I do on some particular aspect of the faith, the more icy the message becomes.

Now, I try to daily read the Scriptures in an organized manner, as well as prayer, and time being still with God. I also study the Scriptures from different angles, like opening to one verse and seeing what God is saying. Also, I try to read books from the greats. I focus very much on my walk with the Lord.

I think that, for me, this formula, just trying to live as godly as possible, and looking to Jesus, and obeying the things written in the Word, result in the best messages, as opposed to staying up late studying a particular aspect of the faith, and then trying to relate to the listener what I have found.

Again, this has worked for me, maybe someone else can glean something here as well.

Re: - posted by Clutch (), on: 2006/7/2 21:41

Hi Greg and Mike,

Great post by Criswell. Now THAT was a Baptist boy that could preach. :-)

I guess Ron Bailey would be the one to address the questions about Whitfield, and others of that era. I think Ron went to High School with Whitfield.

I do recall hearing that when Johnathon Edwards delivered his famous sermon "Sinners In The Hands Of An Angry God". He did so by reading the entire text, with the paper close to his face as he was nearly blind. And, in a non emotional monotone voice.

It was said that people would literally fall out of their seats crying out for God's mercy.

Regardless of the method of delivery. The Word of God preached, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit is effective to all those that will receive it. The "Whosoever Will."

Blessings,
Clutch :-P

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/7/2 21:56

Hey Clutch!

Been awhile brother ... See your sense of humor is still thriving.

:-P

Good to see you again brother.

Re: how to "come up" whit a sermon - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2006/7/2 22:47

I like to think of developing a sermon like this: I don't find a sermon to preach, the sermon finds me. I simply seek God until He gives me direction to preach on something. Usually the way He shows me what to preach on is by often impressing a scripture or two in my head, and then a kernel of truth to that accompany those scriptures. Then, I simply meditate on those things until my time to preach, chewing on them throughout my day to day routines and in devotional prayer.

Depending on how much time I've had to chew on what I plan to preach on, I'll write a few things down on paper, and attempt a very basic outline. Generally if I've been chewing on something for a while (i.e. a couple weeks or more), then I don't generally need much of an outline. But if I've only had a day or two to prepare, I will write a little more down on paper.

Pretty much when you preach, simply follow the leading of the Spirit. When speaking on a topic or verse of scripture, don't lose people in all sorts of details, but be rather to the point. Simply stand up and speak from the burden God has placed on your heart, and don't by any means attempt to say more than you know.

Sermons should be the result of life long devoted study to God (however long that life might be). Whatever you preach on, preach what you have lived. Whatever you preach on, preach what you have studied. Whatever you preach on, preach as the oracle of God. Generally it seems God will give you a nugget or two of things that He will bring to your mind and heart to preach on, and the rest of your preaching will be stating what those things are, and then simply "fleshing out" those nuggets that God gave you.

That is pretty much preaching in a nutshell. If you are wanting to read a good book on preaching, I highly recommend "Preaching for Preachers" by Martyn Lloyd-Jones. He speaks a lot more on principles for preaching, rather than boring you to death about how to develop a 3 point outline. Quite a good book.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2006/7/3 10:28

Quote:

Yes, I believe also that Chuck Smith goes through the bible every 2-3 years in His preaching.

Talk about flying. I believe it took Lloyd-Jones over a year or so to simply preach the sermon on the mount.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/7/3 13:31

This seems like a good book on sermon preparation:

PREPARATION AND DELIVERY OF SERMONS ~BROADUS 1926

Ebay Auction Link...

You can also find it on www.bookfinder.com

How to "come up" with a sermon - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/7/4 20:13

Came across this earlier, though it might be applicable to the question;

Unction a Necessity

*One bright benison which private prayer brings down upon the ministry is an indescribable and inimitable something—
an unction from the Holy One If the anointing which we bear come not from the Lord of hosts, we are deceivers, since only in prayer can we obtain it. Let us continue instant constant fervent in supplication. Let your fleece lie on the thrashing floor of supplication till it is wet with the dew of heaven.* —Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Quote:

-----ALEXANDER KNOX, a Christian philosopher of the days of Wesley, not an adherent but a strong personal friend of Wesley, and with much spiritual sympathy with the Wesleyan movement, writes: "It is strange and lamentable, but I verily believe the fact to be that except among Methodists and Methodistical clergyman, there is not much interesting preaching in England. The clergy, too generally have absolutely lost the art. There is, I conceive, in the great laws of the moral world a kind of secret understanding like the affinities in chemistry, between rightly promulgated religious truth and the deepest feelings of the human mind. Where the one is duly exhibited, the other will respond. Did not our hearts burn within us?—but to this devout feeling is indispensable in the speaker. Now, I am obliged to state from my own observation that this unction, as the French not unfitly term it, is beyond all comparison more likely to be found in England in a Methodist conventicle than in a parish Church. This, and this alone, seems really to be that which fills the Methodist houses and thins the Churches. I am, I verily think, no enthusiast; I am a most sincere and cordial churchman, a humble disciple of the School of Hale and Boyle, of Burnet and Leighton. Now I must aver that when I was in this country, two years ago, I did not hear a single preacher who taught me like my own great masters but such as are deemed Methodistical. And I now despair of getting an atom of heart instruction from any other quarter. The Methodist preachers (however I may not always approve of all their expressions) do most assuredly diffuse this true religion and undefiled. I felt real pleasure last Sunday. I can bear witness that the preacher did at once speak the words of truth and soberness. There was no eloquence—the honest man never dreamed of such a thing—but there was far better: a cordial communication of vitalized truth. I say vitalized because what he declared to others it was impossible not to feel he lived on himself."

This unction is the art of preaching. The preacher who never had this unction never had the art of preaching. The preacher who has lost this unction has lost the art of preaching. Whatever other arts he may have and retain—the art of sermon-making, the art of eloquence, the art of great, clear thinking, the art of pleasing an audience—he has lost the divine art of

preaching. This unction makes God's truth powerful and interesting, draws and attracts, edifies, convicts, saves.

This unction vitalizes God's revealed truth, makes it living and life-giving. Even God's truth spoken without this unction is light, dead, and deadening. Though abounding in truth, though weighty with thought, though sparkling with rhetoric, though pointed by logic, though powerful by earnestness, without this divine unction it issues in death and not in life. Mr. Spurgeon says:

"I wonder how long we might beat our brains before we could plainly put into word what is meant by preaching with unction. Yet he who preaches knows its presence, and he who hears soon detects its absence. Samaria, in famine, typifies a discourse without it. Jerusalem, with her feast of fat things, full of marrow, may represent a sermon enriched with it. Every one knows what the freshness of the morning is when orient pearls abound on every blade of grass, but who can describe it, much less produce it of itself? Such is the mystery of spiritual anointing. We know, but we cannot tell to others what it is. It is as easy as it is foolish, to counterfeit it. Unction is a thing which you cannot manufacture, and its counterfeits are worse than worthless. Yet it is, in itself, priceless, and beyond measure needful if you would edify believers and bring sinners to Christ."

E.M. Bounds (<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bounds/power.toc.html>) Power Through Prayer

Re: How to "come up" with a sermon - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/7/4 20:24

Yes Mike,

I was just looking at the title "how to "come up" with a sermon" and thought no that isn't right sermons don't come up.. they come out. Preaching from the **burden** of the Holy Spirit is a necessity. "If this truth doesn't burn in me, why in God's name should it burn in you." -Leonard Ravenhill

Oh for people who preach from the unction of God. We have too many teachers, we need preachers!

Re: Unction - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/7/5 0:22

Quote:

-----sermons don't come up.. they come out

Quote:

-----We have too many teachers, we need preachers!

Even the teachers could use this, do you think? What can be written even ... not sure what I am attempting to flesh out here.

Some more going into the next chapter;

Speak for eternity. Above all things, cultivate your own spirit. A word spoken by you when your conscience is clear and your heart full of God's Spirit is worth ten thousand words spoken in unbelief and sin. Remember that God, and not man, must have the glory. If the veil of the world's machinery were lifted off, how much we would find is done in answer to the prayers of God's children. —Robert Murray McCheyne

(<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bounds/power.XV.html>) Unction, the Mark of True Gospel Preaching