

**Preaching in plants**

What are the particularities of preaching in church planting contexts?

*Time, Space, People, Stage*

- Preaching to define church, set vision, culture, values
- Time investing in the planting team & pastoral expectations
- Time evangelising unbelievers
- Time setting up – smaller team
- Proxemics
- All age

Challenges =  
Opportunities

# What is good preaching?

**2 Corinthians 4** Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, **nor do we distort the word of God**. On the contrary, by **setting forth the truth plainly** we **commend ourselves to everyone's conscience** in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For what **we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord**, and **ourselves as your servants** for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

## Careful

*reasoning from the Scriptures*

## Clear

*presenting the truth unmistakably*

## Cutting

*to the heart, compelling*

## Christ-full

*exalting, offering Christ*

## Compassionate

*helpful, serving, relational*

# Preaching to 2 audiences

Very common issue

Preaching only to insiders → co-dependent, self-reinforcing culture that is increasingly inward-looking

Preaching can be simultaneously Evangelising // Establishing // Equipping

1. Show that what you say comes from the text – equip
2. Explain words and concepts in ordinary language – establish (use whatever pedagogical techniques you can lay your hands on), equip
3. Explain foundational doctrines as they come out of the passage - establish
4. Locate the message of the passage in the story of the gospel - establish
5. Show how the truth of the passage makes sense of the world – establish, equip
6. Graciously challenge current alternative assumptions or worldviews
7. Apply the gospel to real-life circumstances of people's lives – establish
8. Call for a response to the gospel of repentance and faith – establish
9. Clearly communicate the gospel centred truth that comes from the passage and address ways in which our hearts resist that message – establish

# Get feedback



## Talk Evaluation Form

Name:	Bible passage:
Talk duration:	Intended hearers:

### Outline of the Talk

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### Was it careful?

Was the main point of the talk the main point of the passage?  
Was there good handling of the detail and flow of the text and sensitivity to its context in the book and Bible?  
Did the application flow out of the text as its natural implication?

### Was it clear?

Was the main point unambiguous?  
Did we know where we were going?  
Were we helped to 'see' biblical reality and its implications?

### Was it cutting?

Were the implications of the text drawn out and did they 'get under the skin'?  
Was there engagement with heart issues and contemporary culture and life?  
Was it compelling, weighty and personally convicting?

### Was it Christ-exalting?

Did we go away more impressed with Jesus, his person and work?  
Were the applications and motivations driven by the gospel?

### Was it compassionate?

Did the tone of the talk reflect the tone of the passage?  
Did the manner reflect gospel grace and urgency?  
Did we feel that the speaker was concerned about us?

What was the best feature of the talk?

What is the main thing that could be done to improve this talk?

Get the feedback in first  
“Open the door”

- What are you preaching? Why?
- What's your outline?
- What are you aiming at?

# Books to keep you fresh

[Bryan Chapell, \*Christ-Centered Preaching\*](#) – Fallen Condition Focus

[Tony Merida, \*The Christ-Centred Expositor\*](#) – Chapell in 5 steps

[J C Ryle, \*Christian Leaders of the Eighteenth Century\*](#) – As a dying man to dying men  
Millar and Campbell, *Saving Eutychus*

[Ryan Huguley, \*8 hours or less\*](#) – there is an optimum sermon prep time

[Greg Scharf, \*Prepared to Preach\*](#) – prepare yourself as much as the sermon

[Alec Motyer, \*Preaching?\*](#) – proclamation not just “explaining the passage”

[Ralph Davis, \*The Word Became Fresh\*](#) – brilliant on OT narrative – don’t be dull!

[Tim Keller, \*Preaching\*](#) – the gospel for two audiences

[Chris Green, \*Cutting to the Heart\*](#) – the Word is supposed to do something

[Jensen & Grimmond, \*The Archer and the Arrow\*](#) – “My aim is to preach the gospel by prayerfully expounding the Bible to the people God has given me to love.”

# Five Steps to Preparing Sermons

from *Faithful Preaching* by Tony Merida

## step one study the text

1. **Initial Preparation:**  
Where do I start?
2. **Obvious Observations:**  
What does the text say?
3. **Responsible Interpretation:**  
What does the text mean?
4. **Redemptive Integration:**  
How is the gospel related to this text?
5. **Concluding Implications:**  
How does this apply to us today?

## step two

unify the redemptive theme

1. **Identify the MPT:** look for explicit statements, surrounding context, reoccurring ideas.
2. **Identify the MPS:** consider why the text is important and needed for fallen people, what concerns they share with the original audience, and how the redemptive nature of God is displayed in the text.
3. **Create a title or hook:**  
express the MPS in a catchy, brief, repeated sentence.

## step three outline the text

1. **Work on its style:** create your points with oral presentation and personal application in mind.
2. **Remember the goals:** reflect the text's meaning, support the MPS, and communicate it all effectively.
3. **Choose the best approach:** select from the different acceptable ways to outline.
4. **Choose the best words:** seek to be clear, reiterate your ideas, and progress through your points.

## step four

develop the functional elements

1. **Explanation:** explain key words or phrases, the text's context, an important verse, or key doctrines.
2. **Application:** consider commands to keep, errors to avoid, sins to forsake, promises to claim, thoughts about God to consider, doctrines to store, convictions to hold; remember application can be specific or stored; weave it throughout your outline.
3. **Illustration:** use to explain, help apply, argue for, or intensify a truth, or motivate and inspire your hearers; read, observe, seek stories.

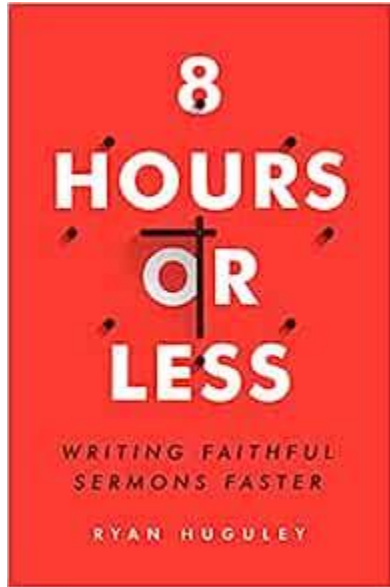
## step five

add an introduction and conclusion

1. **Introduction:** arouse interest, introduce the MPT and MPS, demonstrate the need, and share your expectations; consider sharing a story, asking a question, presenting a problem.
2. **Conclusion:** summarize the content and MPS; also ask for a response to the sermon; consider using stories, questions, or quotations here, as well.
3. **Manuscript:** write out your message fully. Read over it, and pray over it many times.
4. **Prayer:** Pray throughout your preparation, over your final manuscript, and as you head to the pulpit to preach.

MPT = Main Point of Text = what it meant for them then  
MPS = Main Point of Sermon = what it means for us now





Monday – Build your frame

Tuesday – Open the door

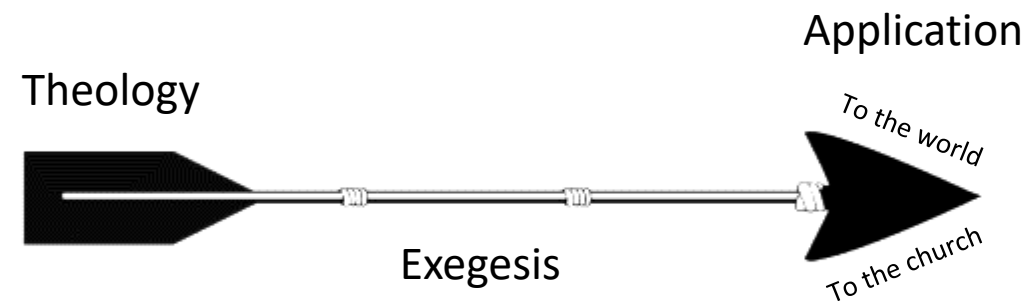
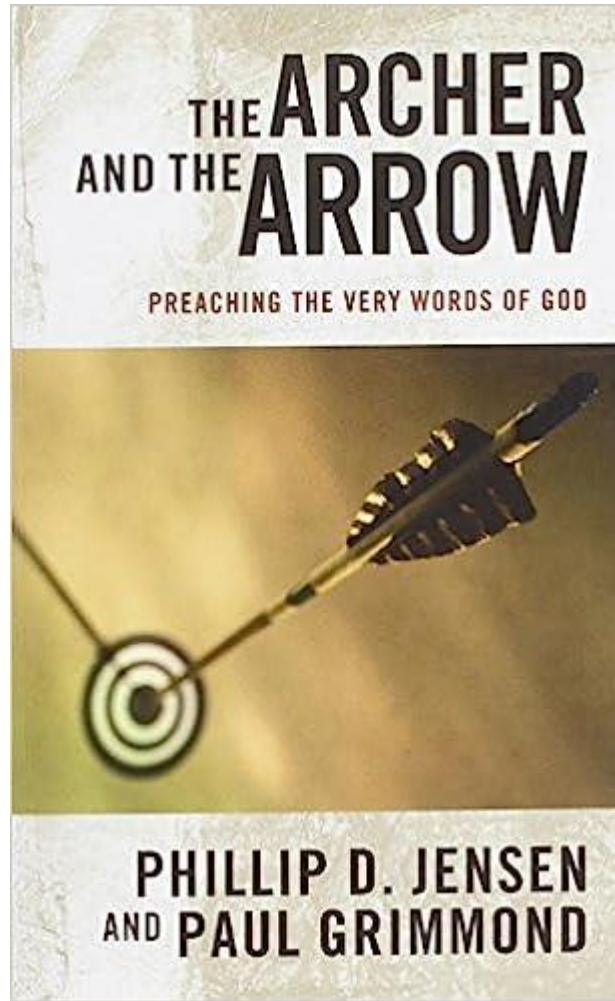
Wednesday – Sweat the intro

Thursday – Land the plane

Friday – Fill in the frame

Deep  
focus

“Trust that the difference between an excellent sermon that you should preach and the best sermon that you could preach is the space that a lot of ministry needs to exist in” Dever



# Other resources

- ❑ <https://biblicalpreaching.net/> (Peter Mead); <https://utumishi.net/> (iServe Africa)
- ❑ <https://www.stepbible.org/>
- ❑ Listen to Keller, Piper, Dale Ralph Davis, Glen Scrivener, Ken Mbugua, Dev Menon