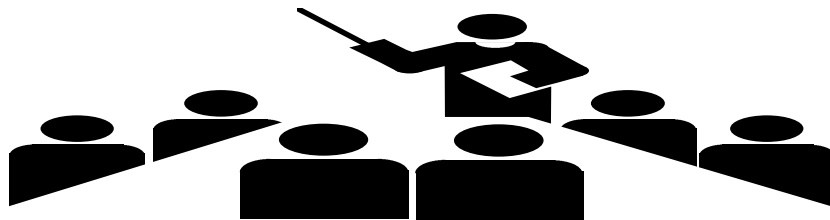


PASTORS' SEMINAR



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Topic:
“Homiletic: Definitions and Explanations”

Homiletics [Definitions & Explanations]

I. Preaching

- A. “*The communication of truth by man to men.*” Phillips Brooks
- B. “*Divine truth voiced by chosen personality to meet human need.*” Andrew Blackwood
- C. “*The proclamation of God’s message by a chosen personality to meet the needs of humanity.*”
John A Broadus
- D. Three basic elements: 1) God’s message; 2) Chosen personality, 3) Human need

II. Foundations of the Sermon

- A. The **text** is the portion of the Scripture chosen as the foundation for the sermon.
- B. The **subject** is what the sermon is about. A good subject is clear, specific, and brief.
- C. The **title** is what you call the sermon. A good title is interesting, honest, and in good taste.
- D. The **proposition** is the whole sermon condensed to one simple, clear, and cogent sentence.
- E. The **objective** is the aim of the sermon. It is what the preacher hopes to accomplish in the lives of the people because of the sermon. A good objective is well defined and limited.

III. The Classification of Sermons

A. Classification by **Homiletical Structure**

- 1. The **textual sermon** derives its divisions from the text.
- 2. The **topical sermon** derives its divisions from the subject.
- 3. The **textual-topical sermon** derives its divisions from both the text and the subject.
- 4. The **expository sermon** derives its divisions and the subdivisions from the text.

B. Classification by **Subject Matter**

- 1. The **theological or doctrinal sermon** is one that expounds some basic Christian beliefs with the purpose of gaining its understanding and acceptance.
- 2. The **ethical sermon** is one that deals primarily with Christian living both personal and social, and sets forth Christian ideals for life’s relationships.
- 3. The **church program or ecclesiastical sermon** is one that seeks to promote some phase of the program of the church so that the church can fulfill its function.

C. Classification by **Pattern of Outline**

- 1. The **diamond outline** examines each facet of an idea as one would examine each facet of a diamond.
- 2. The **Ladder outline** has each idea build on the previous point, augmenting it and moving to a climax.
- 3. The **label outline** puts various persons or things in classifications and elaborates on each.
- 4. The **contrast outline** is a two-point sermon in which contrasting ideas are stated. [negatives-positives]
- 5. The **question and answer outline** involves raising questions and giving answers to the questions.
- 6. The **chase outline** raises a question and gives negative answers until the proper answer is reached.
- 7. The **diagnosis-remedy outline** makes a diagnosis of a problem or need and then gives the remedy.
- 8. The “**Hegelian**” **outline** uses the philosopher Hegel’s methodology: thesis, antithesis, and synthesis.
- 9. The **analogy outline** presents truth by use of analogy or comparison.
- 10. The **proof outline** is a method in which the preacher offers proof of his or her subject or affirmation.
- 11. The **rebuttal outline** seeks to tear down or to disprove some social problem or false doctrine.
- 12. The **refrain outline** is an outline that has a theme or a refrain running through it.
- 13. The **series of statements outline** consists of a succession of statements or observations on the subject.
- 14. The “**dog fight**” **outline** is a method in which the preacher makes a sharp attack on some subject.
- 15. The **interpretation-application outline** gives an interpretation of Scripture and applies the truth to life.
- 16. The **subversive outline** has the preacher appear to be accepting a proposition that he or she does not believe. He gradually undercuts that proposition by presenting weak and absurd arguments for it.