

Introductions

[This lecture corresponds to assigned Reading # 7:
Christ-centered Preaching, pp. 236-253.]

For mid-term review:

What is a proposition?

What components are wed in main points and propositions?

What are two basic forms for main point wording?

How do anchor clauses and magnet clauses differ in main points?

What is a "co-existent" point, and why should it be avoided?

Goal for this lesson: To understand the basic purposes, marks and construction elements of good sermon introductions.

Introduction:

I. The Basic Purposes of Sermon Introductions:

II. The Importance of Opening Words and Opening Moments:

A. What Opening Words Determine

B. What Opening Words Require

Emotional graph:

III. Types of Sermon Introductions

IV. Marks of Poor Sermon Introductions:

V. How Do You Make Others Have to Listen to Your Introductions?

VI. Marks of a Good Sermon Introduction:

◊ The proposition is actually a _____ of key ideas in the introduction that springboard us into the sermon.

◊ The introduction prepares for the proposition in _____ and _____. There should be no key terms in either clause of the proposition that have not been mentioned in precisely the same terms in the Introduction.

Compare Intro Principles in Acts 17: Ye men of Athens I perceive you religious.
I noticed Altar to Unknown God.
Today I proclaim him to you.

Arouses Attention——F.C.F.——Intro. to Subject——Personal
(Creates longing for sermon)

VII. Scripture Introductions and their Separate Purposes:

A. History of Scripture Introductions:

Pattern of Thomas Chabham of Salisbury in Summa de arte praedicandi:

Pro- or ante-theme (introducing theme)
Prayer for divine aid
Scriptural Quotation
Statement of the theme and divisions
Development and subdivision
Conclusion

B. Purpose of Scripture Introductions:

1. _____ the text (or, explain key word or concepts) so the text can be understood.
2. Create a _____ the content of the passage so that the text can be heard.
3. Allow _____ so that the announced passage can be found by the congregation before the text is read.
4. (May) _____ the portions of the text that will (or will not) be dealt with to remove congregation concerns over preaching omissions or concentrations.
5. (May) provide _____ for very long texts so that the entire passage need not be read.

<> Scripture introductions must be given careful thought since speaker credibility established in these early moments. Our tendency is to extemporize this portion.

Do Not separate the "sermon" introduction from the sermon by a Scripture reading. This indicates confusion over the difference between a "Scripture" introduction and a "sermon" introduction. The "sermon" introduction must lead into the proposition.

Normal pattern: Scripture Announcement
Scripture Introduction
Scripture Re-announcement
Scripture Reading
Sermon Introduction \ Only components due for
Proposition / next class assignment

First Main Point
etc.

VIII. Introduction Chain:

•**AROUSES** _____

•**INTRODUCES** _____

Preparing for Proposition in _____

Preparing for Proposition in _____

•**MAKES IT** _____

•**BONDS TO** _____

•**ATTACH** _____

IX. 6-Point Criteria for Evaluating Introductions:

The Introduction:

1. Arouses Interest.
2. Introduces Subject through an identifiable F.C.F.
3. Prepares for the proposition in concept and terminology.
4. The opening sentence will stand alone.
5. Becomes Personal (indicates the reason the message is vital for the listener).
6. Bonds to Scripture.

For next class proceed with Reading #8: *Christ-centered Preaching*, pp. 81-94.

Written Assignment #4 for Class after Next:

Write a "Sermon" Introduction (not a "Scripture" Introduction) and Proposition on the text that you previously outlined.

- a. This Sermon Introduction must be a Human Interest Account and must directly lead into your Proposition.
- b. Underline the key terms of both clauses of the proposition as they appear in your Introduction.
- c. Underline the Fallen Condition Focus statement in your Introduction.

- d. Note in the margin each of the other key components of a Sermon Introduction using the model on *Christ-centered Preaching*, pp. 245-6 as a guide.
- e. Come to class prepared to deliver your Introduction and Proposition.
- f. All written Introductions and Propositions will be collected for grading during class.