**Sermon Preparation Made Simpler**

Pastor Erwin W. Lutzer

I Seven Characteristics of Effective Preaching

1. The communication of a biblical truth
2. Expository
3. Textual
4. Topical
5. The communication of truth through the life and personality of the preacher
6. Shows sensitivity to the needs of the congregation
7. Has a central focus: Unity, Order and Progress
8. It stimulates thought and action by using matters such as:
9. Questions
10. Raising issues
11. Challenging conventional views
12. Leading to trust, repentance, etc…
13. Pointing out direction, guidance or comfort, etc.
14. It gives specific instruction on what should be done
15. There is variety in preaching.

“A preacher must think clearly and feel deeply and cause his hearers to do the same.”

2. Approaching the Text

Read and reread to get the context. Read a commentary, think about the flow of the passage in its context.

 Then ask the text questions:

 What is the direction of the passage and the big idea? Find the subject and predicate

 Is it a **why** passage? Is it a **how** passage? Is it **what** passage?

 Most Important: Think of a key word that will give the message, direction, unity and progress.

3. Examples of the Key Word Approach

Life in the Penalty Box**,**  (Exodus 2:11-24)

Moses in the Desert…he learned three lessons he could not have learned in the palace…

1. The lesson of Servant Hood
2. The lesson of Trust
3. The lesson of Obedience

The Cost of Following the Lord Fully

The life of Caleb

 The character of a man is determined by what it takes to stop him:

 Let us consider three barriers he overcame in following the Lord Fully.

1. The barrier of race
2. The barrier of peer pressure
3. The barrier of old age

The Power of a Praying Mother

The Canaanite Woman: Matthew 15: 21, ff…

 Barriers she overcame in getting to Jesus….

Religion

Culture

Protocol

 The Disciples

Welcomed By Jesus

The First Martyr: Stephen: (Acts 7: 54-60)

Four realities greet us when we die.

1. The Glory of God
2. The Welcome of Jesus
3. The Safe Keeping of God
4. The Reward Given by God

On this Rock I will build my church…

 (Matthew 16:18 )

Key word is *features*…

1. Christ owns the church
2. Christ builds the church
3. Preserves the church….
4. Christ empowers the church

Overcoming Guilt

I John 1:9.

We all wrestle with guilt and regret…how do we experience God’s forgiveness?

 Here are three steps we must take (I John 1:9)

 !. We must admit to something

 2. We must believe something

 3. We must receive something

God, the Eternal

(Psalm 90)

God’s eternality gives us the assurance of our eternal future

Here are four facts about God’s eternality

1. He has existed from everlasting to everlasting
2. He has created all that is
3. He exists outside of time
4. He exists throughout all generations

Implications:

He unifies history

He gives us a purpose

He establishes his works

 Jesus, Demons and Freedom

(Mark 5:1-13)

Jesus has authority over the power of darkness

 Lets consider five questions about this man

1. Where did he live? the tombs
2. How did he act? obsessive behavior
3. What did he feel? self-hatred
4. Who did he encounter ?: Jesus
5. How did he prove his deliverance?

Temptations Business Men Face

(James 4:13-17).

1. The temptation to presumption
2. The temptation to discount the brevity of life
3. The temptation to take credit for what God does
4. The temptation to do what you want, rather than what you should….

 Texts to consider:

II Corinthians 4:16-18

Contrasts would work as a key word.

 Romans 5:1-5

 Blessings would work as a key word.

 The blessing of peace

 The blessing of access

 The blessing of joy (we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. )

 The blessing of love by the Holy Spirit.

Other Key Words Are Word Such As :

Aspects, Lessons, Reasons, Characteristics, Ways, Features, Gifts, Blessings, Contrasts, Instructions, Benefits, Realities, Steps, Temptations…Tests …. Barriers, Temptations, Character Qualities, Questions, etc….