CHRIST-CENTERED EXPOSITORY PREACHING: 
THE WHAT, WHY & HOW

| Tony Merida |
What makes a great preacher/teacher?

1. Love for the ______ of Christ and the ______ of the Word
2. Love for ______
3. ______
4. ______
5. A ______
6. ______
7. ______ and ______
8. ______
9. The sovereign ______ of God

Whats and Whys – Definitions, Distinctions, Motivations

What is expository preaching?

• Expository preaching is Word-driven (or Word-saturated) preaching.
• It is taking the listeners for “a ______ in the text”
• It’s often associated with ______ by ______ preaching, but it’s not limited to this approach
  - Exposition isn’t a ______ of preaching/teaching. It’s about content and substance.
• The expositor exposes the meaning of the text
• Faithful exposition explains what God has said in His word, declares what God has done in His Son and applies the message to the heart
• ________ is not preaching
What is the difference between preaching and teaching?

Public Preaching versus Public Teaching

- Preaching involves ________________
- Preaching involves ________________
- Preaching involves ________________

Why do exposition?

1. Exposition calls for attention to biblical ____________
2. Exposition is good for both ____________: believers and non-believers
3. Exposition gives ____________ to the message
4. Exposition ____________ Scripture
5. Exposition is ____________, not man-centered
6. Exposition provides a wealth of ____________ for preaching
7. Exposition ____________ the person delivering the word
8. Exposition ensures the highest level of biblical ____________ for the congregation
9. Exposition teaches people how to ____________ the Bible on their own

What are the dangers of exposition?

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
Why do Christ-centered exposition?

A Christ-centered understanding of Scripture should lead to Christ-centered exposition.

The entire Bible pivots on one weekend in Jerusalem about two thousand years ago.

– D.A. Carson

The proper way for disciples of the crucified and risen Jesus to read their Scriptures is messianically and missionally.

– Christopher J.H. Wright

Christ and His redemption are the great subject of the whole Bible.

– Jonathan Edwards

Sidney Greidanus defines Christ-centered preaching Christ as

... sermons which authentically integrate the message of the text with the climax of God’s revelation in the person, work and/or teaching of Jesus Christ as revealed in the New Testament.

To see Christ formed in our people we should always emphasize in our exposition the unique person, work and/or teaching of the messiah

It ought to be the aim of every pastor to bring all members of his or her congregation to maturity in Christ. But they cannot mature if they do not know the Christ in the Bible, the Christ to whom the whole Bible, Old and New Testaments, give a unified and inspired testimony

– Graeme Goldsworthy
Four reasons why we should read the Scriptures Christocentrically

1. __________ clearly saw Himself as the fulfillment of the Old Testament writings (Jn 5:39, 46; Lk 4:20–21; 24:27, 44)

2. The __________ knew the Bible focused upon Jesus (Rom 1:1b–3; 16:25–27; 1 Cor 15:3–4; 2 Tim 3:15)
   b. This was how the Apostles read and preached the Bible
   c. Clearly they followed Jesus’ words about the message of the Bible
   d. The Bible is a Christian book from Genesis to Revelation
   e. The Bible is more than an inspired book of moral virtues; it is a book about salvation
   f. Sadly, many people know Bible stories but do not know the story of the Bible
   g. While some are minimalists rather than maximalists on the Christocentric emphasis scale, everyone should teach and apply Scripture in a redemptive manner
   h. I am not advocating allegory or clever “Jesus jukes” (also called spiritualizing)
   i. Like a good point guard, study the text up close in its historical context, but then use full-court vision to survey the entire biblical narrative, leading people to the Redeemer with inter-biblical themes and connections

3. The __________ and climactic nature of Scripture
   a. Carson says there are about twenty great themes in Scripture
   b. All of the embedded themes of salvation converge in Christ
   c. Learn to recognize these themes and understand how they reach their apex in the Messiah; may you find your heart “strangely warmed” like the Emmaus disciples

4. The work of the __________ __________
   a. Consider the primary purpose of the Spirit
   b. Jesus: “He will testify about me” (Jn 15:26), “He will glorify me” (Jn 16:14)
   c. The primary role of the Spirit is to shine the __________ upon the Son of God
   d. The nature of the Bible illustrates the Spirit’s Christ-exalting work
   e. On the day of Pentecost the Spirit is poured out, Peter exalts Jesus from the Scripture (Acts 2:14–36) and people are converted
   f. The Spirit opens hearts of people to respond to Jesus in repentance and faith when the Scriptures are preached (Acts 16:14)
Implications

• Bryan Chapell: Use a ________ glass and a _________ lens

• No Jewish rabbi should be able to sit comfortably under our preaching from the Old Testament

• Expositors should work hard to find the redemptive connections in the text, making grace-filled applications of it

• Make the ________ of the Bible the _________ of every sermon

• You cannot preach a ________ – _________ sermon if the Life-Changer is not at the heart of the sermon

• Take them to the final resting place each week

If I have learned anything in 35 or 40 years of teaching, it is that students don't learn everything I teach them. What they learn is what I am excited about, the kinds of things I emphasize again and again and again and again and again. That had better be the gospel

– D.A. Carson

| How to prepare Christ-centered expository sermons |

Five steps of preparing an expository message:

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<tr>
<td>STUDY THE TEXT</td>
<td>UNIFY THE REDEMPTIVE THEME</td>
<td>OUTLINE THE TEXT</td>
<td>DEVELOP THE FUNCTIONAL ELEMENTS</td>
<td>ADD AN INTRODUCTION &amp; CONCLUSION</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obvious Observations: What does the text say?</td>
<td>Identify the main point of the text (MPT).</td>
<td>Choose an approach.</td>
<td>Explanation</td>
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<td>Responsible Interpretation: What does the text mean?</td>
<td>Determine the main point of the sermon (MPS).</td>
<td>Choose your words.</td>
<td>Application</td>
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<td>Redemptive Integration: How is the gospel related to this text?</td>
<td>Add a title that reflects the MPS.</td>
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<td>Illustration</td>
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<td>Concluding Implications: How does this passage apply to us today?</td>
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<td>Writing the message and praying over it</td>
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Classical Outline
Four challenges for young ministers (1 Timothy 4:11–16)

1. Exemplify your teaching personally (v. 12)
   a. Explanation
   b. Application
   c. Illustration

2. Expose the Scriptures publicly (v. 13)
   a. Explanation
   b. Application
   c. Illustration

3. Exercise your gift passionately (vv. 14–15)
   a. Explanation
   b. Application
   c. Illustration

4. Examine your life and teaching persistently (v. 16)
   a. Explanation
   b. Application
   c. Illustration
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