

Propositions and Main Points

[This lecture corresponds to assigned Reading # 6:
Christ-centered Preaching, pp. 142-162.]

For mid-term review:

Is there only one proper way to outline a passage for a sermon?

What governs how a sermon should be outlined?

What are three basic types of outlines?

What are the qualities of good homiletical outlines?

Goal for this lesson: To understand the basic features and construction of good propositions and main points.

Introduction: Now that we have seen an overview of what is included in an outline, we need to zero in on the detailed development of specific components.

I. What is a Proposition?

A. Traditional Definition: "A statement of the subject as the preacher proposes to develop it." (the "classic" Broadus definition)

B. Developed Definition:

To the traditional definition need to be added additional distinctions for solid expository messages. A Proposition is . . .

1. A theme statement indicating how a text will be addressed in the message.
2. A statement of the "main thing" the message is about which is broad enough to cover the content of all the main points and which is proven (or developed) by each of the points.
3. A summary of the introduction and an indication of what the rest of the message will be about (the proposition points both forward and backward).

**Key idea to which we will return in future lectures: The introduction should prepare for the proposition: (1) in _____; and , (2) in _____.

C. Refined Definition:

II. Marks of a Good Proposition (Most "Formal" Structure):

"A wedding of a _____ and _____ (i.e., application).

NOT- Principle alone: Jesus is the only hope of salvation
or
Application alone: We must preach Christ at every opportunity

BUT- Principle wed to application: Because Jesus is the only hope of salvation, we must preach Christ at every opportunity.

Two Basic Forms of Presenting Universal Truths in Hortatory Modes:

*THESE
NOT THE ONLY
FORMS (E.G., IVA
CLAUSES), BUT THESE
ARE FOUNDATIONAL
FORMS*

Consequential form:
Because Jesus is the only hope of salvation, we must preach Christ at every opportunity.

Conditional form:
If (or, *since*) disciples are to preach Christ at every opportunity, then we must prepare to proclaim him.

◊ These forms reflect our preaching commitment to preach in accord with Biblical priorities. The Bible is about truth which is to be applied to our lives (cf. II Tim. 3:16).

III. Marks of Good Main Points:

IV. Harmonizing Propositions and Main Points:

(i.e., Making sure they work together)

- A. Keep the wording of the proposition and the main points _____.
- B. Keep one side of the proposition (principle or application) _____ in main point development

-The side of the proposition that stays consistent in the outline is the
"_____."

-If the principle of the proposition becomes the anchor clause this is a
"_____ consistent" outline
or,

If the application of the proposition becomes the anchor clause this is an
"_____ consistent" outline.

- C. Keep the non-consistent clauses of the main points as parallel in wording as possible except for "key word" changes.

-This non-consistent side of the main points is each main point's
developmental component or "_____."

-The magnet clause is what the exposition of the main point supports or
develops. The magnet clause draws (i.e., attracts) the exposition to
itself, which is why it is so named.

-Thus, the subpoints of each main point are developing or supporting that main
point's magnet clause.

- D. Establish the truth of the anchor clause early

The proof or truth of the anchor clause is established just _____ or
_____ the proposition—usually in the introduction, but
occasionally toward the beginning of the first main point.

The early establishment of this premise is necessary since the whole sermon
rests on the adequacy of the anchor clause.

V. Cautions for Propositions and Main Points:

- A. Make sure main points are not _____ with other main points
or the proposition.

<>Co-existence may be _____ as well as _____

- B. Make sure proposition does not inadvertently indicate a _____
or _____ the main points do not reflect:

VI. Helpful Hints for Propositions and Main Points:

A. The "imperative" test:

B. The "stand alone" test:

Not this: Because Jesus promises it, we should love him.

This: Because Jesus promises his love, we should love him.

C. The "non-sequitor" test:

Not this: Because God comforts the grieving, we must tithe.

This: Because God comforts the grieving, we must seek him in times of sorrow.

Assignment for Next Class:

For next class prepare an outline on the passage below corresponding to the first letter in your last name (The letter divisions below are only examples and change annually. If you missed this year's assigned divisions, call a classmate to get what was given in class.)

A - G --- Heb. 12:1-3

H - Q --- II Cor. 6: 14 - 7:1

R - Z --- I Thess. 4: 13 - 18

Include only a proposition and main points (not subpoints) in your outlines.

Put the outline in large print on one page.

Remember to key main points to the text (i.e., put appropriate verse references in parentheses after main point statements).

Make sure your outline covers the entire text (in accord with expository principles).

After the Next Class, in which we will analyze your outlines, proceed to Reading Assignment #7: *Christ-centered Preaching*, pp. 236-253.

APPLICATION-CONSISTENT **OUTLINE**

(Conditional Form)

**Prop: Since Jesus alone provides salvation,
we must proclaim Christ to the world.**

I. Since Jesus alone purchased salvation,
we must proclaim Christ to the world.

II. Since Jesus alone possesses salvation,
we must proclaim Christ to the world.

III. Since Jesus alone bestows salvation,
we must proclaim Christ to the world.

[Note "Anchor Clauses" and "Magnet Clauses"]

PRINCIPLE-CONSISTENT OUTLINE

(Consequential Form)

**Prop: Because Jesus commands believers to proclaim him boldly,
we must preach Christ at every opportunity.**

- I. Because Jesus commands believers to proclaim him boldly,
we should proclaim Christ in difficult situations.

- II. Because Jesus commands believers to proclaim him boldly,
we should proclaim Christ to difficult people.

- III. Because Jesus commands believers to proclaim him boldly,
we should proclaim Christ despite our difficulties.

[Note "Anchor Clauses" and "Magnet Clauses"]

CO-EXISTENT ERROR OUTLINE

**Prop: Because Jesus is the only hope of salvation,
we must preach Christ at every opportunity.**

I. Because Jesus is the only hope of salvation,
we must preach Christ whenever there is an
opportunity.

II. Because Jesus is the only hope of salvation,
we must preach Christ when it is convenient.

III. Because Jesus is the only hope of salvation,
we must preach Christ when it is difficult.