

Exposition: Components and Proportions

[This lecture corresponds to assigned Reading # 8:
Christ-centered Preaching, pp. 81-94]

For mid-term review:

What are the two major purposes of introductions?

What are some major types of introductions?

What is most often the most effective type of introduction?

What are two commonly used but ineffective types of introductions?

How should the introduction prepare for the proposition?

Goal for this lesson: To understand the basic nature and characteristics of sound biblical exposition.

Introduction:

Exposition is shedding some ordinary light on the path that leads to truth in God's Word.

I. Technical Definitions of Exposition:

A. Formal Definition: Exposition = _____ the meaning of a Scriptural text so that it may be understood and acted upon.

[Noun-exposition; adj.-expository; verb-to expound (not exposit)]

B. Biblical Foundation:

Lk. 24:27 "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets He expounded (dierneneuo=to unfold the meaning of what is said; interpret) unto them in all the Scriptures then things concerning himself."

cf. verse 32 "They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened (dianoigo = to open thoroughly; expound) the Scriptures to us?'"

II. Biblical Examples of Exposition:

A. O.T. Example: Nehemiah 8: 5-8

⁵Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up.

⁶Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁷The Levites --Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah --instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there.

⁸They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.

(vs. 7 "instructed" What did it involve?)

1. What it says (**Word Presentation**) "reading" and "making it clear" = parash, to distinguish or specify clearly—perhaps translate
2. What it means (**Explanation**) "giving the meaning" = sekel, to give the sense of meaning requiring perception or insight
3. How it can be understood (**Exhortation**) "causing" to understand = bin, to separate mentally (for use) or assist in understanding (for personal use)

B. N.T. Echoes:

Jesus—Luke 4: 16-32 ... "synagogue practice"

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|--|---------------------------------|
| | <u>Word</u> |
| 1) Jesus Read the Scripture (stood) | Presentation (vs. 11-19) |
| 2) Jesus Gave the Import of the Scripture (sat) | Explanation (vs. 21) |
| 3) Jesus Applied the Scripture (They were moved at "You should accept me but will not.") | Exhortation (vs. 23-27) |

Paul

—I Tim 4: 13 "Devote yourself to the

- 1) Public reading of Scripture (**Word Presentation**)
- 2) Preaching, (actually noun parakleseis = paraclete, encouragement or **Exhortation**)

and,

- 3) Teaching (didaskalia, teaching or **Explaining**)"

—II Tim 4: 2 "Preach (kerusso = proclaim)

- 1) the word in season and out, — **Word Presentation**
- 2) correct, rebuke and encourage — **Exhortation**
- 3) with great patience and careful instruction (didaske)" — **Explanation**

<>Note: Meshing of Authority and Encouragement.

—Acts 17:2, 3 @ Thessolonica: Paul . . .

- 1) "Lectured from the Scriptures" — **Word Presentation**
- 2) "Opening up" the Word (dianoigon = to open up completely as though a door) — **Explanation**
- 3) "Setting [it] before them" (paratithemenos = set before as a plate, i.e., confront — **Exhortation**

Great Commission

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.;

Teaching¹ them to observe² all I have commanded³ you;

And Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

¹"teach" (**Explanation**)

²"to observe" (**Exhortation**)

³"all . . . commanded" (**Word Presentation**)

<> **Exposition unites the _____ of the Word with _____ (information about the Word) and _____ (application of the Word).**

III. Three Essential Elements of Exposition:

A. Explanation = What Does This Text Mean? [We will cover this more later]

1. Standard Tools of Explanation: (traditionally called the "general processes")

2. Standard Questions of Explanation:
(the five W's and an H)

[The Biblical Pattern: cf. Luke 24: 37; Luke 4: 16-32; Acts 17:2]

Note: What we are calling Explanation is what traditionally is considered to be "all" Exposition includes. Exposition was considered to be concluded when explanation was given. Can you determine why explanation alone does not cover all the territory "Exposition" must?

What are the essential elements of exposition? They are:

1. Explanation

2. Illustration

3. Application

<>All three must be included for Scripture to be fully unfolded.

B. Illustrative Material = Show me what the text means.

1. Types of Illustrative Material

2. Sources for Illustration:

3. Dangers of Illustration

◁▷The purpose of illustration is to make the abstract, familiar and the principal, particular. Real meaning is not known if truth is not related to concrete life so that it can be applied. (Thus, motivation > clarification).

◁▷The Scripture's confirm the importance of concrete particulars along with propositions of truth?

- Mark 4:34 "Without a parable He did not say anything to them."
- Paul's images: sports arena, garden, battlefield
- Prophets' symbols and examples: ripe fruit basket, lying on side for months, dry bones
- 75% narrative component of the entire Bible.

C. Application = What Does This Text Mean to Me?

Components Include:

1. _____ Specificity = What should I do?
What does this text require me to do, believe, accept, change, etc.?
2. _____ Specificity = Where should I do it?
Good application=situational specificity + instructional specificity.
3. _____ Means = How do I do it?
4. Proper _____ = Why should I do it?

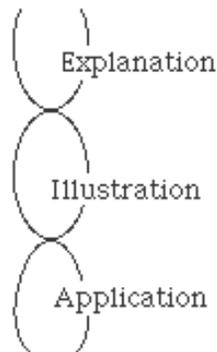
IV. The Shape of Exposition (for a single main point):

A. The Generic Shape:

1/3 _____
1/3 _____
1/3 _____

B. The Seminary Error:

C. The Popular Error:



D. A Model Approach:

<>Therefore, for our purposes, exposition of any main point contains three essential elements: Explanation, illustration and application.

Conclusion:

Written Assignment Reminder and Next Reading Assignment:

Written Assignment #4 for next class: Introductions written with components marked, and

prepared for delivery.

For Class after next: Reading Assignment # 9: *Christ-centered Preaching*, pp. 120-121; 156-162; and Appendix 5.