

Conclusions

[This lecture corresponds to assigned Reading # 10:
Christ-centered Preaching, pp. 253-260.]

For mid-term review:

At what length does explanation generally indicate that subpoints are required?

What are three basic types of subpoints?

What clause of their main point do subpoints generally prove or develop?

What is the only standard sermonic component with which you cannot begin a main point?

Goal for this lesson: To understand the characteristics and construction principles for sermonic conclusions.

Introduction: This is the high point of the message and requires careful craftsmanship.

I. Guiding Principles for Conclusions:

II. Components of Conclusions:

—*G. Campbell Morgan*

"Every conclusion must:

- _____ (*i.e., it must end*)
- _____ (*i.e., it must include what has been said*)
- _____ (*i.e., it must preclude the possibility the listeners will escape the message*)"

- A. _____ (Concise Summary) not extended explanations, but hammer-stroke statements which quickly reiterate the central concepts of the message in order to make the final appeal for action. The fast marshaling of the sermon's forces using its key terms.
- B. _____ (Final Application):
- Do not summarize simply to summarize but to marshal your forces for the appeal you will make or the action you will call for.
 - What concrete, personal duties are you asking for?
 - What do you want me to do? (behavioral or attitudinal)
Includes Direction — show me what you expect and how it's done
 - Spell it out
 - Illustrate it (usually with a human interest account)
- C. _____ (Climax)
Here thought and emotion must arrive at their greatest height . If you are not moved no one else will be.
- D. _____ (End):
Purposed, pointed, and definite. What one thing would you have them walk away with?

III. Marks of Effective Conclusions:

IV. Cautions for Conclusions:

- A. Consistent " _____ "
- B. Do not _____ —"Start with a bang and end all over"
- <>common error: Do not put lengthy summary after a poignant illustration or a telling statement. This creates anti-climax. After the climax moment end in a hammer stroke or two.
- C. Ordinarily, No Final " _____;" or " _____ "
- You are serving God not men. This does not mean you shouldn't say thank you for invitations to speak. Just don't give the impression that your words have man's permission.
- Personal "amens" may seem to be personal praise or self-elevation.
- D. Let the conclusion _____
- A message can be driven home with a final hymn or closing prayer (though no absolute requirement of final hymn or final prayer if message is more powerful without them.)
- However, try not to conclude in the closing prayer (usually happens when the pastor forgets key components within message so he tries to include them in the prayer)
- E. Avoid _____ questions as concluding sentences
- Speakers intend to use such questions as launching pads for personal thought or reflection. But this too often leads to abstraction and loss of power.
- Mauectic questions make point; rhetorical only add more questions. We will _____ use rhetorical questions in training.
- F. Use poems and quotations with great _____ .
(Three points and a poem is not usually effective anymore.)
- Use only if they say "exactly" what you mean
- Recognize change of voice, meter and language disrupts thought, especially if archaic language for modern audience
- Prepare audience for what you are intending to do with the quote
- Do not break eye-contact
- Do not give the last word to someone else without excellent reason
- G. Do not introduce _____ exposition in conclusion.
You are to be concluding not starting new thought.
- H. Finally, _____ "finally"
- Do not announce you are concluding; e.g., "In Conclusion . . ."; "Let me Conclude by saying . . ."; or, "Finally. . ."
- Finally, if you say finally, mean it.

V. Hints for Effective Conclusions:

VI. Conclusion on Conclusions:

What we will look for in Conclusions?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

<> When you have said what you intended, stop.

Assignment for Next Classes:

For next class progress to Reading Assignment #11: *Christ-centered Preaching*, pp. 94-99
& review pp. 129-133.

For class after next:

- Prepare an outline with subpoints followed by a conclusion (HIA only) to the passage for which you were assigned to do an outline and introduction.
- Come to the class after next prepared to present your conclusion.
- The written conclusion should be no longer than one page and should last no longer than 2 1/2 minutes.
- Underline the key terms of the magnet clauses of the main points that are used (i.e., threaded or grouped) in your conclusion.

