**BMi SALTS COURSE**

**Preaching and Teaching Principles**

**Communicating the Gospel**

Communication is the vital link between the speaker and the people.

The art of preaching is the ability to effectively communicate the message in such a manner that it will produce the godly results.

Preaching brings the truth of the Word to people’s hearts.

References: Luke 4:16-22; John 7:37-39

**Preaching is a major characteristic of Christianity**

No other religion has ever made the regular and frequent assembling of the masses of men, to hear instruction and exhortation, making it an integral part of Divine Worship.

Jesus was essentially a preacher as He demonstrated with the ‘Sermon on the Mount’ and the ‘Feeding of the Multitude.’ Luke 4:16-21; Matthew 5:7. Peter and Paul and the other Apostles, deacons and disciples continued the practice throughout the New Testament era. And so it has continued throughout the centuries to our day.

Jesus gave the same strategy to His disciples. Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15.

Preaching will always be used by God for the propagation of His Message.

**Examining the Art of Preaching**

Preaching is the communication of the Gospel, truth, by man to man. It has two essential elements.

**Truth and Personality**

a)  **Truth**

The subject of preaching is ‘Divine Truth’ as revealed and offered in the Canonicity of Scripture.

Its objective is to; Provoke faith, Stimulate to Discipleship and Sustain in Hope.

b) **Personality**

Preaching is more than communication of knowledge or ideas.

It is communicating feeling, life, character, strength and hope.

It exercises the whole personality of the preacher.

Its aim is to address and captivate the whole personality of the hearer.

‘Preaching (communicating) the Gospel is communicating the personality of Christ.’

**3. Four Basic Essentials Required for Communicating the Gospel**

a)  **Piety**

Piety is that quality which springs from fellowship with God. It is transparent sincerity. It is the soul aglow with God!

An insincere presentation of the Gospel is not acceptable.

Piety will keep the preacher strong and firm amid difficult and icy circumstances. It will give him courage to face anyone with the Gospel.

C.H. Spurgeon once said, ‘My life can be written across the sky in letters of fire’.

b)  **Natural Gifts**

Paul once said...

‘That which is NATURAL FIRST and then that which is Spiritual.’

God has given us all natural gifts. The only difference is that some have discovered them, worked on them, mastered them, and use them.

Here are some examples

**Capacity for Clear Thinking**

There will never be clear speaking if there is not clear thinking. What is not clear to the preacher will not be clear to the hearer.

**Strong Feeling**

Preaching is proclaiming, sounding out, declaring the truth.

**Vigorous Imagination**

Make it live. Develop the art of ‘story telling’. You may give the Bible story a modern day setting, but whatever method you use the listeners must be able to make application to their lives.

**Background**

Use your own experiences and background without apology.

**Talents**

Even though these natural gifts may be moderate in your life at present, with USE, PRACTICE, and EXERCISE they will develop and become powerful tools for communicating the Gospel.

**Knowledge**

We draw our knowledge from

World Events, Politics, Education, Sport, History, Present Trends, man; His ways, His habits, how He functions, how He thinks etc. **General Revelation**

Direct Communication with God. **Special Revelation**

**Skill**

We must practice to be able to preach well.

Make good use of your spare time and (for some) your mirror.

But practice is not enough. We must practice the right principles. Study other preachers asking how, why and when.

Jesus said, ‘Come and I will MAKE you to become FISHERS of men’

There is a real art in catching fish.

**Become Resourceful**

We can’t preach out of an empty head and heart, we need both knowledge and experience.

Jesus said in Matthew 12:34, ‘From the abundance (overflow) of the heart - the mouth speaks.’

(See Luke 6:45) Experience fills your heart. Learning fills your head.

**Sources of Material**

**The Sacred Scriptures**

Get to know your Bible, including its characters, stories, historic facts, major topics, etc.

**Theology**

Read good books on theology as it is the study of the knowledge of God.

**Ethics**

Good books on ‘Christian Ethics’ and ‘Spiritual Leadership’ are valuable, such as,

‘A Handbook fo Christian Ethics’ by D.S. Adam.

‘Spiritual Leadership’ by J. Oswald Sanders

**Events**

Keep up with what is happening in the world.

**History**

Perhaps the most important discipline; read extensively as it builds a huge base of understanding.

**Personal Experience**

Nothing can replace our own first-hand knowledge of human nature and the world.

**Communicating the Gospel**

The preacher is God’s Prophet. Indeed the church is the prophetic voice of God to the nations.

A prophet is one who ‘tells forth’ or ‘speaks out’ the Word of God. Make you message clear, powerful, let it be simple, yet exciting.

Let there be godly order in your message reflecting the character of God.

Here are some pointers that will help you....

**Have an Aim**

You must know what you are aiming for. Stay on target.

**Have an Outline**

An outline is like a bony skeleton, giving form, order, sequence, andunity to the message. It is to the sermon what the skeleton is to the body.

**Generously Illustrate**

**Why Illustrate?**

Illustration is ‘to make bright, to illuminate, to throw light on a subject’, that is to put ‘daylight through it.’

**Illustrations Appeal to the Imagination**

We must learn to capture people’s imagination.

Napoleon said... ‘Imagination Rules the World.” People love stories, testimonies, related experiences.

**Use Your Own Experiences**

Personal experiences can be shared with real meaning and authority. Don’t be afraid to use humour at your expense. It breaks down barriers.

**Conclusion**

Preaching is communicating the life changing, life giving power of Jesus Christ. Bringing conviction, comfort and conversion to hearers.

Jesus—the Prince of Preachers said in John 6:63, *‘The words I have spoken to you are Spirit, and they are Life.’*

Paul’s testimony was this ... that his preaching was not merely words....1 Corinthians 2:1-5, *‘...but with demonstration of the Spirit’s Power.’*

Again Paul says in I Corinthians 1:21-25, *‘It is through the foolishness of preaching that people are saved.’*

Preaching is not only performance, but is performing with power which brings about lasting results.

Jesus said in John 15:16, *‘You shall have fruit, and your fruit is to last.’*

Proverbs 11:30, *‘He who wins souls is wise.’*

**Teaching**

**Introduction**

The scriptures speak much of the need to teach. In the first book of Timothy one of the requirements of “overseers” is to be able to teach. God has set into the Church (Christ’s Body), teachers as one of the ascension gift ministries. Teaching, or the impartation of knowledge, under the unction of the Holy Spirit, is vital to the strength the church.

Teachers, however, must be particularly careful with what they teach, and need to be accountable to church leadership. (2 Peter 2: 1; 2 Corinthians II: 13-15; Titus 1:9-11; Matthew 15:9; Colossians 2:22-23).

*‘Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall* *incur a stricter judgment’ James 3:1*

The goal or aim in teaching is to impart information that will bring change to the listener.

The wise teacher recognises the following retention rates; Hearing only 5%, Seeing 10%, Repeating information 20%, What they said in their own words 40%, What they read 50%, What they discuss in a vibrant interaction 60%, What they do or make 75%, What they teach 95 %.

Whilst such figures are popular amongst professional teachers we need to bear in mind that they are based on the impartation of information. For us there is another more important dynamic; teaching by the revelatory power of the Holy Spirit. What is of real value in Christian teaching is the anointing of the Holy Spirit on the teacher and the hearers and that can happen despite the method.

**What is Teaching**

Definition; impart knowledge, give instruction, guide by precept or example.

Some Word Definitions

1. INSTRUCTION - “to teach”

(i) To hold a discourse with others so that they may be instructed

(ii) To give a discourse where there is not direct personal or verbal participation.

2. ACQUISITION ‘to learn”; “or causing one to learn”

It is not scholastic, but dynamic and implies a personal relationship and activity in acquiring the knowledge.

3. PRESENTATION - “to place beside”

Where the teaching is adapted to the level (or capacity) of the one being taught, using common examples from close environs: e.g. wheat, birds, soil etc.

4. ELUCIDATION-”to interpret’

That is to explain thoroughly, so as to be fully comprehended.

5. EXPOSITION - “to set out”

To bring out the hidden ideas, meanings, of a literary passage, system or thought.

**The Ministry Gift of the Teacher** - Ephesians 4:11

1. To be able to teach - i.e. to communicate knowledge

2. To be able to instruct - i.e. to impart knowledge

3. To educate - i.e. to draw out or develop the mental powers (be able to ask questions so as to get them to think). To challenge students to inquisitiveness. To provide the environment for them to want to learn.

4. To train - to direct and consolidate the latent abilities, using specific programs, and thus resulting to a predescribed conclusion (i.e. developed by training - “as with a swimmer’).

5. To Discipline - to form suitable habits and total subjection to authority. ‘By means of self control and proper wording and execution of situations.’ e.g. safe driving of a motor = ensures the best possible result for all on the roads.

6. To Nurture - to provide the care, conditions and “food” necessary for growth in all aspects (physical, mental, spiritual). Nurture is perceived to be a softer word than EDUCATE.

**Characteristics of a Teacher**

1) Spends time with God.

2) Is diligent in study and enjoys it!

3) Know his subject matter and is able to present it logically.

4) Tends to be innovative and creative in his presentation.

5) Grasps the condition of his audience and suits presentation to them.

6) Uses questions to; glean level of understanding, to draw people out and provoke thinking.

**Points to enhance teaching**

1) Judicious use of visual Aids (overhead projectors, black and white boards, charts, maps, films, videos etc.)

2) Voice modulation. Be aware that a monotone voice tends to put people to sleep. Be aware of your voice and use voice modulation—soft, loud, quick slow, etc.

3) Be able to relate to the customs of the day, without taking them on board personally.

4) Judicious use of personal (and others) testimonies.

5) Involve the audience in your presentation.

6) Always be in the room ready to begin well before time. Many like to spend a few minutes in prayer in the room prior to speaking.

7) Thorough preparation aids in handling unforeseen circumstances.

**Who Should Teach**

**Our Model — Jesus**

Taught simply but powerfully.

*“He taught them as one having authority’* - Matthew 7:29.

*“Never did a man speak the way this man speaks”* John 7:46

**Teachers**

1) Those recognised as having a “teaching” gift. Ephesians 4:11; Romans 12:7; I Corinthians 12:28; Acts 13:1

2) Elders should be able to teach (1 Timothy 3:6)

3) All believers should be able to teach beginning with the role of parents and in the process be able to lead someone to faith in Christ.

**Some Hints to Successful Teaching**

**Teaching Environment**

1) Ensure there are no disturbing influences e.g. children, machines, etc.

2) Preparation of an administrative nature - rolls, receipt books, refreshments,

desks, chairs, chalk, duster etc., should be completed efficiently.

3) Room - should be uncluttered, of adequate size, and comfortable

**Some Thoughts on Lesson/Lecture Preparation/Presentation**

1) Introduction

Outline main scriptures

Expansion - personal experiences, additional information

Recapitulation - review main points

2) When preparing material

Check out the context by reading around the passage.

Check other scriptures relating to the same topic.

Check out the meaning of words in relevant passages.

Research the background - culture, customs history of the passage.