

School of Expository Preaching

Revival Christian Fellowship July 21, 2025 **HANDOUT**

Demonstration of an Expository Sermon leecoe@calvarychapel.com

A Definition of Expository Preaching;

Preaching is a _____ involving **God**, the **preacher** and the _____.

- **Expository preaching** is the **communication** of **biblical** truth, derived **from** and transmitted **through** a *historical, grammatical* study of the **passage** in its **context**.

3 Practical things about Pulpit Ministry

How do you know you are called?

1. You love _____ and His church.

2. You find ____ in serving at church.

Your calling to pastoral ministry _____ by desiring to **serve** God's people, *helping, and assisting them. Setting up, and tearing down* and cleaning! From the _____ to the **restroom toilets!**

- If **you** do all of those things with _____, that's the **first step** in **knowing** you are called!

3. You start at the _____.

- God often prepares individuals for ministry _____, until **proven faithful** in their **personal** life and simple tasks before being used in a **public way**.

But How do you know if *you're called to teach God's word?*

4. You love to _____ and _____ the Bible.

- If you're **called to pastor** and teach the Bible you will *love to* **study it** and you will want to **own copies** of these books and other **commentaries**.

A call to pastoral ministry involves **both internal** _____ and **external** _____.

- A **genuine call** is marked by a **deep desire** to **serve** God and His people,
- And **includes** the _____ from **church leaders** and the congregation.

God uses the man who is _____, _____, _____, and **yielded** to fulfill God's **purpose**, *How?....by allowing **God** to work **through** your life to **touch** others with the Gospel message.*

2 Timothy 4:2 *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*

Another important question **John** wanted **discussed** today is;

How did I develop as a preacher?

I read books; **Biblical preaching** by Haddon Robinson
Studying Interpreting and Applying the Bible by Walter Hendriksen
Between Two Worlds by John R.W. Stott
The Effective Invitation R. Alan Streett
Charlie Campbell's book; **Teaching and Preaching God's Word**
Preaching and Teaching with Imagination by W.W. Wiersbe

3. My philosophy of Preaching,

#1 The church is the _____ and I as the preacher am called to feed His sheep.

#2 I believe that **preaching** God's word is the _____ **method** of building up the **church** and **glorifying God** through the _____ of His **Word**.

#3 **Biblical preaching** emphasizes the _____ of **Scripture**.

#4 That **because** the Bible is our **ultimate source** of **truth** and **authority**... It is **preaching**, that is _____ in its **text**, and _____ explained, and **applied** that will then **change** the **lives** of **listeners**.

#5 Our preaching must be _____, meaning we *Preach Christ and Him crucified, and Resurrected* and by God's grace, **salvation** comes to all who **will believe**, by faith.

#6 The _____ of preaching is **not** merely to **inform**, but to _____ lives by the power of the **Holy Spirit** working through the **Word** of **God**.

#7 The _____ governs the sermon. **IOW's** the **expositor** is **Bound to the Text**

- It's the *thought of the biblical writer* that **determines** the **content** of the sermon,
- You need to understand **basic Hermeneutics**,
- Understanding the **context**, the **language**, and most of all the **author's intent** to come to a correct interpretation.
- Always remember that the Authority is the Scripture not the preacher!

What about using **AI platforms** — like **Gemini** or **ChatGPT** or the new **Grok 4** to write a sermon?

- Let me start with; **FIRST** read the Bible without any helps including helps just read and pray read it over and over before using Commentaries or other study helps.
- Study **helps**; commentaries, lexicons, dictionaries, articles, *books*, Google searches, and so on.
- That's called **research** and we've been doing this for a **thousand years** — getting help from **other people** to **communicate our thoughts** in new ways,
- **But** here's what I would say is **wrong** with **using AI exclusively** or just **copying** another man's sermons. **Don't do it!**

- Because your number one job as **Pastor Teacher** of your church is to **read, pray over a text, understand, and apply** and then **proclaim** it's truth to God's people,

1 Timothy 3:2 *A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, **able to teach**;*

- That is the **gift** God has given to **you**! You must do the work yourself;
- You are to work hard, spending hours wrestling with the text to understand the authors meaning.

2 Timothy 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

- That is the pastors job! *"rightly dividing the word of truth."*
- So can you **use** ChatGPT for **information**, just like you use *commentaries* and *articles* and *books*?...**Yes!** But **don't** use it for **composition!** **but, if you do** you need to tell your church before you preach Sunday morning, that this sermon was written by Grok or ChatGPT.....

- You need to do what **Paul** said in;

Colossians 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

Hebrews *The Supremacy of Christ*

The Powerful Word of God Hebrews 4:11-13 6/26/22

Intro

Open Your Bibles to **Hebrews chapter 4**, to this wonderful portion of scripture about **Resting**, in the **free Gift** of salvation offered by Jesus Christ,

- We all need Rest, **Correct?** but it's spiritual Rest and **confidence** in our salvation that we find throughout this chapter,
- The writer is calling the **unsaved person** to enter into Christ's salvation by **belief** in Jesus, and when he does he enters into **God's salvation rest**.
- But he also calls the **Believer** who is already in *God's salvation rest* to **continue** to live by **faith** in order to *experience* that moment by moment **rest** this side of glory,
- So we **enter** **salvations Rest** by **grace** through **faith** and.....
- We **continue** to **live** in *salvations rest* everyday by **grace** through **faith**.
- These passages teach us to, be **diligent** to **fully embrace** the **Rest** God has given to all who **believe** in Jesus Christ,
- And the warning is that **Unbelief** will keep us from experiencing the **joy** and **peace** of "**God's rest**"
- So, *What will strengthen our Faith and keep us at Rest?*
- *And What will reveal sin to the Unsaved and bring them to salvation?*
- **A: "The Powerful Word of God"**

PRAY

v11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

- **Now** again, it's critical that you understand that this letter was written to **believing** and **non believing**, Jews who had left Judaism, to embrace Christianity,
- They fellowshiped together in the same *church* **but** not **all** were **saved**,
- The *unbelieving* Jews were at the point of **renouncing** their **professed faith** in Christ.
- They were right on the edge and in danger of **going back** into Judaism,
- That's **why** the writer says; *"Don't do what your forefathers did! Don't fall back as the generation did in Moses' time and die in the wilderness" "Instead "be diligent to enter into rest while it is still available....do it Today!"*

The Priority of Entering Rest v11

- (KJV) translates **v11** *"Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest,"*
- To "**diligent**" {spoo-dad'-zo} means to **labour** or to **exert one's self**,
- **IOW's** to be **diligent**" means you have to **do something... Right?**
- You **can't** just, sit around and **listen** to the bible to be taught,

- You **can't** just, go to church, and take up space, **thinking** you're OK?
- But, to **labour** or to be **diligent** involves an **effort** on your part,
- Some people **never** understand that?

But, **Peter believed** that, listen to what he said in;

2 Peter 1:10 *Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your **call** and **election sure**, for if you do these things you will never stumble.*

- There's that word **Diligent** again,
- **Peter** says to make an even **greater effort** – {spoo-dad'-zo}
- The word relates to **urgency** and it conveys **eagerness**, and **purpose**
- To “**be more diligent**” or to make **certain** for yourself; to **certify**; or **confirm**;

Why is that so important?

- Because there's nothing worse, than to **fear** that you're **not saved**.
- **Worry** and **despair** result from that kind of **uncertainty** – doubt and fear.
- So **Peter** says **be spiritually diligent to make sure for yourself!**

And the “**call and election**” here is **not** an invitation, **but** God's sovereign selection in eternity past. “**be even more diligent to make your call and election sure**”

- **How do you do that?**

How can you know and have Confidence in your salvation?

- **Notice** what **Peter** says; “**for if you do these things you will never stumble**”
- Peter is referring to a list of **virtues** and moral values, like **temperance**,

patience, **godliness** in the **previous verses**, of **2 Peter**,

- **IOW's** as long as you **diligently pursue** godly virtues,
- As long as you pursue a **holy life** and **spiritual growth**,
- Your life then, **demonstrates** that you **were called** and you **were chosen**.

Listen! that is a wonderful, confidence to have! To you **know** your saved because you're **pursuing** godliness, you're doing more, “**to make your election sure!**”

That's what the writer of **Hebrews** is saying here, notice in **v11** *Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.*

- What he's saying here is to **be diligent to enter that rest** or you will **fall like they did through unbelief in the wilderness**.
- **Don't** fall back like the generation did in **Moses' time** and **die** in the wilderness... **but strive... be diligent... labour**, **IOW's purpose to enter God's Rest!**
- The **unbelieving Hebrews** in the wilderness are the **example** he's talking about
- He says; “**Don't be like them. Don't fall off because of unbelief, instead you enter into that rest.**”
- **Listen!....** If an **entire generation** of Israelites **failed** to enter “**that rest**,” then there must be **very real danger** here...**Right?**

Illustration

It's like people who are warned of a raging forest fire burning toward them and they are told to evacuate **but**, some **stay** in their homes and when the fire comes, they are *overwhelmed* and **die** because they will **not** leave!

- They simply **did not believe** the danger was **as great** as they were told.

That's the **warning here**, the **failure** of the **Hebrews** to *enter salvations rest*,

- And some of the people in **that** early church were not **truly** saved.
- All, they had was a **profession** of faith, they did religious things but when life got hard, some were considering going **back** into Judaism,
- That's again, why the writer says *"Be **diligent** to enter into rest while it is still available."*

- **IOW's** *Don't wait!* because you **can't** just play around with God and salvation,
- God can't be **trifled** with, and that comes out in **v12** where the writer reveals

The Diagnostic Word of God v12

v12 *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

- **Now** that verse is a **favorite** of most Christians and we use it to **defend** the Bible and the **veracity** of scriptures,

- **But** the **context** here is **salvation** and **being diligent** to **enter** that Rest!

v11 *Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. 12 For the word of God...*

- That statement *"For the Word of God"* means **by God's Authority!**
- **IOW's** When God says something **He means it!**
- And notice he says; *"the word of God is **quick**, and **powerful**, and **sharper** than any twoedged sword"*,
- So in it's **context** with **v11** it means that; **God's Word will **pierce** right down into the **inner most** part of your **heart** to see if you're **really** a **True believer** or **not**.**
- **IOW's** you **don't** just **play around** with God and salvation, because God's Word will **penetrate** your heart to **diagnose** if you're **a true believer!**

I say that because the word "**for**" in **v12** **joins** up with **v11** with a **direct connection** between **laboring** to **enter God's rest** and the **diagnostic** Word of God.

- God's word is ***discerning of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***
- **IOW's** **God's Word** will **diagnose** the **condition** of your heart.
- And in the **context** of some of these folks **Unbelief**, here in this section, it's God's **word** that will **show them** whether their **profession** is **real** or a fake!

Listen, God's word is **instructive** and **encouraging** and it brings **peace** to all who read it

- **But** God's word also **Judges**, it **penetrates**, it **slices** through all of your innermost **thoughts and intents of the heart"**
- It **diagnoses**, and **exposes** whether you are a **true believer** like a **filet knife**,

Listen! “If you profess Jesus Christ, **but** you’ve **never** truly **repented** of your sin... when **judgement comes**, the Word of God will **cut** you wide **open** and reveal the **hypocrisy** and the imposter you are!” (MacArthur)

Now there are **5 Specific Truths About the Word of God** that are revealed here;

1. God’s Word is Alive..... It’s not a dead thing.

- The **Bible** is “**living**” because it is **God’s Word**,
- *And think about it?.....*because God is **Eternal** so are **His words**,

Peter said;

1 Peter 1:23-25 *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the **word of God** which **lives** and **abides forever**, because “All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, **But the word of the LORD endures forever.**”*

- God’s word is **eternal**, so when God says something, **He means it!**
- God’s Word is **alive** and when you **heard** the gospel and **believed** it, you were saved!
- God’s Word is **alive**, meaning it’s **not** something that **WE** have to **energize**; No!
- All we have to do is believe it, and let it go to do its work!

Illustration

We Believe **what** God’s word says about *our sin* and **repent** and that’s when we are made **New Creations** in Christ, (**2 Cor. 5:17**)

- **Then** we tell **others** about it and it effects them!

Someone said; *“The Word of God is like a caged lion, just release it and let it do its work!”*

1. God’s Word is Alive.

2. God’s Word is Powerful.

- The word “**powerful**” is {en-er-gace’} from which we get the word “**energy**.”
- God’s word is **energetic**; it is **powerful** because it is **backed** by the power of Almighty God.
- And when the **word of God** exposes **unbelief** it *demonstrates its power*, and accuracy.
- God meets our every need in His Word *and* the Holy Spirit works **powerfully**

through the **word of God**.

- In Psalm 107 we are given a wonderful description of how God’s word has **healing power** and the **power to deliver** from oppression

Psalm 107:19-20 *“Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. He sent His word and **healed** them, and **delivered** them from their destructions.”*

- Oh the power of God’s **unalterable word**,
- I thank God for the power of His word that **brought me to Christ!**

Illustration

C. H. Spurgeon was **saved** by **one single** word from the Bible.

- He tells the story when he was **16**, and how he **wandered** into a small church one Sunday morning.
- It was **stormy outside** so he came inside the church to get out of the rain.

- The **storm** was so **great** the pastor could not get across a stream to church,
- So in place of the pastor one of the elders, a **blacksmith** picked up his Bible and read from **Isaiah 45:22** *“Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.”*

- The old man spoke about **10 minutes** and then all he could say was **“Look!”**
- He *pointed* to Spurgeon and said, **“Look!”** and **Spurgeon looked** that morning and was saved.... All it took was **ONE Powerful word!**

1. God’s Word is Alive.

2. God’s Word is Powerful.

3. God’s Word Cuts Two Ways.

v12 *“the word of God is.... sharper than any two-edged sword,*

- The **Bible** is like a *two-edged sword*; meaning it cuts **two ways**.
- The word for **sword** here is {makh’-ahee-rah}
- The {makh’-ahee-rah} is a **short** sword, but extremely lethal,
- Invented by the Romans, and it became *the weapon of choice* for the Roman soldier, as they swung it back and forth, against their enemies,
- So the {makh’-ahee-rah} by **analogy** is like the **two-edged** Word of God,
- **IOW’s** God’s word does **2 things**, The Word of God either **saves** or **judges**.

When the gospel is preached people either reject it, or accept it, Right?

- Whenever the **gospel** is *read* or *preached*, it either **regenerates** or **condemns**,
- God’s word **cuts** and **lays bare** the heart of a man,
- And if He sees **unbelief**, then the *piercing sword* becomes the **judgment** sword.
- God’s word cuts 2 ways,

But for the Believer, God’s word can **cut away sin** like a surgeon, to bring healing,

- God’s word brings comfort and assurance to the weary soul,
- And when it’s preached faithfully, it brings **conviction!**

Illustration

You may wonder at times, **How I know** what’s going on in your life when I preach God’s word?

- I **don’t** have a clue!...I **don’t** have special revelation or even *track your cell phone!*
- It’s all about the **sharpness** of the **Word of God**,
- And when you **hear** it’s Truth, it **cuts**, it exposes, it also encourages,
- God always delivers His message in just the **right place**, at the **perfect time**,
- **God’s Word Cuts Two Ways**, It **Judges** the sinner and **corrects** the Believer,

1. God’s Word is **Alive**.

2. God’s Word is **Powerful**.

3. God’s Word **Cuts** Two Ways, *and in doing that;*

4. God’s Word Pierces the Soul.

“... piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow,”

- That means God’s word **reaches** us right where we live,
- It gets down **inside** the heart and it **exposes** our vary **motives**,
- The **Bible** is **so powerful** that it is able to **penetrate** into the **spiritual** part of man, *“the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow,”*

- That's the **immaterial** part of us, our vary spirit, our internal souls,

Illustration

- A **sword** can only put a hole in someones physical body,
- **But** a sword **cannot** penetrate a **soul** or **spirit** because that's the part of you that's **immaterial**,....That's impossible,
- **But** the Word of God *penetrates* into the **inmost recesses** of a person's **spiritual being**,
- His word **begins** to **convict** us of **sin** making us **uncomfortable**,
- The Holy Spirit uses God's written word to bring both conviction and comfort
- But God's word when **believed** and **received** by a person, makes a person **alive** spiritually.

Romans 1:16 *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes..."*

Illustration

Herbert Lockyer, tells the story of a *non-believing Irishman*.

- Someone gave him a New Testament.
- He had never read the Bible before and took it home and began to read it.
- One evening he said to his wife, *"Wife, if this book is true, then we are sinners and we are lost."*
- The next night he read again and he said, *"Wife, if this book is true, then we can be saved."* He was getting closer and closer to the truth.
- He *read it and read it* until he understood what Christ had done for sinners and with rejoicing in his heart he went to his wife one evening and said, *"Wife, this book is true and I am saved!"*
- **Only** the Word of God can **do that!**..... *It Pierces the Soul*,
- But notice here at the end of **v12** that;

5. God's Word Judges the Heart

*"...is a **discerner** of the thoughts and intents of the heart,"*

- *"discerner"* {krit-ee-kos'} means *to analyze the facts, to be a critic*,
- God's word when *read* or *heard* moves in and begins to **sift** out and **analyze** a persons motives,
- God **judges** or *critiques* our **thoughts**, and our desires,
- That's what the word means; to judge, *"the thoughts and intents of the heart,"*
- The **Bible** *analyzes*, **all** the evil actions of the *heart of man*, and shows the **sinner** his **need** of a Savior.
- **IOW's** the **truth** of God's Word **strips** off the **false**.
- The reason people hate the Bible is because it moves in and **convicts**,
- The Bible ultimately takes man to the point where he sees that his real problem is **unbelief**.
- That's because all of man's **excuses**, and **arguments** against Christianity are **rooted** in **unbelief**.

• But it's the **active, living** Word of God that penetrates through all the lies and false beliefs of man, so that man **must** make a **decision** to **believe** and be **saved** or to **reject** and **stay lost**.

So the **5 Specific Truths About the Word of God**;

1. The Word of God is Alive

2. God's Word is Powerful.

3. God's Word Cuts Two Ways.

4. God's Word Pierces the Soul.

5. God's Word Judges the Heart

• I'm **thankful** for God's powerful Word!

• *Oh Christian, do you **read** it, do you spend time **memorizing** it's promises?*

Illustration

Charles Spurgeon said it best. "*Bibles that are falling apart usually belong to people who aren't.*"

• **IOW's** if you want a life that's held together, you need to **wear** your Bible out.

Now it's in **v13** that the writer moves from the Power of God's Word to;

God's Ever Watchful Eyes v13

v13 "*And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*"

• **IOW's Don't** think that you can **fool God** with all of your religious activity,

• Or **Don't** think that you can **fool God** by your **profession** of faith in Christ,

• You **cannot fool God** by leaving some sin behind for the moment and **turning** to Jesus for some fire insurance,

• You **can't fool God** into believing you're for real **if you're not!** Can't be done!

• **Why?**...Because **everything** is **open** and **naked** before him.

• The word **naked** {goom-nos'} means **all the disguises are ripped off.**

• The **facts** are laid bare.

• **IOW's** God sees you just as you are!

• The phrase "*open to the eyes of him*" is **interesting**,

• It's {trakh-ay-lid'-zo} you Droctors recognize it as **Trachea** the long tube in the throat,

• It's a word used in connection with **wrestling**, and it's used for *seizing an opponent by the throat* in such a way that he **can't move**.

• And what it's saying is that **we can't run from God forever**,

• Because there comes a time when God **grabs us** by the **throat** and **holds** us face to face.

• **Meaning**, Sooner or later, **we will all** face God!

Now, **Remember** that the **context** here is the Jewish **non believer** who was mixed in with the **true believers** in that early church,

• They were **professing Christians** but they were not **possessors** of salvation by Faith,

• And like the people **Moses led** through the wilderness, they were going to **die** because of **Unbelief**,

- They were going to *leave the fellowship* and go **back** to Judaism,
- That's why the writer **warns them** over and over in this section of scripture to make a decision "**Today, do not harden your hearts but believe Today!**"
- And here in **v13** the writer makes it clear that **they can't keep their Unbelief "hidden" from God.**
- Because God **knows everything**. "*all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*"
- God knows what a person is **thinking all** the time.
- **He** knows where you go, and what you see **and** what you do!
- God sees everything, a man's life is *laid bare before Him*,
- **No one** can run anywhere from the all-knowing All-Mighty God.
- God knows of every **lie**, of every **hypocrisy**, of every **dishonest act**,
- The eyes of the Lord **scan** the **soul** and all of its **thoughts** and **intentions**,
- God **sees** clearly either the **heart of belief** or the **rejection** of Jesus Christ and the **wicked heart** of **unbelief**,

Illustration

How would you like to have everything you have thought this week **projected** on the screen behind me?

- Oh how **embarrassing! Right?**
- If that happened **you'd be shamed** and the rest of us would be **shocked!**
- *I'd probably have to quit the ministry!*
- **Listen!** I don't know what **you** are thinking and **you** don't what **I'm thinking**, **but... God knows** everything we are thinking!
- And one day we will stand before God to make account for our actions,

Conclusion

So...Why is it that so many **professing** Christians have **never** really entered into God's rest of salvation?

- The answer is; They **don't read study** and *know* God's Amazing and Powerful Word,
- **But** the **unbeliever** doesn't read so he never sees himself as the unworthy sinner in need of a Savior that the Bible declares him to be!
- So **What must be done to escape God's certain judgment?**
- You must **BELIEVE** in the person **Jesus Christ** and His **finished** work for sin.
- Sinners must cease from their **own works** and **rest solely** in Christ's finished work for their sin.

Are you a True believer in Jesus Christ today?

- That is the only way to enter into **God's salvation rest**.
- And that comes freely as God's wonderful gift that cannot be earned,

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Listen!, **don't** you ever think for a minute that you're going to live your life **the way you want** to live it and God's **not** going to know.

- And **don't** you ever think that you're going to live and go your own way and **never face God**.

- Because **You will** one day stand before **All Mighty God** whose **Powerful Word** will **penetrate** and **lay bare** your whole life.

- And you will stand face to face, and everything will be revealed openly and totally to Him.

- So as the writer of **Hebrews** says; “ *today, while you hear His voice, harden not your heart.*”