



For the Outline Preacher

Sermon Preparation

Baptist Ministers of Houston and Vicinity

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One of the most crucial sermon-prep steps is **homiletically outlining** your sermon (*Presentation Outline*.) Every sermon ought to have an outline or it becomes an unmitigated mess (rambling.) An outline is to a sermon what the skeleton is to the body. Your outline may be **a)** following the biblical text, **b)** in your head (memorized,) or **c)** printed. Whatever the case, an outline is essential to a cohesive, logical, and effective message. An outline is a roadmap showing your starting point, your ending point, and the path from one to the other. If you don't know where you are going, neither will they. If you don't know how you are going to get there, you probably won't make it.

Outlining serves at least two purposes: 1) It is of great help to the preacher in thinking through his subject. 2) It helps the people to understand and remember the message.

There are different ways to think about organizing your message. There is no better or worse method of presentation. The right way is the way that is most effectively used by the Holy Spirit to reach and mature your audience.

Every sermon has what we call a universal outline: 1) Beginning 2) Middle and 3) Ending or put another way: an Introduction, Body and Conclusion.

There are 4 homiletic aims in every sermon:

- 1) Arrest the people's attention. (engagement)
- 2) Call out the error of their ways. (tension)
- 3) Teach them the word of God. (solution)
- 4) Inspire them to walk in the way of the Lord (application)

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| HBLT - Hook (engagement) - Book (solution) - Look (interpretation) - Took (application) | BRIAN JONES 3-ACT STRUCTURE Introduction 10 min (engagement) -Jab → practical effect 1 (tension) -Jab → practical effect 2 (tension) -Jab → practical effect 3 (tension) - Right Hook (Impacts your faith too) Explantation 10 min (solution) Application 10 min (application) | 3 POINT SERMON (Deductive) -[Prologue] -Introduction (engagement/tension) -Theme or thesis (solution) -point 1 (application) -point 2 (application) -point 3 (application) -Summary -Conclusion |
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The most common body form is the 3 POINT SERMON. This sermon is essentially an essay outline. Enough sermons on the same subject are effectively a book.

TEXT:

- Read adequately
- If the congregation reads the story, then I don't have to tell the story
- It may be necessary to read more than your pericope for context sake (*note your emphasis.*)
- Be clear on what nuance you are emphasizing in the text. (*The text conveys more than you will say, can say, and even know.*)

TITLE:

- What are you aiming for in your title?
- How does it relate to your sermon?
- A title can kill your sermon.
 - It can arrest more attention than your sermon can produce
 - It can come across as unrelated to your message

THINK YOURSELF EMPTY, READ YOURSELF FULL, WRITE YOURSELF CLEAR, PRAY YOURSELF HOT AND GO PREACH JESUS

MAIN IDEA (Thesis):

- If you don't know what you are saying, neither will they.
- Are you passionate about your subject matter? *Do you see it as a problem to address? Is your message aimed at the head, heart, or hands?*
- What are you talking about and what are you saying about that. ←*This is a summation of your whole sermon in one sentence. It is the "subject" and the sum total of your points in a "predicate."*

TEACHING (Body):

- A "point" is a leg that supports the table top of your main idea
- Avoid creating "a sermon" under a point
- Expounding on a point means to:
 - a) Explain
 - b) Prove
 - c) Demonstrate
 - d) Illustrate
 - c) Exhort the point made

TEXT: Hebrews 3:12-14

- 12Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. (APOSTASY)*
- 13But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. (FELLOWSHIP)*
- 14For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end; (PERSEVERANCE)*

TITLE 1: Faithful unto Death

TITLE 2: The Danger of Desertion

TITLE 3: For the Duration

TITLE 4: Terms of Enlistment

TITLE 5: Formula for Enduring Faith

MAIN IDEA: Faithfulness brings assurance of salvation.

-**WHAT:** Faithfulness

-**WHAT ABOUT THAT:** It brings assurance

OUTLINE/BODY 1:

1. Take Heed lest you are deceived (v12)
2. Exhort others everyday (v13)
3. Hold on to your faith (v14)

OUTLINE/BODY 2:

1. Unbelief is the cause of abandoning the faith (v12)
2. You need the help of the church (v13)
3. Your endurance is the evidence of your faith (v14)

OUTLINE/BODY 3:

1. Your heart will deceive you (v12)
2. The church will support you (v13)
3. Your faithfulness will assure you (v14)

OUTLINE/BODY 4:

1. You have a PROPENSITY for deception (v12)
2. But God has PROVIDED the church (v13)
3. To help you PROVE your faith (v14)

OUTLINE/BODY 5:

1. Take HEED (v12)
2. So you are not HARDENED (v13)
3. That you may HOLD on (v14)