



## 10 Benefits of Topical Preaching Sermon Préparation

Baptist Ministers of Houston and Vicinity

President: Max A. Miller Chairman of the J.J. Roberson Institute: Reverend J.R. Parker

Presenter: Reverend Yuri Solomon

Topical preaching is a common method used in many churches today. Instead of sticking to a specific book or section in the Bible, it remains true to a topic or subject within the Bible. Let's explore some of the benefits of topical preaching:

- 1) Topical preaching is just another approach to teaching the bible. (NOTE: Historically it was viewed as another form of expositional preaching.)
- 2) Topical preaching allows you to thoroughly cover a particular subject or topic, thus helping the congregation gain a deeper understanding of biblical themes.
- 3) Topical preaching offers flexibility. It is heavy on citations, referencing relevant passages in the Bible to address the specific theme or issue.
- 4) Topical preaching answers, the broad question "what does the bible say," verses the narrow question of "what does the passage say."
- 5) Topical preaching is beneficial for addressing topics that need immediate attention. It seems better for cultural issues and current events.
- 6) In topical preaching it is generally easier to hold your audience's attention when dealing with a succinct theme, rather than walking through multiple ideas in a given passage, as in the expositional approach.
- 7) Topical preaching is generally more effective at getting over the big idea because it is very sharp and narrowly focused, making it easier to follow.
- 8) Topical preaching tends to answer more of the practical questions in the congregation, because their questions are generally topical.
- 9) Topical preaching is an aid to textual preaching in that the narrow interpretation is always to be understood in light of the broad understanding of scripture. The obscure interpretation (narrow) is never to contradict the plain meaning of scripture (broad.)
- 10) Topical preaching is in good company, as it is by far the approach preferred in the scriptural example of preaching.

However, it's essential to recognize that topical preaching also has its pitfalls. Without careful handling, it can lead to misinterpretation or cherry-picking verses to fit a particular agenda. Also without being paired with expositional preaching, it can leave the congregation shallow in their textual understanding of the bible. Therefore, preachers should approach topical preaching with discernment, ensure that the message aligns with the overall context of God's Word, and blend it with expositional preaching. Remember, the ultimate goal is to faithfully proclaim the truth found in the Scriptures.

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