

1
THE MAKING OF A MESSAGE

Session 1

THE MAKING OF A MESSAGE & MESSENGER

"From the pages of the Bible to the paths of your life"



"Do the next thing"
Elisabeth Elliot
1926-2015

WE MUST LAY HOLD OF THE GRAVITY, INTIMACY & POSSIBILITY

- I. OBSTACLES**
- II. STYLE**
- III. AIM**
- IV. THEOLOGY**
- V. PREPARATION**
- VI. PRACTICALITY**
- VII. ILLUSTRATIONS**
- VIII. MECHANICS**
- IX. BODY**
- X. SPIRIT**

I. THE OBSTACLES TO A MESSAGE

1. THE CONDITION OF YOUR HEART

A. YOUR OWN SPIRITUAL CONDITION

1) PRAYER LIFE FOR PERSONAL WALK

PRAYER IS THE HIGHEST CALL OF ALL—ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD
THIS IS THE **FOUNTAINHEAD OF GOD'S ANOINTING** IN ALL TEACHING

IDEA: you must be absolutely convinced prayer is the highest call of all

*prayer rising from Bible reading is the source of the genuine anointing of the Holy Spirit in your messages

A) 1st THING

IDEA: **Raul Ries**, "Roll off the bed onto your knees."
Then—rise up, make coffee & pray read your bible

Robert Murray McCheyne

"I ought to pray before seeing any one. Often when I sleep long, or meet with others early, it is eleven or twelve o'clock before I begin secret prayer. This is a wretched system. It is unscriptural. Christ arose before day and went into a solitary place. David says: 'Early will I seek thee'; 'Thou shalt early hear my voice.' Family prayer loses much of its power and sweetness, and I can do no good to those who come to seek from me. The conscience feels guilty, the soul unfed, the lamp not trimmed. Then when in secret prayer the soul is often out of tune, **I feel it is far better to begin with God—to see his face first, to get my soul near him before it is near another.**"

B) PRIVATE THING

IDEA: a **sacred** place ...Jesus always had "a place"
Meet with Him there were you are not distracted

Psa 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God ...

C) GUIDED THING

EXAMPLE: Jesus taught His disciples how to pray
*Cultivate your private prayer life. **Follow His outline**

Mat 6:9 **"In this manner**, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

D) PERSISTENT THING

IDEA: a holy habit in **"the highest call of all"**

Eph 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;

E. M. Bounds

Preaching is not the performance of an hour. *It is the outflow of a life.*

3
THE MAKING OF A MESSAGE

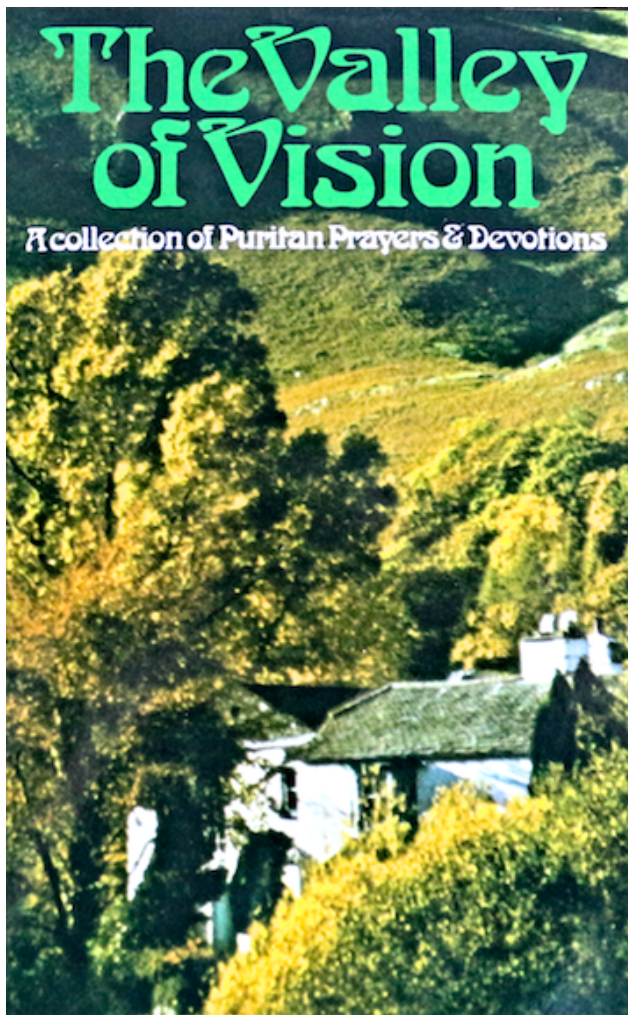
POINT: **ready** to “Preach, pray, or die in one minute”

*prepared in advance

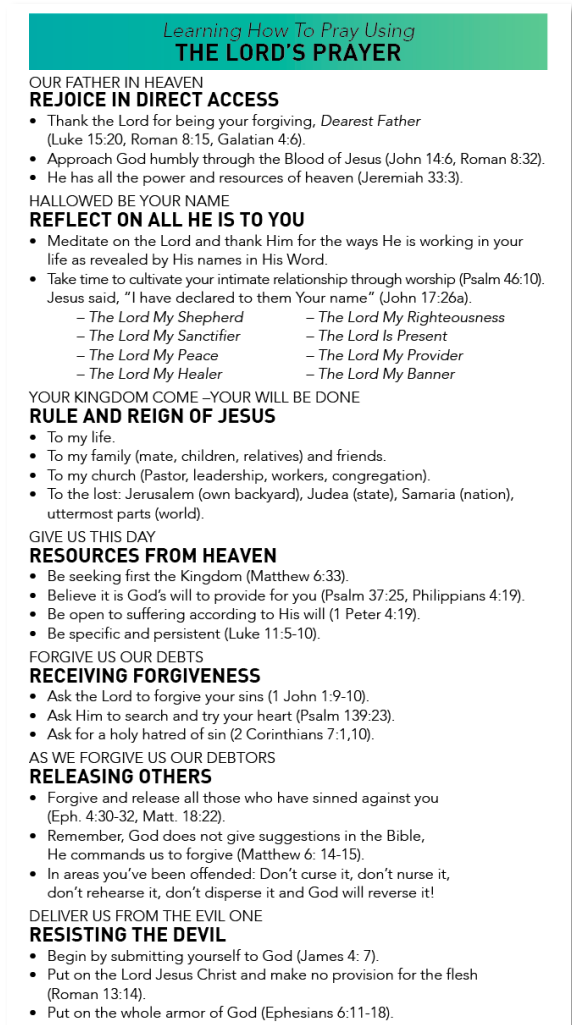
*Intimate for the immediate

*Sensitive to “Holy Spirit Navigation” through each day

“YOU CANNOT PRAY YOURSELF HOT” AT THE LAST MINUTE



A Lifetime Tool for cultivating a prayer Life



Praying Jesus way—taken from Daily Portion

1) PRAYER LIFE FOR PERSONAL WALK

2) BIBLE LIFE FOR PERSONAL WALK

IDEA: your own private **devotional book** as well as your **ultimate text book**

*We are focusing now on your own private devotional reading of the Bible!

Mat 6:6 "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have **shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place**; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

EXAMPLE: George Muller

*when asked how his prayers were so effective

*prayed with his Bible open reading and praying...

*in the process as he waited on God ...the Word would permeate his heart—forming the prayers—he then offered to God.

*Knowing at that point, he was abiding in Christ, and **praying according to—His will**

John 15:7 "If you **abide in Me**, and **My words abide in you**, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

John 15:8 "**By this My Father is glorified**, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

NOTICE: this is **not** the same as studying the Bible for a message you are going to teach!

3) READING LIFE FOR PERSONAL WALK**EXAMPLE:** read time tested books on the

*Ebooks, paperback, hardbound or audio

- R. A. Torrey—How to Pray Arnold Dallimore—Biographies Charles Spurgeon, George Whitfield, Susanna Wesley
J. C. Ryle—Holiness A. W. Tozer—Knowledge of the Holy Elisabeth Elliot—A Chance to Die

Charles Spurgeon

EVERY workman knows the necessity of keeping his tools in a good state of repair, for "if the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength." If the workman lose the edge from his ax, he knows that there will be a greater draught upon his energies, or his work will be badly done.

We are, in a certain sense our own tools, and therefore must keep ourselves in order. If I want to preach the gospel, I can only use my own voice; therefore I must train my vocal powers. I can only think with my own brains, and feel with my own heart, and therefore I must educate my intellectual and emotional faculties. I can only weep and agonize for souls in my own renewed nature, therefore must I watchfully maintain the tenderness which was in Christ Jesus. It will be in vain for me to stock my library, or organize societies, or project schemes, if I neglect the culture of myself; for books, and agencies, and systems, are only remotely the instruments of my holy calling; my own spirit, soul, and body, are my nearest machinery for sacred service; my spiritual faculties, and my inner life, are my battle ax and weapons of war.

M'Cheyne, writing to a ministerial friend, who was traveling with a view to perfecting himself in the German tongue, used language identical with our own: —

"I know you will apply hard to German, but **do not forget the culture of the inner man** — I mean of the **heart**.

How diligently the cavalry officer keeps his saber clean and sharp; every stain he rubs off with the greatest care. Remember you are God's sword, his instrument — I trust, a chosen vessel unto him to bear his name. In great measure, according to the purity and perfection of the instrument, will be the success.

It is not great talents God blesses so much as likeness to Jesus. A holy minister is an awful weapon in the hand of God."

Lectures to My Students, Charles Spurgeon, Chapter 1, Minister's Self-watch

1 Tim 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

5
THE MAKING OF A MESSAGE

A. YOUR OWN SPIRITUAL CONDITION

B. YOUR OWN INWARD MOTIVATION

1) LOVE OF THE TRUTH

John 15:7 "If you abide in Me, and **My words abide in you**, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

John 15:8 "By this My Father is glorified, that **you bear much fruit**; so you will be My disciples.

2) LOVE OF GOD

IDEA: do you take his calling on your life seriously?
*are you willing to prostitute your calling? For self-gain

2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ **compels us**, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;
2 Cor 5:15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

3) LOVE OF THE PEOPLE

Augustine

To my fellow men a heart of **love**; to my friends a heart of **loyalty**; to my God a heart of **flame**; to myself a heart of **steel**.

C. YOUR OWN CURRENT FRESHNESS

**1) THIS IS WHAT FORMS THE MESSAGE
OF THE HEART**

IDEA: not the sermon itself But what's in your heart that comes through in the message

EXAMPLE: I call these **"hot spots"**

NOTICE: this creates the thrill of discovery in me as I begin preparing ...

LISTEN CLOSELY: THERE IS A SENSE IN WHICH YOU WILL SOAR FAR ABOVE NORMAL
IN YOUR THOUGHTS DURING THE TEACHING & PREACHING OF A MESSAGE

POINT: Mix of all your hard work & your own burning heart ...can lead to a connection of thoughts bringing you to a sudden enlightenment *you have never had before!* 😊

EXAMPLE: John Wesley when asked by a group of men training for ministry How he drew such crowds
"Young men get on fire for Jesus Christ and your listeners will come just to watch you burn!"

**A) REFUSE TO ALLOW YOURSELF TO
BANK ON "OLD STUFF"**

IDEA: "stand on the shoulders" of your own past **hard work** and *forge ahead—plowing deeper*

Mat 13:52 Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe **instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven** is like a householder who **brings out of his treasure things new and old.**"

Richard Baxter

It is no easy matter to speak so plain that the ignorant may understand us, or so seriously that the deadest hearts may feel us ... and so convincingly that scorners may be silenced.....(the only way to do it is to keep the message pure!)

Thomas Brooks

He is the best preacher, not that tickles the ear, but that *breaks the heart.*

POINT: this is the bottom line of true
**effectiveness *authority *boldness *confidence*

- A. YOUR OWN SPIRITUAL CONDITION
- B. YOUR OWN INWARD MOTIVATION
- C. YOUR OWN CURRENT FRESHNESS

D. YOUR OWN PHYSICAL CONDITION

DO YOUR BEST TO MAINTAIN AN EXERCISE REGIME ACROSS THE YEARS
FIND SOMETHING YOU LIKE—THAT WORKS AND FITS YOUR AGE

1) SICKNESS FLEXIBILITY IS KEY

EXAMPLE: You may want to teach something other than the next verses in front of you
**if you are in an intensely deep doctrinal section ...*
**Sickness may render you unable to carry that load*
**think through that whole thing in very practical terms*
*for the sake of quality control and **effectiveness***
****you don't want it to be a throw away day** just because you are "under the weather"*

2) WEARINESS REST IS A WEAPON

IDEA: from working too hard--for too long
**from traveling and speaking to exhaustion*
**failing to minister out of obedience—reacting to need*

EXAMPLE: some of the worst messages I have from my favorite teachers were taught—when they were road weary!

THERE IS A DEFINITE CUT OFF POINT WHERE THE PEOPLE WILL BE BETTER OFF IF YOU ARE **NOT** THERE ...OR IF AT A CONFERENCE/RETREAT YOU TRADE YOUR SPOT

3) AFFLICTIONS FACTOR IN GOD

IDEA: stand guard against your own **Weltschmerz**
*mental depression or apathy

- Pronounced VELT-shmairts A combining of the German words for "world" (*Welt*) and "pain" (*Schmerz*)

EXAMPLE: an example of **Welt-schmerz**

"Carson found himself plunging into a state of **Weltschmerz** as he grew older and discovered that the world was much more complicated than he had envisioned as a youth." (Merriam-Webster)

POINT: What happened to Carson, will happen to you! Spurgeon had an astonishing handle on this!

Spurgeon

Moreover, most of us are in some way or other unsound physically. Here and there we meet with an old man who could not remember that ever he was laid aside for a day; but the great mass of us labor under some form or other of infirmity, either in body or mind. Certain bodily maladies, especially those connected with the digestive organs, the liver, and the spleen, are the fruitful fountains of despondency; and, let a man strive as he may against their influence, there will be hours and circumstances in which they will for awhile overcome him.

These infirmities may be no detriment to a man's career of special usefulness; they may even have been imposed upon him by divine wisdom as necessary qualifications for his peculiar course of service.

Some plants owe their medicinal qualities to the marsh in which they grow; others to the shades in which alone they flourish. There are precious fruits put forth by the moon as well as by the sun. Boats need ballast as well as sail; a drag on the carriage-wheel is no hindrance when the road runs downhill. **Pain** has, probably, in some cases developed genius; hunting out the soul which otherwise might have slept like a lion in its den.

Had it not been for the broken wing, some might have lost themselves in the clouds, some even of those choice doves who now bear the olive-branch in their mouths and show the way to the ark.

But where in body and mind there are predisposing causes to lowness of spirit, it is no marvel if in dark moments the heart succumbs to them; the wonder in many cases is — and if inner lives could be written, men would see it so — how some ministers keep at their work at all, and still wear a smile upon their countenances.

Grace has its triumphs still, and patience has its martyrs; martyrs none the less to be honored because the flames kindle about their spirits rather than their bodies, and their burning is unseen of human eyes.

The ministries of Jeremiahs are as acceptable as those of Isaiahs, and even the sullen Jonah is a true prophet of the Lord, as Nineveh felt full well. Despise not the lame, for it is written that they take the prey; but honor those who, being faint, are yet pursuing. The tender-eyed Leah was more fruitful than the beautiful Rachel, and the griefs of Hannah were more divine than the boastings of Peninnah. "Blessed are they that mourn," said the Man of Sorrows, and let none account them otherwise when their tears are salted with grace.

We have the treasure of the gospel in earthen vessels, and if there be a flaw in the vessel here and there, let none wonder.

WHAT IS THE 1ST OBSTACLE WE HAVE WE SEEN SO FAR?

1. THE CONDITION OF YOUR OWN HEART

2. THE CONTENT OF YOUR OWN MESSAGE

A. MUST BE BIBLE CENTERED

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is given by **inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2 Tim 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1) MASTER THE O.T. SO YOU CAN USE IT IN YOUR N.T. TEACHING & PREACHING

B. MUST CREATE INTEREST

1) BY PLOWING DEEP AND BRINGING FRESH LIGHT

IDEA: getting into specifics and grappling with issues
*instead of trafficking in [endless predictable generalities](#)

Master your Bible until your Bible masters you.

WHAT ARE THE OBSTACLES WE MUST OVERCOME—JUST FOR STARTERS?

1. THE CONDITION OF YOUR OWN HEART
2. THE CONTENT OF YOUR OWN MESSAGE

3. THE MINDSET OF YOUR OWN DAY

A. MEDIA CENTERED

IDEA: people are used to a sophisticated kind of entertainment

- this makes teaching the Bible a significantly more difficult task
- people don't read today so as a result they ... don't think....
- They are not used to "[hard reading and strenuous thought](#)"

WE HAVE TO BE [CRYSTAL CLEAR](#) IN WHAT WE ARE COMMUNICATING

B. AUTHORITY REJECTING

IDEA: people do not like authority ...

- Many seem to make good leaders—in their own cause—but they are [poor followers](#)
- They make [good critics](#) - of the Bible and of Christ's people - but they are [poor disciples](#)
- In the sense of truly wanting to come under the authority of God's Word—no

NOTICE: this causes us to have less respect as teachers then perhaps we would of had at some previous time in history ☹

POINT: there is the uttmmost need to be truly convincing

*the way you rightly divide the word is essential

*your own calling & anointing is sustains you here 😊

1) FACING A CRITIC MENTALITY

IDEA: people are anxious to criticiz—to analyze every little thing we say ...

*they don't want to accept things

*basically rather suspicious

C. TOLERANT TO EVERYTHING— EXCEPT BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

IDEA: Chistians & the Bible have become the enemy

IN THE FACE OF THESE OBSTACLES WE EVER & ALWAYS BEAR IN MIND THE SUFFICENCY OF CHRIST AND THE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE

2 Cor 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

2 Cor 12:10 NIV That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Phil 2:13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

POINT: your confidence will be in His will for your life

A. W. Tozer

A true minister is **not** one by his own choice but by the **sovereign** commission of God.

A. W. Pink

Every man who is **divinely called** to the ministry is **divinely equipped**.

2 Cor 10:4 For the **weapons of our warfare** are not carnal but **mighty** in God for **pulling down strongholds**

Session 2



Pastor Chuck Smith
1927 – 2013

I. OBSTACLES

II. STYLE

III. AIM

IV. THEOLOGY

V. PREPARATION

VI. PRACTICALITY

VII. ILLUSTRATIONS

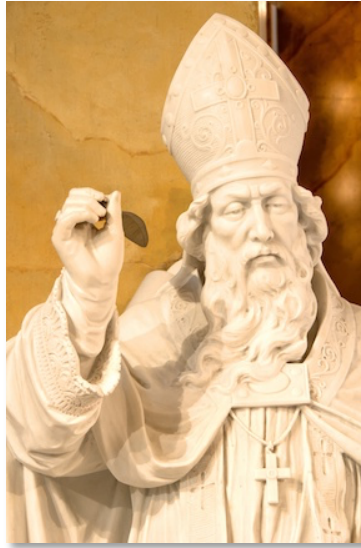
VIII. MECHANICS

IX. BODY

X. SPIRIT

II. THE STYLE OF A MESSAGE

1. THE RITUALIST RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES



A. MANY WHO WILL LISTEN TO YOU WILL BE CONDITIONED BY THIS PERSON

EXAMPLE: Very traditional liturgy Very very short and contentless messages

NOTICE: these people have been conditioned to see the “speaker” as just a piece of the liturgy just another part of the weekly ritual ...maybe 15 minutes
*no real focus on teaching the bible

2. PULPIT PITCHER I GOT A CAUSE FOR YOU!

A. HE SEE'S THE PULPIT AS A PLACE TO PITCH HIS THING

- it might be an abortion march
- it might be some political cause
- it might be on getting money so he can build his next monument to himself
- advance his great program
- fight his great moral battle
- or do whatever he may want them to do

POINT: this may or may not be related to a **Biblical mandate**

3. THE BOSS NONSTOP COMMAND MODE



IDEA: Beats the sheep Instead of leads them
*endless exhorter with no practical handles
*no humility and true concern to help

NOTICE: there is a place for some strong exhortation but in a mix of what is coming

EXAMPLE: Chucks message on "Are you a Policeman or a Paramedic"
*right after a murder committed in the street in front of the church where he was going into speak at our pastor's conference

Mat 11:28 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Mat 11:29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Mat 11:30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

4. ASTRONAUT 99 HEAVENLY THOUGHTS



**A. BLAST OFF FROM A TEXT INTO A
HEAVENLY ORBIT OF BIBLE THINGS**

EXAMPLE: read the text depart from the text,
never return to the text ...
*mean while talking about **99 nice things** about God &
Jesus & Bible ... endless scriptures & stories
***Maybe** come back in for a landing on original text!

POINT: when they are done you have **NO** idea what
the messages was all about

1) READ AND RAMBLE FALLS INTO THIS CATAGORY

EXAMPLE: Read a verse—say whatever they want
“Okay let’s go to the next verse!” Read tell some story
“Okay let’s go the next verse!” Ramble about whatever
*“Oh how I love verse by verse teaching! Hallelujah!”

POINT: when done you have **NO** idea passage really
means—no answers to long term questions
*learned nothing about what God meant by what He
said in the Bible passage before you

5. CHAMLEON WHATEVER YOU WANT ME TO BE!



2 Tim 4:3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what **their itching** ears want to hear.

2 Tim 4:3 NLT “For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.

A. THIS IS ONE OF THE GREATEST DANGERS OF OUR DAY!

6. INFORMATION BANK SO MUCH KNOWLEDGE!



A. HUGE LIBRARY OF INFORMATION BUT MISSES THE NEED OF THE BELIEVER

EXAMPLE: tell you all the buried treasures in the Bible behind secret number systems
*everytime the word for “left shoe” is used

1) **WORST SCENARIO** INFO NOBODY CARES ABOUT ... NEVER DID OR WILL!

2) **BEST SCENARIO** GREAT BIBLE TRUTH BUT NO APPLICATION—THUS NO HELP!

7. THE PURSUADER THE TRUE MESSENGER



A. THIS IS THE TRUE BIBLICAL MODEL

1) **YOU WANT TO BE ANSWERING QUESTIONS PEOPLE ARE ASKING**

EXAMPLE: Nehemiah 8:8

15
THE MAKING OF A MESSAGE

Neh 8:8 NIV They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.

EXAMPLE: you see this repeatedly in the preaching and teaching of Paul the Apostle

Acts 26:28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."

2 Tim 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

Acts 13:43 Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

Acts 19:8 And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.

THIS IS THE PURSUASIVE EXPOSITORY TEACHER WE SEE IN THE BIBLE

A. RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD UP TO A CALL TO ACTION

IDEA: properly executed the listeners will be led by the teacher with the passage open before them to:

- 1) SEE IT
- 2) UNDERSTAND IT
- 3) EMBRACE IT
- 4) EXPERIENCE IT
- 5) LIVE IT

THIS PROCESS OCCURS OVER AND OVER AGAIN WITHOUT DEVIATION AS THE YEARS GO BY—FADS COME AND GO—AS YOU GO FORWARD!

Isa 1:18 "Come now, and **let us reason** together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool."

Isa 1:19 If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land;

Isa 1:20 But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword"; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

POINT: You are going toward a specific conclusion the whole time....
*you are teaching and explaining & illustrating & reasoning in such a way that they are "forced" to make a decision about what they have heard ...