

Session 5

THE MAKING OF A MESSAGE & MESSENGER

“By the power of the Spirit you will become a living stick of Dynamite”



“Stay close to the Lord and close to your calling.”
Pastor Raul Ries

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

V. THE PREPARATION IN A MESSAGE

SPURGEON

The best and holiest men have ever made prayer the most important part of **pulpit preparation**. It is said of **M'Cheyne**, Anxious to give his people on the Sabbath what had cost him somewhat, he never, without an urgent reason, went before them without much previous meditation and prayer.

His principle on this subject was embodied in a remark he made to some of us who were conversing on the matter. Being asked his view of diligent preparation for the pulpit, he reminded us of **Exodus 27:20**. '**Beaten oil—beaten oil for the lamps of the sanctuary.**' And yet his prayerfulness was greater still. Indeed, he could not neglect fellowship with God before entering the congregation. He needed to be bathed in the love of God. His ministry was so much a bringing out of views that had first sanctified his own soul, that the healthiness of his soul was absolutely needful to the vigour and power of his ministrations."

"With him the commencement of all labour invariably **consisted in the preparation of his own soul**. The walls of his chamber were witnesses of his prayerfulness and of his tears, as well as of his cries.

Spurgeon, Charles. **Lectures to My Students** (Kindle Locations 844-852). GLH Publishing. Kindle Edition.

1. RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE TEXT

HOW TO COME UP WITH YOUR OUTLINE MANY PEOPLE NEED HELP HERE



A. FIND THE ONE "BIG IDEA"

1) LOOK AT THE CONTEXT

IDEA: what comes before & what comes after
*the setting in which your passage is found

2) LOOK FOR THE “UNIT OF THOUGHT” YOUR WANT TO COVER

EXAMPLE: reading & re-reading is best here—then:

*Good commentaries usually break down the “units of thought” in the same way—compare them—find yours

THE “BIG IDEA” IS THE TRACK THAT RUNS DOWN THE MIDDLE OF THE TEXT

3) THE ONE BIG IDEA—YOUR TITLE IT IS YOUR THEME ...IT IS YOUR SUBJECT

A. FIND THE ONE BIG IDEA

B. FIND THE MAIN THOUGHTS

1) THESE BECOME YOUR *OUTLINE POINTS

EXAMPLE: I. II. III.

IDEA: MAIN THOUGHTS = *MAIN POINTS

C. FIND THE SUBORDINATE THOUGHTS

1) THESE ARE THE 1, 2, 3 OR MORE THINGS YOU WANT TO SAY ABOUT A MAIN POINT

EXAMPLE: 1. 2. 3. etc

IDEA: I suggest 1. 2. 3 etc in contrast to A. B. C.
Why? *because letters are not numbers!*

NOTICE: at a glance *letters can't tell you how many subordinate thoughts you have!*

POINT: everything beneath a **Roman Numeral**
should look back to that Main Point

*Cascading down into detail about the verses under
that particular Main Point

EXAMPLE: I ask you “Hey how many main points
do you have in your message?” you say “Four.”

*I then ask you, “And how many sub points under
your first main point? You say, I don’t know! I mean
like, I have **A-G**, dunno man!” I say, “You dunno?”

POINT: You need to know!

PAY CLOSE ATTENTION: IT IS EASY TO BE CONFUSING ...IT IS HARD TO BE CLEAR!

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**ANYBODY'S GUESS
SELECTED SCRIPTURE**

INTRO

TITLE = BIG IDEA

SCRIPTURE

I.
II.
III.

I. ONE Main Thought

1. THOUGHT ONE

A.
B.

2. THOUGHT TWO

A.
B.

II. TWO Main Thought

1. THOUGHT ONE

A.
B.

2. THOUGHT TWO

A.
B.

III. THREE Main Thought

1. THOUGHT ONE

A.
B.

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1
YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN
JOHN 3:1-10

INTRO

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

JOHN 3:1-10

Tennyson

"Oh for a man to arise in me that the man I am might cease to be!"

IDEA: you are dissatisfied with yourself yet you have not turned to Christ to become born again
*pay close attention to this narrative

John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.
John 3:2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."
John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**"
John 3:4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"
John 3:5 Jesus answered, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.**"
John 3:6 "**That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**"
John 3:7 "**Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'**"
John 3:8 "**The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.**"
John 3:9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"
John 3:10 Jesus answered and said to him, "**Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?**"

I. THE BELIEF OF NICODEMAS
II. THE BLINDNESS OF NICODEMAS
III. THE BEWILDERMENT OF NICODEMAS

I. THE BELIEF OF NICODEMAS
VERSE 1-2

John 3:2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

1. HE CAME AS A PHARISEE

John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus

A. PHARISEES WERE "SALVATION BY WORKS" GROUP

IDEA: through out the gospels they bitterly oppose Jesus and his message of Grace

NOTICE: being a member of this group it is amazing that he came at all

Page 1 of 11 3815 words English (United States) Focus 150%

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN TALKING ABOUT?

1. RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE TEXT ...now

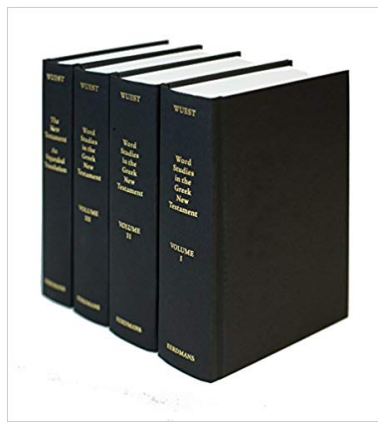
2. RICHLY UNFOLD THE TEXT

A. CLOSE THE GAPS

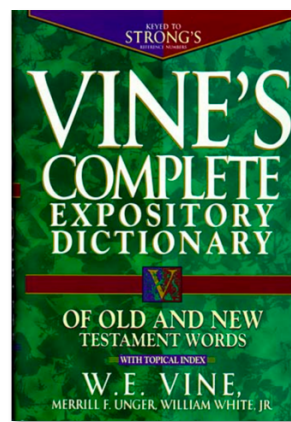
IDEA: Make the Bible come alive!

*Paint the picture & put your listeners into it

*make it feel like you are all there experiencing it



Kenneth Weust



W. E. Vine

THE BIBLE HAS BEEN AROUND IN SOME PARTS FOR UP TO 4,000 YEARS

- We have to close **Four Gaps** in order to understand what they were saying in various times they lived

1) THE LANGUAGE GAP

IDEA: We speak English, but the Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek, and a few parts in Aramaic

*much of this is taken care of in the translation but not all.....

EXAMPLE: the rod in Psalm 23

Psa 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

The Shepherd's Rod

It is often made of oak wood and has a knob on the end of it. Into this knob nails are sometimes driven so as to make a better weapon. It is very useful for protection, and no shepherd would be without it. It was no doubt the rod that David used in protecting his sheep from wild animals (1Sam. 17:34-36). He mentions both the rod and the staff in his Shepherd Psalm (Psa. 23:4).

EXAMPLE: The prophecy that the Messiah would not quench a smoking flax

Isa 42:3 A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench

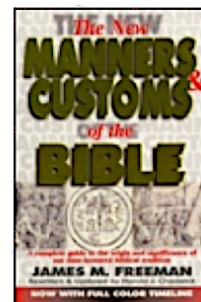
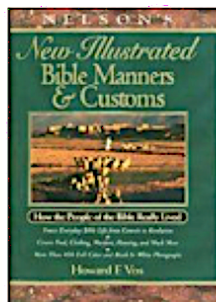
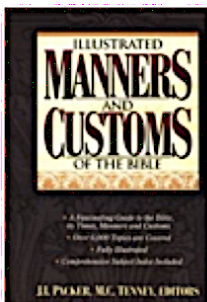
Mat 12:20 A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench



The Prophet's Reference To Smoking Flax.

Isaiah's prophecy concerning the Messiah was that "the smoking flax shall be not quench" (Isa. 42:3). Dr. Thomson tells of seeing ancient clay lamps in use illustrating this text. The wick was often made of a twisted strand of flax, and this was put into the olive oil in the shallow cup of the lamp. When the oil was almost used up it would give forth an offensive smoke. This was an indication it was time to replenish the supply of oil. The implication was that the quenching of the fire was sometimes done purposely. If the wick was well worn, the housewife would quench the fire, and then put a new wick in to take its place. God's servant would not thus treat the poor, weak, and despairing specimens of humanity. He would replenish the oil, trim the wick, and make the dimly burning flame to burn brightly. What a picture this is of our Saviour's desire to help the helpless and lift the fallen.

NEW MANNERS & CUSTOMS OF THE BIBLE



1) THE LANGUAGE GAP

2) CULTURE GAP

EXAMPLE: Jesus giving the **sop** to Judas Iscariot

- Oriental customs of eating must be kept in mind in order to understand the meaning of the words and action of Jesus, in relation to Judas Iscariot at the last supper. Mark's account reads:

Mark 14:18 Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, "**Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me.**"

Mark 14:19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, "Is it I?" And another said, "Is it I?"

Mark 14:20 He answered and said to them, "**It is one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish.**"

THE PREPARATION & PRACTICALITY IN A MESSAGE

- Some have supposed that **Judas** was in the position where he would be dipping at the same time with **Jesus** into the dish, and that he was thus singled out as the betrayer.
- But this could hardly be, since the other disciples did not discover who the betrayer was from these words of Jesus.
- Since many of them had been eating from the same large dish, these words of **Jesus**, "he that dippeth with me in the dish," did not necessarily identify any one of them.
- Many of them, as well as Judas, had been dipping into the dish with **Jesus**.
- At that point... Jesus was simply informing them that one of them now eating with him would become his betrayer.

IDEA: It is the Lord dipping the sop and giving the sop to Judas

- **Christ's** giving of the "sop" (as the KJV calls it) ...to **Judas** was in accordance with certain Eastern custom still observed in modern times. John reports what was done and said:

John 13:25 Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?"

John 13:26 Jesus answered, "**It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.**" And having dipped the bread, **He gave it to Judas Iscariot**, the son of Simon.

NOTICE: this ...is how He actually pointed him out

It is with them a mark of special respect for the master of the feast to hand to a guest portions of what is before him, or to insist on putting morsels or sops into his mouth with his own hand.

- The meaning of **what Christ did** then was most certainly to extend love and friendship to the very one who was going to betray him.

POINT: this thought really opens up the grace of God to you!

*here is Jesus showing Judas honor & reaching out to him up until the last minute

*what a picture of how God reaches out in love to you until the last moment of your rejection

A) THE LANGUAGE GAP

B) THE CULTURE GAP

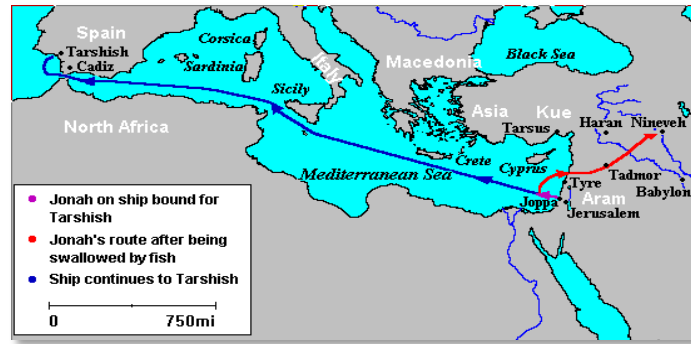
C) THE GEOGRAPHY GAP

EXAMPLE: Jonah's disobedience

Jonah 1:1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

Jonah 1:2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

Jonah 1:3 But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.



- with this call and commission from God, you would think that he plans to head for the city of Nineveh.
- Jonah would have had to go east from Israel to get to Nineveh.
- Instead of going in that direction, he does a very strange thing.
- He goes down to Joppa and buys a ticket on the first boat for Tarshish.
- Tarshish was a city founded by the Phoenicians on the southern coast of Spain.
- It was the jumping-off place of the west.

J. Vernon McGee

Jonah hated the Ninevites, and he did not want them saved. There was a basis for his hatred. Assyria was one of the most brutal nations of the ancient world. They were feared and dreaded by all the peoples of that day. They used very cruel methods of torture and could extract information from their captives very easily. One of the procedures was to take a man out onto the sands of the desert and bury him up to his neck -- nothing but his head would stick out. Then they would put a thong through his tongue and leave him there to die as the hot, penetrating sun would beat down upon his head. It is said that a man would go mad before he died. That was one of the "nice little things" the Assyrians hatched up.

EXAMPLE: The great panic in the storm on Galilee

Luke 8:22 Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out.

Luke 8:23 But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy.

Luke 8:24 And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm.

Luke 8:25 But He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"

Sea of Galilee, Place name meaning, "circle." A freshwater lake nestled in the hills of northern Palestine. Its surface is nearly 700 feet below the level of the Mediterranean, some thirty miles to the west. The nearby hills of Galilee reach an altitude of 1,500 feet above sea level. To the east are the mountains of Gilead with peaks of more than 3,300 feet. To the north are the snow-covered Lebanon mountains.

Fed chiefly by the Jordan River, which originates in the foothills of the Lebanon Mountains, the sea of Galilee is thirteen miles long north and south and eight miles wide at its greatest east-west distance. Because of its location, **it is subject to sudden and violent storms** which are usually of short duration.

(The cool wind rushing down off the mountains hits the warm water of the lake causing the sudden violent storms)
This becomes one of the very worst possible situations these men could face in their world!

Holman Bible Dictionary

EXAMPLE: Paul's statement to the Thessalonians

THE PREPARATION & PRACTICALITY IN A MESSAGE

1TH 1:8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

NOTICE: how could that happen so fast?

*when he wrote the letter very little time had passed
from when he was with them

*How could that happen so fast?

WILLIAM BARCLAY in his introduction to 1st Thessalonians:

But the supreme importance of Thessalonica lay in this—it straddled the Via Egnatia, the **Egnatian Road**, which stretched from Dyrrachium on the Adriatic to Constantinople on the Bosphorus and thence away to Asia Minor and the East. Its main street was part of the very road which linked Rome with the East. East and West converged on Thessalonica; it was said to be "in the lap of the Roman Empire." Trade poured into her from East and West, so that it was said, "So long as nature does not change, Thessalonica will remain wealthy and prosperous." It is impossible to overstress the importance of the arrival of Christianity in Thessalonica. If Christianity was settled there, it was bound to spread East along the Egnatian Road until all Asia was conquered and West until it stormed even the city of Rome. The coming of Christianity to Thessalonica was crucial in the making of it into a world religion.



- See how a little bit of understanding of the geography enriches the comprehension?

- A) THE LANGUAGE GAP
- B) THE CULTURE GAP
- C) THE GEOGRAPHY GAP

4) THE HISTORY GAP

EXAMPLE: Hezekiah's Tunnel

2 Chr 32:30 This same **Hezekiah** also stopped the water outlet of Upper Gihon, and brought the water by tunnel to the west side of the City of David. Hezekiah prospered in all his works.

- In his preparations against Sennacherib, Hezekiah ordered his engineers to construct a tunnel that would bring water from the spring of Gihon into the city proper.
- The tunnel was excavated through solid rock for a distance of almost 600 yards.
- When it was completed, it emerged just inside the southeastern corner of the old city, where what was later known as the Pool of Siloam was situated.
- This conduit was a remarkable engineering accomplishment, for the excavators worked with hand tools from opposite ends, meeting in the center.
- The city wall was extended to enclose this important source of water

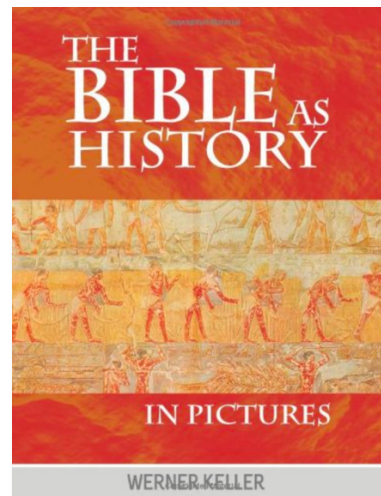
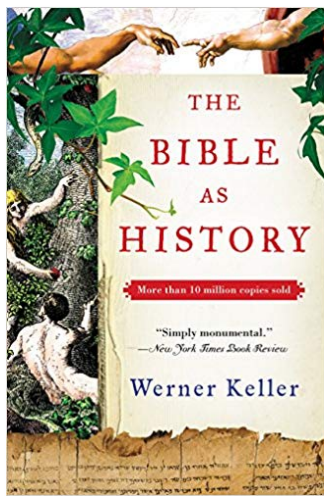
**WERNER KELLER**

This spot had sunk into oblivion. In 1880 it was discovered by a fluke. It still bears as plain as day all the marks of feverish haste.

Outside the city, where its southeastern slopes sweep gently down to the Valley of the Kidron, lies a small still sheet of water enclosed by walls, the Pool of Siloam. **Two Arab boys were playing** there one of them fell in. Paddling for all he was worth, he landed on the other side, where a rock wall rose above the pool. Suddenly it was pitch black all round him. He groped about anxiously and discovered a small passage.

The name of the Arab boy was forgotten but not his story. It was followed up and **a long underground tunnel was discovered.**

THE BIBLE AS HISTORY



EXAMPLE: reason the Jews were able to blackmail Pilate so easy to get him to crucify Jesus

JOH 19:12 From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar."

JOH 19:13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.

EXAMPLE: Pilate rotten track record

- *already had Jews upset
- *job jepordized with Rome
- *they played off of that

- A BOOK TO HELP ME ON THIS ONE? [WARNER KELLER](#) BIBLE AS HISTORY

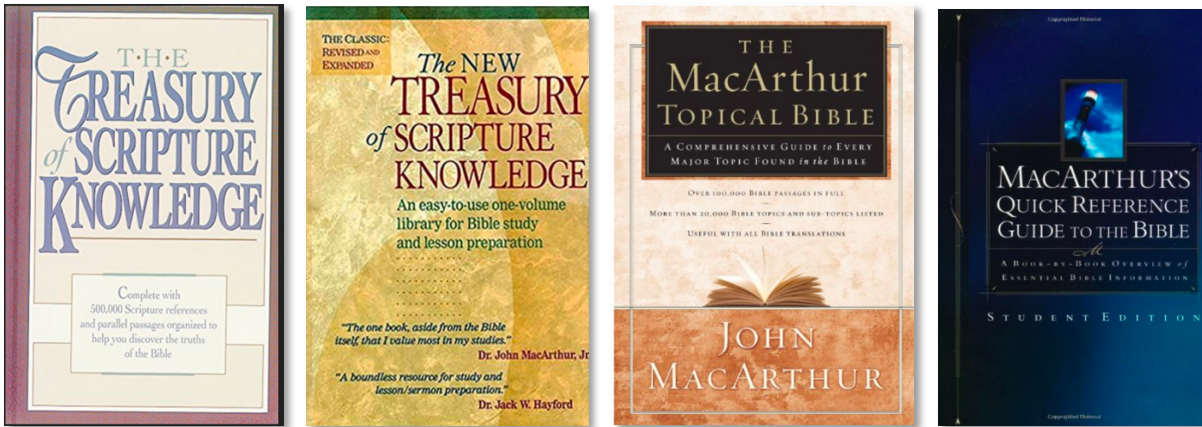
HOW DO WE RICHLY UNFOLD THE TEXT WITH PROPER INTERPRETATION?

A. CLOSE THE GAPS

B. CONNECT THE BIBLE

IDEA: Show them how what you are studying fits into the rest of the Bible

EXAMPLE: if you are making a difficult point show them how it is taught through out script & it's not just your idea!



C. H. Spurgeon

"The man who never reads will never be read; he who never quotes will never be quoted. He who will not use the thoughts of other men's brains, proves that he has no brains of his own."

C. COMMIT TO DEPTH

IDEA: **Plow deep**—you take care of the **depth** and **God** will take care of the **breadth**—of your ministry

1) DEVOTIONAL COMMENTATORS

EXAMPLE: these are some excellent men of God

- F. B. Meyer *H. A. Ironside *Griffith Thomas *Warren Wiersbe *Chuck Smith (if based on 3,000 series)

2) DEFINITIVE COMMENTATORS

- William Newell *J. C. Ryle *Kenneth Wuest *D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones *James Montgomery Boice
- *Kent Hughes *Chuck Smith (in depth) *John MacArthur *John Philips *F. F. Bruce *John Stott *John Blanchard *Spiro Zodhiates *Alexander MaClaren *Puritans *Treasury of David by Spurgeon

GOOD MEN OF GOD I DON'T NECESSARILY AGREE ON EVERYTHING THEY TEACH

Session 6

THE MAKING OF A MESSAGE & MESSENGER

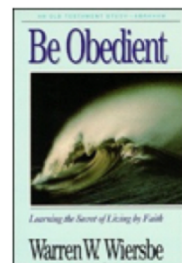
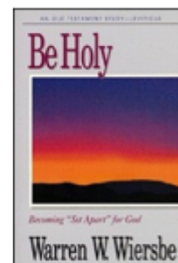
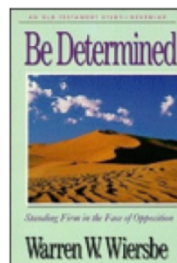
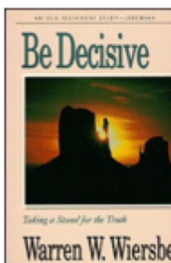
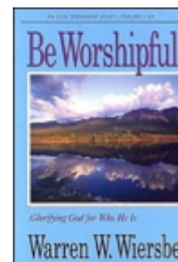
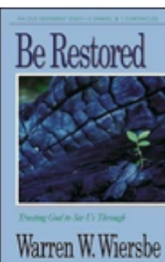
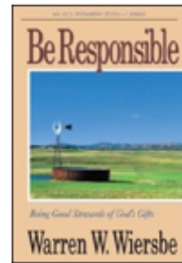
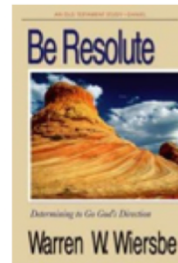
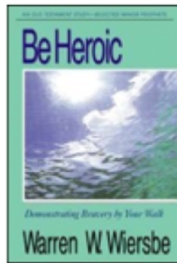
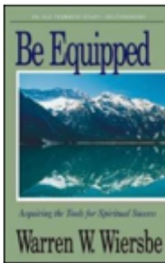
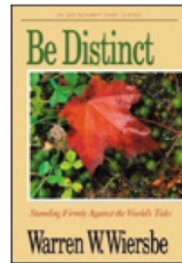
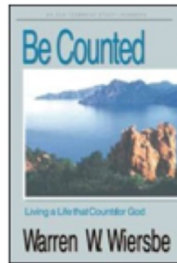
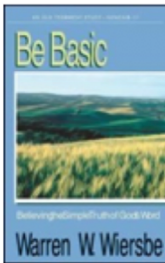
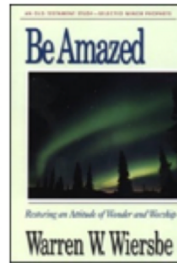
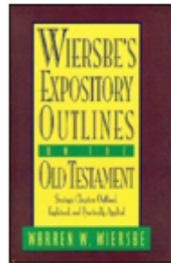
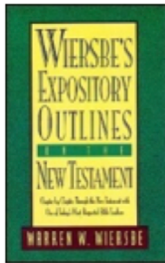
“It has well been said that nobody goes to church to find out what happened to the Jebusites.”



Warren Wiersbe
May 16, 1929 (age 89)

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JUST A FEW OF HIS BOOKS SHOWING US ALL—THE BLESSEDNESS OF BEING PRACTICAL



VI. THE PRACTICALITY

Preach in the present tense

It has well been said that nobody goes to church to find out what happened to the Jebusites. A sermon that lingers in the past tense is not really a sermon at all: it is either a Bible story or a lecture. We live in the present tense and ***we need to hear what God has to say to us today.***

All Scripture is inspired and all Scripture is profitable. *This means that there is a present-day message and application for each portion of the Word of God.* It is the preacher's job to discover the timeless truths and principles that are in the Word, *clothe them in understandable language, and apply them to the needs of a waiting congregation.*

One writer noted that **2 Timothy 3:16** points the way for practical biblical preaching. The Word is profitable for doctrine—that's what is right; for reproof—that's what is not right; for correction—that's how to get right; and for instruction in righteousness—that's how to stay right.

Wiersbe, W. W., & Wiersbe, D. (1986). *The Elements of Preaching* (pp. 66–67). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

WE BENEFIT GREATLY BY ASKING QUESTIONS TOWARD A PRACTICAL END

1. WHAT IS GOD SAYING IN THE TEXT?

A. O.T. NARRATIVE WHAT IS GOING ON?

B. GOSPELS—PARABLES, SIGNS, HEALINGS, DIRECT TEACHING

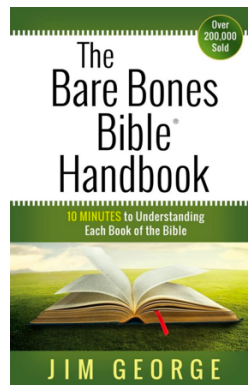
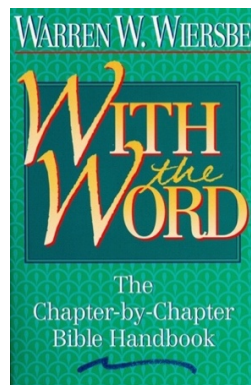
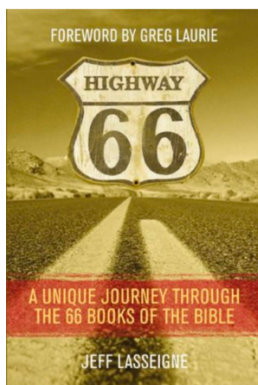
C. EPISTLES—WHO IS TEACHING?

1) THE WRITERS ARE ALL DIFFERENT

2) THE PURPOSE IS DIFFERENT

3) THE AUDIENCE IS DIFFERENT

PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE PEOPLE! THESE BOOKS PROVIDE TREMENDOUS HELP—ESPECIALLY IF TIME IS LIMITED TO STUDY



1. WHAT IS GOD SAYING IN THE TEXT?

2. WHAT QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED THAT THE PEOPLE ARE ASKING?

IDEA: *audience analysis* is so important here

3. IS THERE COMFORT HERE FOR THE HURTING INDIVIDUAL?

IDEA: these things will rise out of the text

*Significant loss—Divorce *Financial ruin etc

*Sudden loss of a family member

*Physical affliction—constant pain—terminal condition

4. IS THERE EVANGELISM ENCOURAGEMENT HERE?

IDEA: certain passages speak directly to this

*open your mind to these things

*open your heart & open your eyes

5. ANY HOPE FOR BESETTING SIN?

EXAMPLE: Puritans called these "Darling Sins"

These get a stay of execution—"when up for review"

Mat 6:34 "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. **Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.**

2 Pet 1:8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MAY WE CRAFT OUT CLEAR PRACTICAL MESSAGES FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE BLESSEDNESS OF HIS PEOPLE—THE L PRINCIPLE—HIM AND THEM

Sola Scriptura—by Scripture alone
Soli Deo Gloria—Glory to God Alone