

in a Bible study group than in a general preaching congregation, that will be interested in a deeper, more penetrating study. With such a group you may use more Hebrew and presumably the group will have opportunity to question you about it and to more fully plumb the depths of special ideas. In such cases one has to gauge the importance of what is being done and use all materials in accord with need and applicability.

6. Of course, your Hebrew will be of little help to you if you let it slip and amount to nothing. I suggest the following:

--have a few passages which you have worked out and read over these again and again until you are so fluent with them that you read it with understanding in Hebrew and not in your translator's English. This will greatly aid your maintenance of key ideas, parsings, word meanings, grammatical ideas, etc. And because you have been that way once you will not feel like a stranger on this repetitive run.

--commit a few favorite passages to memory. Anything that increases total familiarity is in your favor.

--try to find someone who would like to know the language and use what you know to teach that person. The teacher always learns a lot more than the students and while you may have limited time, this sort of exercise will enormously increase your own grip on the matter.

7. When coming to the text be sure to go through the steps suggested in Stuart (OLD TESTAMENT EXEGESIS) although you may have to adjust them somewhat for your own pace. Do not leave a passage until you know how every form is used, how it is put together, how it ties in with the rest of the context, and until you have formed a number of propositions telling what the passage teaches in view of what your point and presentation is. Therefore, you

- select the text (passage)
- read it in English (or your native tongue) until you have an absolute concept of what it is about.
- discern the historic background and syntax being sure your understand all items as far as possible.
- translate the text noting particularly those instructive points in the material
- consult some good commentator-authorities to see if you have overlooked anything.
- prepare a total outline of your material
- prepare a preaching outline
- go and give it out.

8. Finally, remember that exegesis is not one of the cultic mysteries but a ~~tem~~ describing the process of taking the meaning of a biblical text and making it available to the listener. The leading out of the meaning is what one wants to do and it should not be cluttered with the concept of a mysterious rite in which every other pronouncement is a word of Hebrew or Greek.

And this is the END of this Series