

3. An expositor example

Select a Passage: Ephesians 2:1-10

The passage must not be too long (that will promote sloppy treatment,) not too short...that will promote rambling.

The Theme: We have a gracious Salvation

Prepare an introduction that will identify the passage, give a word as to its importance and allow you to stress the theme with whatever application may seem right at the time.

Determine the divisions of material in the passage. *This is largely a matter of careful reading of the text...watching for periods and commas, etc., and for a change in content or direction. In this passage note that:*

*verses 1-3 describe our miserable state.....We were completely lost in sin
verses 4-9 tell what God has done for us.....But God loved and provided for us
verse 10 indicates what God intends for us....We have a new purpose in life*

*The passage could be extended and the wording could be upgraded but the passage may be discussed on a verse by verse basis emphasizing these three great truth and with a constant stress on the fact that we **have a gracious salvation** and are then challenged to live in the light of God's grace.*

Select some illustrative material and add some Biblical support....

Prepare a conclusion that challenges in accord with your general purpose and use it to remind the hearers of the reality of this passage. You can urge them to believe or to live or whatever is consistent in this line of truth.

D. Finally for this segment...one may use any of these formats for any occasion but the topic or textual messages are better for special occasions (banquets, holidays, etc.) as they do not require as much direct time or as much full access to the text as does the expository. All of these approaches are under the difficulty of multiple translations in these times but it is a matter the speaker must learn to live with and resolve by being wider in knowledge. Likewise if you are teaching a class or making an announcement the total picture is different and the procedures would need to vary a bit but the emphasis on a structured and well prepared approach will be just as important...maybe even more so. Remember that the less time you have for what you are doing, the more precise you must be at the time!