

PRESENTING THE WORD OF GOD

A Seminar Study

I. A Very Quick Introductory Note:

- A. Our Purpose: To encourage others in the ministry of sharing the Word of God in a wide variety of oral communications.
- B. The Leader's Background...very brief, thankfully.
- C. A Procedural Note: Sharing the word is a cumulative life experience not just an incidental performance.
- D. And a very brief reminder of the preliminary material not under discussion for this occasion.

II. First Steps in Presentment

A. Prepare Yourself.....

Half the battle in any sort of presentation is the matter of preparation. In this regard preparation is not just the few minutes before something is done but is rather a life long affair. The believer should be in a continuing state of preparation for whatever service the Lord may direct. One should live a life of preparation and then when a specific moment comes for particular participation, a great deal of readiness has already been put into whatever is to be done. A prizefighter does not start to learn to box the day before the fight. And he does not stop training after the fight! Preparation is an ongoing life process and we may divide it into these categories:

1. Spiritual.

To know that one is born again, yielded to the Lord, open to the Scriptures and the leading of the Holy Spirit...that is spiritual preparation. It is not a mechanical formula but a work of the heart. Paul's attitude in 1 Corinthians 9 and Philippians 3 should give us some guidance in this. It is true that some special preparation will be needed for any commitment but it should grow from a life that is prepared and preparing for what is needed. I will try to not tell many stories about this...but most of our participants can fill in illustrations from their own lives.

2. Academic

It is not a matter of how long you went to school but a matter of studying the Word of God, listening to it, reflecting on it, and seeing how it impacts all parts of our lives. General Bible knowledge is very good, Bible memory is highly

recommended, the study of doctrines and procedures is important, as well as practical lessons in how these things are applied. One cannot do this all at once...but if there is a persistent effort to do it bit by bit, it will work well.

3. Cultural:

Try to stay abreast of the society about you...its needs, excesses, opportunities, etc. This might not seem important but if you do not do it when driving a car you will soon be in considerable distress. One does not have to be involved in everything that is done, thankfully, but one needs to know what the societal challenges and opportunities are and when an opportunity comes to work in these areas this knowledge greatly increases the success possibility.

4. Sociological

Think of the needs of the people about us and remember how the Lord has blessed us by His grace. Never forget that we have both opportunity and obligation to help those about us by the Word of God. The way in which this will be expressed will vary from occasion to occasion but somehow the believer must think of the position held in our world as a light and a nourisher of truth.

5. Prayerful

Not much need be said here....prayer is our great privilege in talking with the Creator and in seeing how God works. No endeavor for God should be undertaken without prayer....we cannot stipulate quantities, etc, but it is an indispensable part of our preparation.

B. Get the Mechanics in Order

Whereas preparation is a lifelong continuum, the mechanics are highly individual and immediate in time. They should not be ignored and the most important, in my judgment, are these:

1. Place, Date, and Time for your opportunity

2. The nature of the occasion and what you are expected to do...in a very specific way. Be sure to know what amount of time is allotted to you and keep in mind that is always approximate in the mind of others but should be firm with you.

3. The Purpose

4. The anticipated audience....not so much the size but the composition.

If it is a senior citizen meeting, don't plan to have illustrations that make them stand up and sit down, repeatedly. If it is "junior church" hold off on the differences between Calvinism and Arminianism. Exact specifications in this area are rare so one may have to "play it by ear" but at least seek to ascertain the sort of audience to be expected.

You may think of other things in this category but these mechanics may be called the "nuts and bolts" of your presentation opportunity.

C. Determine what You Want to do...or What You are Asked to do.

This is an important consideration and it is more than simply attempting to fill an obligation.

1. Do you intend to give a talk, make an announcement, lead a class.
Know your assignment
2. If it is in the "talk" class:" do you wish to expound a text, study a topic (doctrine, etc.), explain a passage. These are not mutually exclusive but one aspect will dominate. If one's aim is to do all at once.....well....it can be done but must be carefully studied.
3. One may aim to make a specific challenge to a life situation and in this category you will think of: The Gospel
The Call to Service and Commitment, etc.
The speaker's own experiences and preferences will greatly influence this point.
4. And ultimately what one wants to do is....the Will of God in the particular setting One wants the Lord to be honored, His people edified, and those who are "outside" challenged to believe. This becomes the great point to which other things lead.

D. Consider the Resources for Your Service in this Opportunity.

In this regard our entire lives are before us. Every part of human experience and observation is at your service. I enumerate these resources which are uniquely yours and all of ours in the presentation of the Word of God.

1. Your salvation experience
2. The Bible knowledge one has acquired. We are all still learning in

this area but we are seeking to add to what we know, not to go back and rethink everything. Hebrews 5 and 6:1-2 offers a nice viewpoint of this.

3. Life Interests and experiences

4. Learned information: message one has heard, books one had read, resource materials that are available.

5. Personal accounts

It is never that we do not have enough resource material... it is sometimes true we do not recognize it or put our minds to work vigorously at the opportunity.

E. Understand the Basic Points for All Presentations:

There is a little repetition of some things already said but we will try to keep it to a minimum.

1. Know the responsibility given you for the occasion.
2. Select a subject (text, topic, etc.)
3. Plan an Introduction:

The introduction is the first part of the presentation. It is intended (1) to gain the interest of the audience (2) to indicate what you are going to do and (3) to lead directing into the point of your presentation. My arbitrary advice is to avoid non-subject related material at the beginning of a talk. Some use this in an introductory sense but one must be careful not to lose sight of the ultimate goal. There is, however, no absolute rule on content of the Introduction but it is a necessary step that you have one planned.

4. Have a clear statement of purpose for the message, talk, etc. and form a theme that will encapsulate the heart of the message.

5. Organize the thoughts in the form of a logical development.

Many people hate the word "outline" but that is what this is. Organizing the material in a logical way is a great step towards making your goal. It helps the audience to think with you and keeps you on the subject. The outline does not have to be stated in a concrete way that is sterile. and it does not have to be painful. But many good talks are not heard due to a failure to present the material in a structured way that can easily be assimilated in the minds of the

hearers. I am rather strong on the thematic outline and some examples will be shown in our following sessions.

6. Program your time.

If you have twenty minutes, plan your time so as to adequately cover your material. There is very little excuse for the statement, "If we had more time." The fact behind that will always be true but the application of it by most speakers is simply an admission that they did not program the time.

7. Keep an eye on the audience

Treat them personally in a friendly way. Eye contact is vital for their understanding and for your comprehension of their needs and interests.

8. Have a planned conclusion.

Don't just run out of time and stop. Have a conclusion planned to complete the things intended in the introduction.

9. Show an enthusiasm for the work of God and the opportunity He has afforded you for this occasion.

10. And last, but not least, keep an eye on your health.

Some aspects are beyond us but others are in our general control. Try to avoid fatigue and be fresh for every occasion. And don't be nervous (although I am always nervous!) but if you are, try not to make the audience nervous. I will elaborate on this.

F. These are the first steps. They may seem too simply or obvious and we cannot major on every point. But each item is important and needed for your complete preparation.

III. Putting a Presentation Together

In the nature of things there are three forms of presentation in which the main part is an oral delivery of some specific material. (Other forms of presentation include discussion groups, panels, participant seminars, pictorial information, etc.) The three forms are known to us as 1) textual, 2) topical, and 3) expository. These are determined presentations and need fuller preparation than, say, an announcement!

By way of definition it must be understood that the Bible was written as a bulk of text and not a book of chapters and verses. These divisions were made by godly persons for ease of study and quickening of reference. The Biblical books were written as separate items and there were some divisionary tools in ancient texts but nothing like the chapter and verse divisions that have come in the Christian era. The Word of God, in that light, is the basis for all three of these message forms and the use of one or the other is in the hands of the "speaker". But all three of them have common needs and these are:

- A prepared introduction and conclusion
- A stated theme
- An analysis of the Biblical support or explanation
- A developed structure
- Accompanying illustrative and Scripture support material.

We need to remind ourselves regularly that the power is not in our clever presentations but in the work of the Holy Spirit. Our aim is to offer the best of our efforts to the Lord in preparation and presentation and we are often surprised at how the Spirit takes rather poor messages (from a human point of view) and brings great blessing while sometimes the carefully articulated and designed messages may put the congregation to sleep! But we do not want to do something shabby and dare God to make it good! Our consecrated efforts are offered to the Lord as an offering and we look to Him for the blessing that only He can provide. And now that I have that off my chest, let us go and look at message preparation.

A. The textual message:

1. By definition it is a message that develops a single text (not necessarily one verse, but a completed thought). This does not deny the use of supportive Scripture and does require the consideration of the context, both near and far. But basically the speaker is going to develop one text and try to make its meaning and application obvious to the hearers. In the nature of delivery the speaker will refer to the text many times and everyone will know the nature of the ministry...for the speaker pounds it out repeatedly.

2. The recommended procedure moves like this:

a. Select a text.

How do you get it? Well, you have a notebook and in your daily Bible reading you often see a thought and say..."I would like to speak about that some time." So you write the reference in your notebook and you will be surprised how many things will eventually get there. Some problem or some joy might call one of these texts back to your mind but if not....you simply and prayerfully read over your list and select one! Don't wait for a strike of lightning but make your selection careful and prayerful. This is one way of getting a text, at other times you may just go directly to the Bible and read---looking for one!

How long should it be? It may be a verse or more but the important thing is that it is one connected thought. If it is a long and detailed developed thought, one should go to an expository form for preparation.

What is the idea? To drive the truth of the text into the heart of the hearers.

And due to the circumstances of this time, you should likely see the text in several of the modern translations (even if you read Greek) and be able to express it in such a way that the whole gathering is on the same page.

b. Understand what it says. (no further comment needed)

c. See if divisions of thought are suggested in the text. Watch for commas, semi-colons, etc. If none seem to be suggested automatically in the text, study hard and see if you can develop thoughts that will expand and/or explain the meaning of the text.

d. Develop an outline

The outline should be built around the thought of the text. The clarity of the outline is desperately important. One does not have to hammer one's audience with it but without it ---it is similar to walking in a dark forest without a flashlight or a gifted guide. Each point in the outline should be stated clearly but not pedantically. In my personal work I champion a system of outlining that is called "thematic". I have friends who prefer an acrostic outline and various other types. We do not feud over these things if the point of the message is clear and the outline serves to that end

e. Select at least one illustration (Biblical, personal, historical) for every main point in the outline. Illustrations are vital and if anyone doubts this a careful reading of Matthew 5-7 should be convincing. Proper illustration could consume another seminar.

f. It is always helpful to have a few supporting Scriptures to strengthen your treatment of the text.

g. And be certain you have a stated theme and a prepared (or planned) introduction and conclusion.

3. And here is a somewhat apocopated textual message in note form

Text: 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

In context, Paul is completing the letter with practical admonitions.

Theme: Paul's Guidance for a Strong testimony.

Introduction: WE have seen Paul's perplexity with the conditions in the Church at Corinth...we have also seen some of his advice to special issues. But now we come to the crux of the matter...the emphatic teaching that will deliver the fellowship from mediocrity and lukewarmness. Paul gives the apostolic guidance that will lead to and continue a strong testimony.

Text Divisions: *These are apparent...just look at the text. Not every text divides so easily but why pick a hard text just for this seminar?*

Outline: --Be alert	<i>The speaker will define these and explain them</i>
--Maintain the faith	<i>and have illustrative help. The speaker may</i>
--Act like adults	<i>need to look up some terms in a dictionary but</i>
--Be strong	<i>with each point he will tell his audience...this</i>
--Commit to love	<i>is what Paul wants for the church.</i>

Conclusion: How about it? How does your life conform to the Pauline advice? Do you want a fellowship that slowly deteriorates or grows in the grace and knowledge of the Lord?

4. In summary I am not suggesting this is a final or perfect form. It is an example of possibilities. All presentation of the Word of God is exciting and it seems to me we can do very few other things that bring as much satisfaction to all parties. Remember that the introduction will lead into the body of the message and the conclusion will summarize and challenge. The latter should not become a second message and the former should not be an irrelevant item that just makes the gang smile.

B. A Topical Message

1. By definition a topical message is a message on a particular subject or topic. Under the heading of "topic" will come issues of the day, stress on some doctrine, biographical accounts, etc. The thing that makes this a different message form is that it concentrates on the subject more than the text. It will have text behind it, of course, but the emphasis is on the subject and many, many texts may be included in the total treatment. Many homileticians frown on the topical approach (fearing it does not give enough credit to the text) but if used well these messages may deal with a problem or a teaching to an extent that the other forms of messages cannot go. Well, we will not argue about that. There are some guidelines necessary when thinking of a topical message and in a very brief form they are these:

- a. Don't use them as a means of "getting at" someone. A biblical talk must be pointed, of course, but it is not maliciously pointed for that is an abuse of speaking privilege....the hearer cannot strike back.
- b. Be sure they are related to a total biblical picture
- c. Be sure they are relevant to your audience. It is possible to take some topic and speak at great detail about it and suddenly discover no one in your hearing has the faintest idea of what is important about it or why they should know anything about it.

2. General Procedure:

- a. Select a topic:

This will largely be something from your observation in life or your reading in the Scripture in which some special item will come to your attention. A special interest on the part of the speaker is not bad if the above guidelines are kept in mind. A biblical doctrine is always appropriate, I think, and any subject that is given great stress in the Scripture (prayer, for instance) is very suitable. Special holidays on our calendars also give rise to useful topics. But if one uses topics for speaking, one must be careful not to ride a "hobby horse"...always speaking on the same topic and eventually becoming more annoying than edifying. The topic will need a foundation in Scripture, of course, and a central Scripture from which to work. You may select the topic and look for appropriate Scripture---this has the hazard that in not finding a Scripture to your liking you might "stretch" one to make it fit---or the topic may arise in a reading from the Bible and your biblical text will be set before you.

- . Prepare an introduction that will announce the topic.

Explain why you have chosen it, and at least hint at how you will treat it. Make sure the

listeners understand the importance of this subject. It is a good idea to show how the topic fits into the Scripture in the introduction but this must be done quickly or you will soon have no time to actually treat the topic!

c. When it is possible, have a theme for the topic...a short statement that will allow you to remind your audience often of the reality of the topic. The theme should be a subject/predicate proposition...the shorter the better so long as it is specific.

d. Develop a precise and logical outline. It is at this point where many speakers lose audiences and sometimes themselves. Basically the outline should consist of statements that will define the subject, show how it is developed in Scripture, emphasize what it means in our lives, and give direction concerning our response to it. Outlines can be used without great emphasis on them while still making the point. The words "first", "second", "third", etc., make good outline point dividers but there are many other ways of doing things. The concept is that the outline forces the attention of the listener to the point of what one is saying! I will ramble on about this and you may wonder what has happened to my outline!

e. Select appropriate illustrations: Biblical, historical, personal, world settings, etc. A good illustration is invaluable...it is amazing how people will remember them more, sometimes, than the point one was making. But--if anything is remembered at all, that is a plus point.

f. Prepare a conclusion that will summarize the topic as treated and challenge the listener to some reaction. Do not bring new material into a conclusion... when you get to that point you should have said enough for the comprehension of the listener. You may review the outline, if that is what you feel will be most appropriate, and you may move through the conclusion to an invitation, a dismissal, a hymn, or whatever. But the conclusion is your "selling point" and needs careful thought so that when you get to it, you do not just quit, you conclude.

3. Now for a topical illustration:

So you were just reading along in your Bible as part of the daily practice and you come to the end of John's first letter and you read the pointed text of chapter 5 and verse 21 as it says: "Little children, keep yourselves from idols". Your attention is caught by this advice and while you can't think of any idols you might have you wonder why John stresses it so...you look up the terms "idol" and "idolatry", etc. and you gain a perception that idolatry is just having anything before you that is more important than God. You might say it in a somewhat different manner but you get that idea and your thoughts go to the importance of speaking on idolatry since you know a lot of other Christians who make some things more important than the Lord in their lives. The topic for your next talk then is idolatry.

Topic: Idolatry

Basic Text: 1 John 5:21 (plus many other biblical passages warning about the subject.

Introduction: define the subject, show its importance in the light of the ten commandments and perhaps a New Testament passage 1 Corinthians 10.

A Theme: (*put positively*) Let Nothing Be More Important in Your Life than the Lord.

Outline: topical

or

Outline: thematic

- 1. The nature of idolatry**
- 2. The effects of idolatry**
- 3. The cure for Idolatry**

- 1. Idolatry is a sin against God.**
- 2. Idolatry ruins life and testimony**
- 3. Idolatry is cured by worship and love.**

Conclusion: Little children, etc.

4. Parting Advice:

If one does a lot of this sort of speaking it is easy to fall into a pattern that can be predictable and boring. Variety in outline and treatment is always in order so long as it does not interfere with the reception of the message. Topical speaking is probably the easiest of all but it may not lay a consistent biblical foundation for in moving from topic to topic one may miss a great deal of Bible teaching. The advice in this quarter is....deal more with text and exposition and bring out topics as they arise within those contexts. But there are times when a particular problem or occasion may arise and only a topic will quickly meeting the challenge.

C. An Expository Message or Talk.

1. By definition an expository message or talk is one that seeks to propound an extended passage of Scripture and explains the text as a display of a particular concept or truth. It is often referred to as a "verse by verse" presentation and is a very useful form of preaching although it is widely abused as well. It is not a running commentary but an explanation of a passage based on the understanding of the material it covers. It requires great in-depth study of the Scripture and is not the easiest type of ministry but is probably the best in the concept of fuller treatment of the totality of the Word of God. I am not sure how thoroughly we can treat this subject in the brief time of this seminary but...we move bravely onward.

2. The Procedure:

- a. Select a passage for exposition.

The passage may be from the study of a book or, in fact, even a whole book although in most cases you would need several talks for this. It could be a psalm or a meaningful portion from any place in the Bible but it is an extended portion and you are going to expose its content to the hearers. The possibilities for selection are almost boundless but be certain, no matter what you select, that it is something you can handle satisfactorily in the time allotted. No use planning to give an exposition of John 17 if you are assigned a five minute talk. If one has the opportunity for a continuous ministry or speaking engagement...a book may be outlined and then each section treated expositively and eventually the whole book would be studied.

b. Having read the passage several times (and prayed about it as well) a theme for the passage should become apparent. This theme will state in a simple order the major truth of the passage and will tie together the whole talk as one unit of thinking.

c. Prepare a suitable introduction that will allow those who are listening to know what you are doing and how it will be done. Keep the introduction short, interesting, and enthusiastic.

d. Determine the natural divisions in the passage by a study of the grammar and syntax and the subject matter being treated. If it proves possible, allow the divisions to be the major portions of your outline. Developing the outline in accord with the divisions makes outlining easier and reception by the listeners much easier. Even though we are in an exposition and are going to touch on each verse...the Bible is not written as a collection of random thoughts...there are connectives throughout and the teacher needs to relate. As you move verse by verse, be careful about bringing too much technical matter into the message. Keep things simple as you have a great advantage over the listeners and should make certain they understand you.

e. Select some illustrative material that will help you in applying the passage to your audience. If you are not sure about the gathering or using of illustrations, there are several books that would help. Knights Book of Illustrations is helpful and there are many others. If you have children...lots of illustrations are available if used carefully. Any incident in life or observation of people easily becomes illustrative but must be used tastefully. It is important that the illustration does not take away from the point it is illustrating. I cannot treat this further...it is a special science by itself...but read the sermons in the Bible and see how the illustrations are used.

f. Prepare a conclusion that will challenge the hearers to recall the truth of the passage and to act appropriately in life to what they have heard in this message. Pray much over how you will conclude...it may be the last thing you will ever do!

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!

IV. Delivering the Goods

In this third session of our seminar the discussion hinges on the idea of delivering the presentation. It is a vast area of study and has so many imponderable things in it...that it should be a course in itself. But the items that follow are selected by me in the hopes that they will encourage us in presenting the Word and all that is associated with that. The principles of presentation are very common for messages long or short or simple announcements of class leadings. The person doing the speaking simply has to adapt them to the occasion in which one has involvement. So we break it into three units of study.

A. You

The following points relate to the speaker, announcer, teacher, etc. We recognize that there are great differences in people and differences in gifts and tendencies. These can neither make us feel superior or inferior. At best we are servants of the Lord and His people and no position is more honorable than that. Personality or ability differences are not the things that commend us to God and while we ought to cultivate things that help we should not allow the absence of those things to keep us from serving in due capacity. I have to stop writing this sort of thing before I go in a complete circle so...the points are these:

1. Be yourself---so long as you are respected, comfortable and effective. If for some reason you are repulsive and ineffective, try being someone else! (Humor of a poor sort) Look for sociological improvement.
2. Don't be nervous. There are two major causes of nervousness apart from some physiological condition. They are (1) a concern that you will not do what you are expected to do and (2) a fear of the judgment of others with the lack of public approval. The first may make you try harder while the second may cause you to run away. But in both cases (or either case) remember the Lord is with you, helping and listening to you. There really is nothing to fear in the light of 2 Timothy 1:6-7
3. Avoid discomfiting mannerisms and glottal gasps.
4. Have the notes that are suited for you.
 - a. There should be a background of prayer and study for whatever.
 - b. The speaker should go over the content-concept of what the responsibility is and have it well in mind.
 - c. With the speaker/teacher/announcer there may be of the:

following depending on what is thought to be needed. If the speaker needs nothing, that is all right but there is no special credit in heaven, I think, for speaking without notes.

- (1) a manuscript...fully written
- (2) a key word outline
- (3) a modified outline giving key thoughts

The important thing is to have the message in mind...to have it as a part of you...to know it empirically and to be ready to share it enthusiastically.

5. There are some things one should remember for delivery and while I cannot deal with them at length, the ones most needful are these:

- a. Speaking up with variety in volume, pitch, and rate. Don't lean on the loudspeaking system...it will help the overall volume but it will not break monotony in your voice unless some amateur person is on the controls.
- b. Maintain good eye contact with the audience. Almost no one is happy when people do not look at them when they talk to them
- c. Hold a reasonable posture with natural gestures.
- d. Avoid tangents when one just takes off somewhere...stick to your material and be consistent in treatment.
- e. Don't make unnecessary apologies...they produce a lack of confidence in your audience and suggest an unforced and unneeded humility.
- f. Be exact with the clock...don't say things like....."just another minute and we will be through.", etc. And don't blame the Holy Spirit for your lack of discipline in the matter of time. I really feel keen on this!
- g. And remember that you are a servant...of God and of His people and have a committed responsibility to make your message clear and to leave the advancement of it with Him.

6. And here, in a very friendly way, is the mention of some of your problems...and of course some of us don't have them, some of us have more, but these are problematic areas that can be improved by your discipline:

- a. Poor use of time

- b. Poor outlining
- c. Not seeing your audience
- d. Purposeless self-degradation and there is a purposeful sort.
- e. Arrogance: I know it but you don't.

These need greater development but in a short seminar there is time to mention them but not to expand them very much.

B. Your Audience

1. Be thankful for whoever is there
2. Watch for special needs
3. Be alert to particular problems that may arise.
4. Do not allow some audience misbehavior to distract you. If a disciplinary word must be said....say it softly and lovingly. If it is a major problem ask the officials of the fellowship to intercede.
5. Do not attempt to psychologize the audience and imagine that you know what everyone is thinking. If someone looks negative or displeased be glad that at least that party is paying attention.
6. And while I will not say much about political correctness (!) remember that we are a diverse society and we want to reach people not repel them.

C. And a word about your task:

Whatever the particular details are, your task is to honor them and to serve well the Lord who has allowed you this role in time. The bulk of accomplishment is the work of the Spirit...we are His tools, so to speak, and to be faithful to the work of Grace and the Lord who loves us is a happy task for which there is no regret. Don't be afraid to jump into it. There is a great reward, at any level, in presenting the truth of God.