

Sermon Prep

Lesson 4 Notes

Sermon Prep is designed to help us become better students of the Bible and better communicators from the pulpit.

Premise:

One - It is the responsibility of the student of scripture to get to know what a passage says.

We will provide tools to help unlock meaning in any text.

Two - It is the responsibility of the communicator to figure out the best way to say it.

We will develop skills that will help us find our own voice.

Intro:

- The Bible was written by specific people to a specific audience. We want to learn to go from Their Town (what is happening in the text) to Our Town (what is happening in our lives).
- We want to highlight two ideas today: Observation and Interpretation
- It is important to remember that the Bible means what it says:

Therefore, If we get to know what it says (Observation) we will understand what it means (Interpretation).

- God chose His written word as His primary means of communicating with man.

Therefore understanding the meaning of words will help unlock the meaning of any text.

- We will learn to recognize Key Words in any text.

Key words are words that help unlock the meaning of a text.

We will use Philippians 1:9-11 as an example

Philippians 1:9-11

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Key Words

4 types of words to look for and how to use them to gain meaning.

- Unclear words - Any word we do not know the meaning, Or that may have a fuller meaning than what we currently understand

In our text:

- Sincere
- Without offense

How to develop meaning of unclear words

Dictionary

Sincere - real, genuine or honest

Antonym - hypocritical

Original language tools

Blue letter Bible

Olive tree bible app

- Theological words

These could also be called "Bible Words"

They are words loaded with theological importance

- Fruits
- Righteousness
- Glory
- Praise

How do we discover meaning of theological words

A concordance allows you to look up each word and see how it is used in the Biblical text

Let's zone in on the word fruit

Modern dictionary - the sweet and fleshy product of a tree or other plant that contains seed and can be eaten as food.

Bible uses the word differently

Speaks of characteristics of Christ being developed in the believer as they follow and abide in Jesus

- Repeated words

Repetition is a common biblical literary practice designed for emphasis

More and more

Abound - overflow

- Grammatical words

All words are grammar words, but we are seeking to discover the *job* the words are doing in the text.

Look for:

- Action words – verbs are action words

Verbs are moody

Indicative - make a statement : “I pray”

Imperative - require action

- Descriptive words – adjectives, adverbs

Excellent things

God’s glory

- Connecting words - conjunctions

By Jesus Christ

Conclusion

Passages will vary but learning to look for key words in the text will always help unlock meaning