



A Sermon Prep Check List Sermon Préparation

Baptist Ministers of Houston and Vicinity

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1. Your Sermon should be prayerfully prepared.

Prayer is the number one indicator that you are depending on God and not on yourself. You don't only need God to guide you in what to preach, but what to say when you are preaching (word choices, illustrations, references, testimonies, etc.)

2. Your sermon should be well thought out. (Manuscript)

Good sermons are well thought out sermons. And I don't know of a better way to think through your sermon then to write it out. Writing it allows for better precision in speech, better word choices, less boring repetition, etc.

3. Start your sermon prep early in the week.

At least read your next week sermon text by Sunday night or Monday, so you can think about it all week. Try to have a brief outline (*main idea and points*) by Tuesday or Wednesday.

4. In your sermon prep, concentrate on what's difficult for you.

We like to rely on our strengths rather than work on our weaknesses. Difficulties may be stating points in a concise way, time management, coming up with illustrations or good titles, etc.

5. Your sermon should be well put together.

Your sermon really should be a small readable book or essay. Many great sermons are made into books, because they are well crafted.

6. Your sermon should be easy to follow.

Your listeners should be able to easily follow you. You should have points where people can sense the progression of the sermon. Good points peak interest.

7. Your sermon should be bible based.

You need to preach the bible. People need the word of God. Not philosophy. Not politics. Not self-help. Not inspirational prep talks. Etc.

8. Your sermon should be theologically sound.

Too often a sermon is simply not faithful to the nature and character of God. If your interpretation of a passage or verse compromises the character and nature of God, (God's perfections/attributes,) your interpretation is in error.

9. Your sermon should be Christ-centered.

Your congregation should understand that preaching is about Jesus. And if they don't understand anything else, they should know that if declaring Jesus is not the aim of the sermon, it's not biblical preaching.

10. Your sermon should be practical.

There are serious Christians in your congregation who may not ever learn or grasp theology, but they want to know, "Pastor what am I suppose to do?"

THINK YOURSELF EMPTY, READ YOURSELF FULL, WRITE YOURSELF CLEAR, PRAY YOURSELF HOT AND GO PREACH JESUS