

Teacher in Training – Pt. 2

Clarity: Crafting the Message



Purpose: What this will not do

- Does not automatically qualify you to teach at Parker Bible
- **Teaching Process (MS & Above)**
 - Be a member in good standing
 - Aligned with Doctrine & Distinctives
 - *Partners* approved
 - Attend / Listen to these seminars
 - Be evaluated at a teaching practicum
 - Be evaluated in a teaching cohort
 - Be evaluated in different teaching scenarios at church
 - Affirmed by the Elders

Purpose: What this will do

1. Help you study your Bible more effectively
2. Help you grow in Christlikeness
3. Help equip you for potential teaching ministry

REVIEW – Part One



Introduction: What is an Expository Message?

To be an expository sermon...

- *You must begin with a biblical text*
- *You must accurately interpret the author's original meaning of that text*
- *You must prepare and present a message that clearly, orderly, and engagingly explains the original intent of that text and apply it to today*
- *You must depend on the power of the Holy Spirit*

That's the What but now the How?

Four Questions

I. Am I Accurate?

II. Am I Clear?

III. Am I Engaging?

IV. Am I Dependent on the Holy Spirit?

Four Questions

I. Am I Accurate?

II. Am I Clear?

III. Am I Engaging?

IV. Am I Dependent on the Holy Spirit?

ACED the Test

ACED the Test

- I. **A**ccuracy: Studying the Text
- II. **C**larity: Crafting the Message
- III. **E**ngagement: Delivering the Message
- IV. **D**ependence: Trusting upon God

ACED the Test

I. Accuracy: Studying the Text

II. Clarity: Crafting the Message

III. Engagement: Delivering the Message

IV. Dependence: Trusting upon God

Why is this Important?

- **Because the Lamb is worthy of His glory**
 - *Revelation 5:11-13*
- **Because Christ loves His Church**
 - *Ephesians 5:25*
- **Because people's eternal destinations are at stake**
 - *1 Timothy 4:16*
- **Because teachers will be strictly judged**
 - *James 3:1*
 - *2 Timothy 2:15*

I. **A**ccuracy: *Studying the Text*

A. Goal

- *Make the author's main point, the main point of the sermon (Mark Dever)*
 - To be a waiter NOT the chef
 - To be roots NOT a pipe

*I. **A**ccuracy: Studying the Text*

A. Goal

B. Process

Adapted from Tom Pennington & Dusty Burris

Exegetical Process

- 1. Pray**
- 2. Prepare**
- 3. Read & Read & Read some more**
- 4. Survey the Context** (Big & Small picture)
- 5. Block Diagram the Text** (Key tool!)
- 6. Observe the Text** (Detective)
- 7. Interpret the Text**
- 8. Evaluate Your Study** (Commentaries)
- 9. Meditate on the Text**

Questions?



ACED the Test

I. **Accuracy**: Studying the Text

II. **Clarity**: Crafting the Message

Why is this Important?

- **Because true understanding happens after clear communication**

II. *Clarity: Crafting the Message*

A. Goal

- *Bridge the Gap*

John MacArthur: “The task of the expository preacher is to take the mass of raw data from the text and bridge the gap between exegesis and exposition.”

II. *Clarity: Crafting the Message*

A. Goal

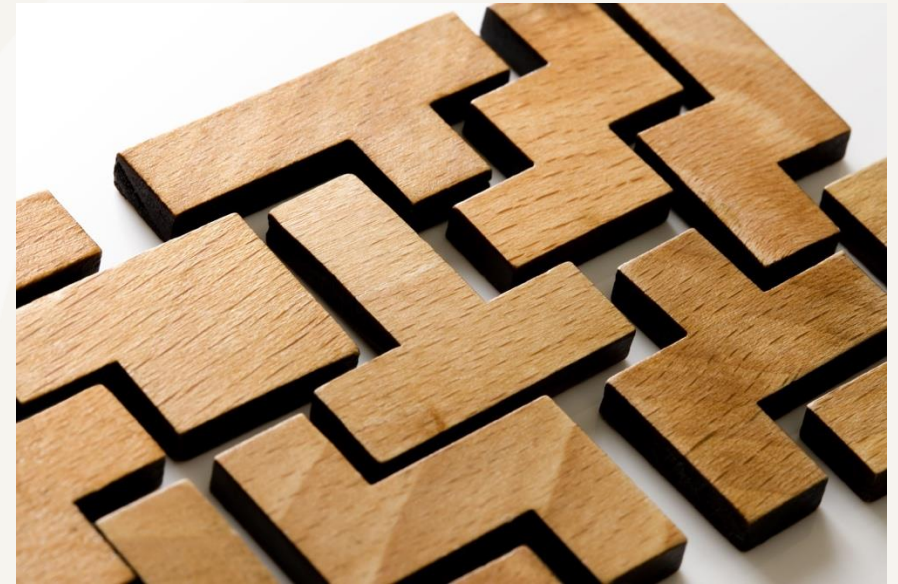
- *Bridge the Gap*
- *Shed Light*

Al Mohler: “The first hallmark of powerful communication is clarity...(unclear communicators) create fog rather than light.”

II. *Clarity: Crafting the Message*

A. **Goal**

- *Bridge the Gap*
- *Shed Light*
- *Put together the Puzzle*



Questions?



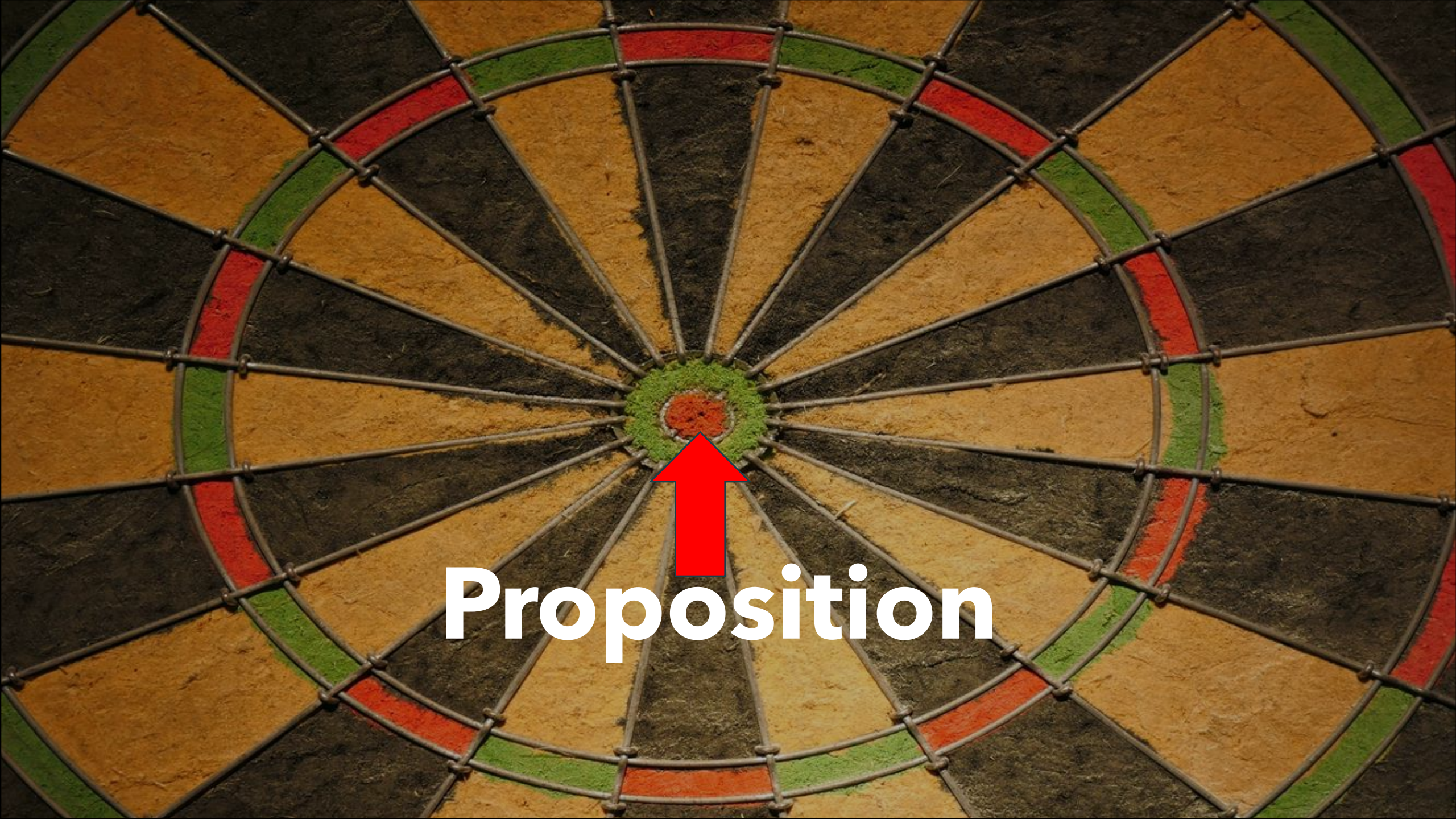
*II. **C**larity: Crafting the Message*

A. Goal

B. Process

Expositional Process

1. Craft...the ***Propositional Package***



Proposition

Importance of the Proposition

J. H. Jowett: "No sermon is ready for preaching, not ready for writing out, until we can express its theme in a short, pregnant sentence as clear as crystal. I find the getting of that sentence is the hardest, the most exacting and the most fruitful labor in my study...I do not think any sermon ought to be preached, or even written, until that sentence has emerged, clear and lucid as a cloudless moon."

Taken from Tom Pennington - Teacher Training (Pt. 2)

Expositional Process

1. Craft...the ***Propositional Package***

- *Theme* - Sermon reduced to one timeless sentence (14 words or less)
- *An interrogative*
- *A transitional sentence*
 - Includes a plural noun
 - Links with the main points

Example

1 Corinthians 3:9-17

- **Sermon Theme:** Be careful how you build!
- **Interrogative:** But how are we to build?
- **Transitional Sentence:** 1 Cor 3, gives us three foundational instructions for how to build the church.
(Repeat)

Example

Colossians 3:18-21

- **Sermon Theme:** Christ must have first place in our homes.
- **Interrogative:** What does a Christ-centered home look like?
- **Transitional Sentence:** Paul provides four indispensable features of a Christ-centered home. (Repeat)

Deriving the Proposition

- Author's Theme
-
- Sermon Proposition

Delivering the Proposition

- Generally, at the end of the introduction and right before first main point.

Questions?



Expositional Process

1. Craft...the ***Propositional Package***
2. Craft...the ***Outline***

Expositional Process

2. Craft...the **Outline**

- Reflect the author's structure

Expositional Process

- Author's Theme
 - Author's Structure
- 
- Sermon Proposition
 - Sermon Structure

Expositional Process

2. Craft...the **Outline**

- Reflect the author's outline
 - What tool do we use to determine the author's outline?
 - Block Diagram!

Expositional Process

2. Craft...the **Outline**

- Reflect the author's outline
- Reflect the sermon proposition

Expositional Process

2. Craft...the **Outline**

- Reflect the author's outline
- Reflect the sermon proposition
- Be timeless in form
- Retain symmetry throughout
- Don't overlap

Expositional Process

2. Craft...the **Outline**

- Types of Outlines
 - Commands/Directives - Imperative

Example

1 Corinthians 3:9-17

- **Sermon Theme:** Be careful how you build!
- **Interrogative:** But how are we to build?
- **Transitional Sentence:** 1 Cor 3, gives us three foundational instructions for how to build the church. (Repeat)
- **Outline:**
 - I. Build on the Right Foundation
 - II. Use the Right Materials
 - III. Remember the Rightful Owner

Expositional Process

2. Craft...the **Outline**

- Types of Outlines
 - Commands/Directives - Imperative
 - Statements/Questions - Indicative

Example

Colossians 1:24-29

- **Transitional Sentence:** In this passage, we discover **four essential traits** of the Lord's servant that are true for every generation.
- **Outline:**
 - I. The Lord's Servant is a Joyful Sufferer (v. 24)
 - II. The Lord's Servant is a Faithful Steward (vv. 25-27)
 - III. The Lord's Servant is a Wise Proclaimer (v. 28)
 - IV. The Lord's Servant is a Hardworking Laborer (v. 29)

Example

Colossians 3:8-11

- **Outline:**

- I. What sin must we lay aside? (v. 8)
- II. How do we lay sin aside? (v. 8)
- III. Why must we lay sin aside? (vv. 9-11)

*II. **C**larity: Crafting the Message*

2. Craft...the **Outline**

- Types of Outlines
 - Commands/Directives - Imperative
 - Statements/Questions - Indicative
 - Markers of the Text

Example

Colossians 1:21-23

- **Transitional Sentence:** To help us better understand our reconciliation and persevere in faith, Paul presents **five critical insights** about our reconciliation
- **Outline:**
 - I. The Need for Reconciliation (v. 21)
 - II. The Lord of Reconciliation (v. 22a)
 - III. The Means of Reconciliation (v. 22b)
 - IV. The Purpose for Reconciliation (v. 22c)
 - V. The Warning concerning Reconciliation (v. 23)

Questions?



Expositional Process

1. Craft...the **Propositional Package**
2. Craft...the **Outline**
3. Craft...the **Title**
 - Sermon in one phrase or word
 - Attention grabbing
 - Introduces the message

Expositional Process

1. Craft...the ***Propositional Package***
2. Craft...the ***Outline***
3. Craft...the ***Title***
4. Craft...the ***Introduction***

Expositional Process

4. Craft...the **Introduction**

- *Secures interest* – Opening Illustration
 - Personal Anecdote
 - Story / Historical Biography
 - Biblical Theology
 - Data / Surveys
 - Contextual Review

Expositional Process

4. Craft...the **Introduction**

- *Secures interest* - Opening Illustration
- *Creates a need* - Turn Statement
- *Ties to the message* - Introduces the proposition

Questions?



Expositional Process

1. Craft...the ***Propositional Package***
2. Craft...the ***Outline***
3. Craft...the ***Title***
4. Craft...the ***Introduction***
5. Craft...the ***Body***

Expositional Process

- Author's Theme → • Sermon Proposition
- Author's Structure → • Sermon Structure
- Author's Lexical, Grammatical, theological detail → • Sermon Body

Expositional Process

5. Craft...the **Body**

- *Read the text - This is what it says*

Expositional Process

5. Craft...the **Body**

- *Read the text*
- *Explain the text - This is what it means*
 - Explain key words/phrases/commands
 - Explain key grammatical structures
 - Explain key contextual insights
 - Explain key theological issues
 - Explain key interpretive conundrums

Expositional Process

5. Craft...the **Body**

- *Read the text*
- *Explain the text*
- *Argue for the text* – This is why you should believe it
 - When?
 - Controversial doctrine
 - Lesser-known or frequently misunderstood doctrine

Expositional Process

5. Craft...the **Body**

- *Read the text*
- *Explain the text*
- *Argue for the text* – This is why you should believe it
 - How?
 - *Argue from Scripture (immediate and wider context)*
 - *Argue from Logic*
 - *Argue from Resources (Church history, commentaries, etc.)*

Expositional Process

5. Craft...the **Body**

- *Read the text*
- *Explain the text*
- *Argue for the text*
- *Illustrate the text* – Bringing in the light

Importance of the Illustration

Charles Spurgeon: “You may build up laborious definitions and explanations and yet leave your hearers in the dark as to your meaning; but a thoroughly suitable metaphor will wonderfully clear the sense.”

Importance of the Illustration

Charles Spurgeon:

- Like the windows of a house that let the light in
- Like illustrated books...pictures give us a far better sense of the scenery than even the most descriptive word
- Jesus took care to fill His preaching with illustrations

Misuse of Illustrations

- Just to tell an interesting story
- Pad a poorly prepared message
- Just to get a laugh

Legitimate Use of Illustrations

- Clarify the Truth
- Humanize the Truth
- Emphasize the Truth

Best Sources for Illustrations

- The teaching text itself
- The Scripture
- Study resources
- Daily life

Illustration Pitfalls

- Using the same kind
- Undermining your credibility
- Making yourself the hero
- Embarrassing others
- Presenting inaccurate information
- Not giving credit

Questions?



Expositional Process

5. Craft...the **Body**

- *Read the text*
- *Explain the text*
- *Argue for the text*
- *Illustrate the text*
- *Apply the text* - This is what you should do with it

Guidelines for Application

- Flows from authorial intent
- Carefully distinguishes between commands/promises given to specific individuals and groups at a specific time in redemption history and those given universally to all people at all times. (e. g. ceremonial and dietary restrictions of the OT Law; John 14:26)
- Carefully distinguishes between what the Bible records and what it approves (e. g. Gen 12)
- Suited to the audience
- Well-placed in the text (sprinkled throughout vs. in conclusion only)

Sources for Application

- Drawn from the text and not imposed upon it
- From your own meditation
- From study resources

Pitfalls of Application

- Not applying the text

Matt 28:20 - all preaching aims for application

*“teaching them **to observe all** that I commanded you.”*

(See also James 1:22)

Pitfalls of Application

- Not applying the text
- Applying without properly teaching the text

1 Tim 4:13 - all preaching is balanced with teaching and application

*“Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, **to exhortation and teaching.**”*

Pitfalls of Application

- Not applying the text
- Applying without properly teaching the text
- Making your preferences/principles biblical commands (e. g. husbands doing the dishes)
- Not switching up your application presentation

Application Grid – Speck

- **S** – Is there a **Sin** to confess, forsake, or avoid?
- **P** – Is there a **Promise** of God to believe?
- **E** – Is there an **Example** to follow or avoid?
- **C** – Is there a **Command** to obey?
- **K** – Is there something for me to **Know** about God, the Gospel, the world, nature, etc.?

Expositional Process

5. Craft...the **Body**

- *Read the text*
- *Explain the text*
- *Argue for the text*
- *Illustrate the text*
- *Apply the text*
- *Transition to the next text* - Here is where we are going next

Expositional Process

5. Craft...the **Body**

- *Transition to the next text*
 - Say them slow
 - Repeat!
 - Include your plural noun

Questions?



Expositional Process

1. Craft...the ***Propositional Package***
2. Craft...the ***Outline***
3. Craft...the ***Title***
4. Craft...the ***Introduction***
5. Craft...the ***Body***
6. Craft...the ***Conclusion***

Expositional Process

6. Craft...the **Conclusion**

- Key!
 - Landing the plane
 - Wrapping the bow
- Summarize the message
- Reiterate the main point
- Finish with a lasting illustration to press home the sermon
- Apply the text

Questions?



Practice – Colossians 1:9–12

- **Theme**
- **Interrogative**
- **Transitional Sentence**
- **Outline**

Teaching Practicum

- **What:** 20-minute lesson of your choice, evaluated and given feedback by church leadership
- **When:** Tuesday, May 19th from 7:00–9:00pm
- **Where:** TBD
- **Who:**
 - Member in Good Standing
 - *Partners* Approved
 - Guys & Gals separated