

How to Write a Sermon

Part 2 – The Original Message

Note: There are no instructions for, or examples of, _____ in Scripture.

So we are discussing applying _____ to the task of _____ the gospel.

Review:

Three Islands: The Original Message, The Theological Message, The Message for Today

Romans 15:4 and **1 Corinthians 10:6, 11** do not negate this.

The First Island – Original Message

The question – What _____ God say?

We're trying to understand what God's message was to this _____ group of people at this time.

The twin errors involved here:

- 1) It's just historical writing that helps us learn about God but which has no _____ today.
- 2) The truth never _____, so we can just read what the text says and understand it.

This approach reads the Bible "literalistically" instead of "literally."

Much of what follows requires a _____ level of study than most of us will give to a passage of Scripture.
Still, some of it will be helpful for you to use (with the aid of appropriate resources)

At the very least, this will teach you that a passage doesn't always mean what we _____ it means

Questions that we must try to answer

- 1) Who is the _____, who is the _____ audience? What is the _____ of the writing?

Sometimes it is _____, sometimes we have to _____, and sometimes we _____ know.

Deuteronomy 29:29

John 20:30-31

1 Corinthians 13

- 2) What is the _____?

This will affect _____ we interpret the writing. Different _____ for different types of literature.

We read Wisdom Literature (like Proverbs) different from Apocalypse literature (Revelation)

We read Epistles different from how we read and understand Psalms

One book may have _____ _____ genre of writing in it.

- 3) What is going on in _____?

Understand the impact of _____.

_____ books of the Bible help us greatly with this, but they are not our _____ resource.

4) *What is happening around it in the _____?*

Do the previous verses/chapters and the ones that follow shade our reading of it?

Philippians 4:13

Do other Scriptures give us important information?

5) *How is it _____?*

Look for _____ words and key _____ phrases.

Consult the _____ languages

Rightly interpret _____

Diagram sentences and graph narratives

A single text may have many things to teach us, but we need to find the _____ point.

Matthew 28:18-20

6) *Where does this fit into God's big story? (Considering "_____ history")*

Recognize that God's revelation and plan unfolds _____ through Scripture

In the Old Testament, God's people exist mostly in a time of _____ and _____.

In some cases, God's plan has not yet been _____ or carried out.

Where in the big story is this text? How does that affect our understanding of it?

Example: ***Psalms 51:11***

Resources to help:

-Study Bibles (Intro to each book helps set the context)

-Single Volume Commentaries (*New Bible Commentary*, by Wensham, Motyer, Carson, and France)

-How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, by Fee and Stuart (help with understanding genres)

Applying it to our text (Jeremiah 29:1-14)

1) *author, audience, purpose*

2) *genre*

3) *history*

4) *literary context*

5) *structure*

6) *redemptive history*

One Possible Original Message:

*As God's people wait for him to fulfill his promises to restore them from exile,
they are to seek God by living faithfully before him.*