

Worship – Lesson 5
Philosophies of the sermon for the listener.

The worship before the sermon:

- Prepare by pre-reading the text – Acts 13:15ff
- Confess sin that mars the relationship – I John 1:5-7
- Practice humility before the Lord – James 4:10
- Pray for Holy Spirit help – John 16:13

The sermon in worship:

Its preparation

The sermon requires participation

- Ready to listen – Acts 2:14, “... hearken to my words.”
- Ready to grow – Heb. 5:12, “... strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age...”
- Ready to exalt God – Matt. 22:29, “Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.”

The sermon requires response - Jam. 1:22, “But be ye doers of the Word...”

- Ready to change/repent
- Ready to obey
- Ready to love

Its prominence

The preaching of God’s Word is the high point in any worship service because:

1. We are hearing from God. – II Tim. 3:16
2. We are growing in knowledge – II Cor. 4:6
3. We are deepening our relationships – Rom. 10:14

The preaching is first person

1. It is you and the text (In public prayer you are praying another’s prayer. In singing you are singing songs others have written.)
2. It is you and truth (No shadows should encroach, misleading, or lying.)

Its ambiance (Not aesthetics, but heart attitude)

- It is God focused (Reverential, serious, sober, awesome)
- It is considerate of the audience (cerebral, alive, relational)

Its purpose and results

- Instruction – Matt. 5:2, “He opened His mouth, and taught them...”
- Growing the saints – Eph. 4:11-16, “And he gave some... pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...”
- Preventing selfish pursuits – II Tim. 4:3, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine...”

The worship after the sermon:

- Reflect on the text – Psalm 1:1-2
- Swiftly obey as taught and led – James 1:22-25
- Enjoy the good life – Isaiah 40:31