

Worship – Lesson 4
Typical sermons from the First Baptist pulpit.

I. The sermon building of three greats:

Alistair Begg:

Thinks himself empty. Through prayer and mental exertion, he tries to eliminate biases, preconceptions, and assumptions of his text.

Reads himself full. With a clean slate he devours many pertinent writings on the text to educate himself thoroughly.

Writes himself clear. Having learned a great deal, he writes out what he has consumed and arranges it into a coherent and cohesive sermon.

Prays himself hot. With his sermon now in place, he prays fervently for the working of the Holy Spirit to use His word and his words.

* Note * Alistair believes in being yourself in the pulpit, but never preach yourself from the pulpit.

John MacArthur:

Read the text to discover what it says. Introduction to themes and contexts are discovered during this phase.

Study the original languages to decipher what else it says. Sometimes more content comes to the surface as the Hebrew and Greek are considered.

Read a multitude of commentaries to get ahold of the meaning. “In the multitude of counselors there is wisdom.” Proverbs

Search the text for points of theological interest. These are important to the context of Scripture, but also human life and condition.

Builds an outline based on the text, not additional information.

John Piper:

He reads the original languages and takes copious notes. (Chair forward)

He digests the material through much prayer and meditation. (Chair back)

He writes out his whole sermon manuscript. (11-12 pages)

He reviews for personal edification and enrichment.

II. Sermon building of Pastor Adam

I read the text (in English). What is our church studying this week?

I do basic grammatical diagrams from the original languages to build the sermon outline.

As I build the outline, key words prompt deeper study, so I consult dictionaries to enrich the contexts. Also, theological themes often surface and I try to note those for explanation and education.

I review my outline and text to refine to an applicable point(s). Usually, the fewer the better. Too many points means to ~~o~~large a text in consideration.

* An example: Today's sermon text: I Corinthians 15:50-58