

A stylized illustration of a church steeple in shades of grey and blue, positioned on the left side of the image. The steeple features a cross at the top, a bell tower with arched windows, and a triangular pediment at its base.

Church Matters

Expository Preaching and the Gospel

Theme: The Bible must be preached expositively in order for us to have the clearest picture of who God is and what He has done

2 Timothy 4:1-4 (ESV)

1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,
who is to judge the living and the dead,
and by his appearing and his kingdom:

2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season;
reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching,
but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves
teachers to suit their own passions,

4 and will turn away from listening to the truth
and wander off into myths.

I. The Supremacy of Expository Preaching

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Expository preaching is a style of sermon where the main point of the passage is the main point of the sermon. It aims to explain what the *Bible* says rather than using the Bible to support what the *preacher* wants to say.

1 Samuel 2:12-21 (ESV)

12 Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the Lord.

13 The custom of the priests with the people was that when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant would come, while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand,

14 and he would thrust it into the pan or kettle or cauldron or pot. All that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is what they did at Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there.

15 Moreover, before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give meat for the priest to roast, for he will not accept boiled meat from you but only raw."

1 Samuel 2:12-21 (ESV)

16 And if the man said to him, “Let them burn the fat first, and then take as much as you wish,” he would say, “No, you must give it now, and if not, I will take it by force.”

17 Thus the sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the Lord, for the men treated the offering of the Lord with contempt.

18 Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy clothed with a linen ephod.

19 And his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

1 Samuel 2:12-21 (ESV)

20 Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the Lord give you children by this woman for the petition she asked of the Lord.” So then they would return to their home.

21 Indeed the Lord visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew in the presence of the Lord.

“If we read it a few more times, we may realize that the primary concern of 1 Samuel 2:12-21 is not parenting at all. It’s the holiness of God. That’s right, the passage is about God and how the bad leadership of God’s people makes a mockery of God Himself. The problem in the text is that God is not being properly worshipped.”

-David Helm

“The possible applications must never overshadow the primary point of the text. While we can say true things from the Bible about parenting from this text, we should do so in a way that respectfully submits to the emphasis of the text. This is the difference. This is the challenge. We read these stories and end up missing what the Spirit is emphasizing while reducing God’s Word to nothing more than principles for godly living. In the example from 1 Samuel, we ended up completely omitting Christ as the replacement for a failed priesthood. We lost Jesus to impressionism. And in his place we have parents who are more committed to moralism than to the Christian message.”

-David Helm

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Him
who strengthens me.

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7. It is God's Word, and only God's Word, that we are called to proclaim

“The sermon is the text repeated more fully.”

- G. Campbell Morgan

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II. The Significance of Preaching the Gospel

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The gospel is the death and the resurrection of Jesus who appeased the wrath of God, and purchased every blessing for God's people.

Hebrews 1:1-4

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

“Think carefully who this Son of God is, how glorious he is, how mighty he is. What is heaven and earth in comparison with him?.. The law did not love me or give itself for me. Indeed, it accuses me, terrifies me, and drives me to despair. But now I have someone who has set me free from the terrors of the law, sin, and death, and has brought me to freedom, the righteousness of God, and eternal life. He is the Son of God, to whom be praise and glory forever... Read these words, “he loved me and gave himself for me,” with great emphasis. With a firm faith you may engrave this “me” on your heart and apply it to yourself, not doubting that you are among those to whom this “me” belongs to.”

-Martin Luther

