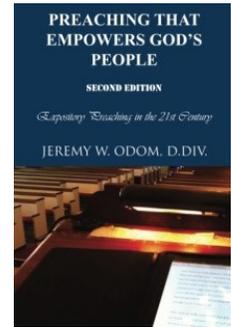




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## **Preaching that Empowers God's People** *Expository Preaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* By **Jeremy W. Odom, D.Div.**

### **Excerpts from Chapter 1 Critical Condition**

*Pulpits across America...are being faced with the dilemma of attempting to keep the attention of the pews on the Word of God... Unfortunately for many, our sermons are in serious critical condition.*

*Don't make people feel like they need a dictionary or a seminary degree to understand what you are talking about.*

### **Excerpts from Chapter 2 Biblical Discernment**

*Failure to distinguish between truth and error leaves the Christian subject to all manner of false teaching.*

*If discernment is lacking, we can fall prey to the kinds of errors, confusion, and spiritual excesses that plague so many churches today... The key to living an uncompromising life lies in one's ability to exercise discernment in every area of his or her life.*

### **Excerpts from Chapter 3 Homiletics**

*Deciding on the type of sermon first provides the basis for the sermon's organizational structure, a very vital aspect of sermon preparation.*

*Five or ten minutes of listenable preaching are better than forty-five minutes of boring preaching.*

*It is more than imperative that the preacher remembers to preach by God's power and not with man's wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:4-5). Speak in the common man's language not with enticing words.*

### **Excerpts from Chapter 4 What is Expository Preaching**

*The ultimate authority for preaching is the authority of the Bible as the word of God... Standing on the authority of Scripture, the preacher declares a truth received, not a message invented.*

*Much that passes for New Testament Christianity is little more than objective truth sweetened with song and made palatable by religious entertainment.*

### **Excerpts from Chapter 5 The Need for Expository Preaching**

*The admonition from Paul to Timothy to "preach the word," along with the theological presupposition that divine revelation ceased with the completion of the canon, limits today's preacher to exegeting the Biblical text.*

*Questioning expository preaching at the dawn of the twenty-first century could be compared to questioning the use of automobiles for transportation...the type of preaching that best carries the force of divine authority is expository preaching.*

## **Excerpts from Chapter 6 Exegesis & Expository Preaching**

*The distinguishing mark of expository preaching, also called Bible Exposition, is the biblical interpretation communicated through the sermon. The expositor must teach his audience the meaning of the text intended by its author and understood by its original recipients.*

*Elaboration on Greek and Hebrew words in pulpit exposition is by far the most frequently encountered homiletic use of exegesis, but it is only a small beginning...only a full appreciation of syntactical relationships can provide a specific understanding of the flow of thought that the Spirit intended in His revelation through the human writers of Scripture.*

## **Excerpts from Chapter 7 Creating the Expository Sermon**

*Doctrine, i.e., teaching is the preacher's chief business. To teach men truth, or to quicken what they already know into freshness and power, is the preacher's great means of doing good.*

*Too often expositors assume that proper work done in the study will ensure that the pulpit will take care of itself. It is true that there is no substitute for hard work in the study, but equally hard work in the pulpit will reward both the preacher and the flock to a much greater degree.*

## **Excerpts from Chapter 8 Varieties of Expository Sermons**

*A sermon is "expository" because it expounds and is limited to a consecutive passage of Scripture, but its subject matter may be "doctrinal", "ethical", or "biographical", etc.*

*To be truly biblical, preaching can and should be expository, even if it is thematic, theological, historical, or biographical. Expository sermons of these types must be thoroughly biblical, not only in their foundation but in their superstructure as well.*

## **Excerpts from Chapter 9 Expository Context**

*The linear, western-style logic of the expository preaching style has indeed served the western church well for many years. But it is not possible to retain a faithful exegetical approach to Scripture while at the same time contextualizing our style of preaching so that the exposition of the text can be communicated cross-culturally in a style which will be more effective among non-western thinkers.*

*While seeking to distinguish between expository content and expository form, a preacher must heed the warning of William Willimon not to lose the message while seeking to contextualize the form the message takes.*

*The only logical response to inerrant Scripture, then, is to preach it in such a way that the meaning of the Bible passage is presented entirely and exactly as it was intended by God. Expository preaching is the proclamation of the truth of God as mediated through the preacher.*

## **Excerpts from Chapter 10 Effective Delivery**

*Ministers of the gospel should know how to speak with power and expression, making the words of eternal life so expressive and impressive that the hearers cannot but feel their weight.*

*The argument that preaching with notes “quenches the Holy Spirit” is just not true. Most of the greatest preachers who have ever lived preached from a manuscript.*