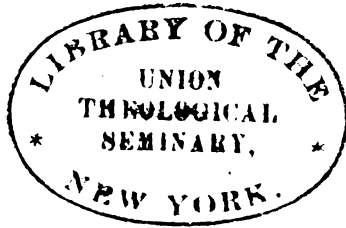


LESSON ELEVEN

**CHAPTER XI**  
**THE EXPOSITORY SERMON**



## CHAPTER XI.

### THE EXPOSITORY SERMON.

It is surprising how many preachers concede the exceedingly important place that ought to be given to expository preaching in their ministry, and then to hear them confess in almost the same breath that they do not give it such a place. They admit that they ought to do it, and confess that they do not. Just why they do not follow the expository method of preaching is not quite clear. Many feel that they do not possess the ability for it, they think they have not the gift of an expositor. Ought not the preacher to cultivate and stir up such a gift? Should he not preach after this manner as well as after any other? If, as he admits, expository preaching is one of the best, if not the very best method of preaching, ought he not to learn to preach in that way? If one is afraid to venture on this method at the regular Sunday services, experiment may be made in the mid-week meeting. At all events it ought to be tried. F. B. Meyer and G. Campbell Morgan of London are both noted expository preachers.

#### I. DEFINITION OF EXPOSITORY SERMON.

What is meant by an Expository Sermon, and in what respects does it differ from other sermons? Mainly because it is occupied more fully with the exposition of the Scripture itself than is the case with the textual sermon, for example. The textual or topical sermon

occupies itself chiefly with some one certain thought or topic suggested by the text; whereas the expository sermon occupies itself with the exposition of the entire scripture chosen.

## **II. ADVANTAGES TO BE DERIVED FROM EXPOSITORY PREACHING.**

### **1. It Produces a Biblical Preacher and Hearer.**

No preacher can adopt the expository method of proclaiming truth without himself being very greatly indoctrinated and enriched by the study of the Word. No congregation can sit long under a ministry of this kind without being deeply instructed in the Scriptures. Thus the preacher and his audience will be kept biblical.

### **2. It Conforms to the Biblical Ideal of Preaching.**

It is more in harmony with the scriptural plan of preaching as illustrated, for example, in the Acts of the Apostles, than textual preaching. This was Jesus' method (Luke 4), Stephen's (Acts 7 and 8), Paul's (Acts 28), and Peter's (Acts 2 and 3).

### **3. It is Wider in Scope.**

It affords the preacher a wider scope for the practical application of truth to the lives of his hearers. Too often is the minister accused of being too personal in his application of certain truth, going astray from his text in order to make personal references. Whether this is altogether true or not, it is a criticism often made in connection with the textual sermon. This criticism would either be altogether removed or greatly lightened if the expository method were pursued. It gives one greater opportunity for application.

### III. THE POSSIBLE DISADVANTAGES OF EXPOSITORY PREACHING.

Can there be dangers connected with so advantageous a form of preaching? Yes; and they are to be guarded against, otherwise they seriously hurt one's ministry. Some of these possible disadvantages are:

#### 1. Monotony.

There is the danger that comes from announcing the same book of the Bible from which your text is taken for many successive Sundays. This is likely to create monotony with a consequent loss of interest and probably attendance. Yet one need not continue to choose his text from the same book week after week. Expository preaching does not necessarily involve any such course of action.

#### 2. Laziness.

If not carefully watched it may lead to laziness in the way of preparation of one's sermon. There is such a danger of reading verse after verse of the text chosen, and passing a few comments or making a few remarks on them, so that the sermon becomes a little commentary on the passage chosen rather than a proclamation of the great truth set forth therein. As someone has well said: "If he is persecuted in one passage, he can flee to another."

#### 3. Too Long a Text.

It is sometimes considered disadvantageous because the text chosen for consideration is so large that it cannot be reasonably expected that the audience can remember it. This is a decided disadvantage to the au-

dience, and would tend to discourage the memorizing of Scripture.

**4. Too Confining.**

It has been said that the expository method of preaching does not afford the opportunity for dealing with current topics. Yet the wide-awake preacher can make it minister to such needs.

**IV. SUGGESTIONS FOR EXPOSITORY  
PREACHING.**

**1. Choose for the Text a Portion of Scripture that Contains One Leading Thought or Theme.**

The expository sermon should be characterized by a unity of theme just as much so as a textual sermon. Because there are many verses in the text is no reason why there should be many and different thoughts or themes, thus constituting a number of sermonettes in one sermon. It may be more difficult to find this unity of thought in expository than in textual preaching because of the difference in the length of the text chosen, but to be successful in this method of preaching it must be done at all costs. It is this slipshod method of covering many themes in one sermon, and calling it expository preaching, that has brought this splendid and biblical method of proclaiming the truth of God into disrepute in some quarters. See to it then that the expository sermon be characterized by unity of theme. In order to accomplish this desirable end it can readily be seen that one cannot expatiate upon every detail in the text chosen.

**2. Choose Texts from Different Parts of the Scripture.**

To avoid the disadvantage of the monotony mentioned

above, do not confine yourself to one book in the Bible, nor to successive chapters in the one book. At least do not begin that way. Select certain important and well-known passages containing, perhaps, not more than four or five verses to begin with. Then take an entire paragraph, then a whole chapter. After a while, when the congregation has become accustomed to the expository method of preaching, a whole book, like the Epistle to the Ephesians, or one shorter, may be chosen. Do not choose a book with too many chapters to begin with. It takes too long a time to finish the book, and the interest of the people is likely to lag in the meantime. The Epistles to the Colossians, Titus, or Second Thessalonians are good books to begin with.

**3. A Thorough Study of the Entire Text is an Absolute Condition of Success.**

Not only must the entire section be studied, but every paragraph, verse, sentence, phrase, and word must be carefully studied until its meaning is ascertained. Expository preaching is by no means, as some have erroneously supposed, a lazy way of preaching. If anything it requires far more work than any other method of sermonizing. But it yields larger results, and so is worth the extra work. Sermonizing is hard and laborious work anyway. The true preacher will have no easy time of it. Lazy men had better steer clear of the ministry.

**4. Be Sure to Avoid Being Merely Theoretic; Be Practical As Well.**

There is great danger in expository preaching of being so taken up with the great truths set forth in the text, and in the endeavor to make others see them that the preacher is likely to forget that the end of all preaching is practice, and so overlook the practical application of

the great truths enunciated. Let him remember that where the application begins, the sermon begins. Do not fail to apply the truth taught.

For illustrations of Expository Sermons, see pp. 165-168.

## **AN EXPOSITORY SERMON**

### **Lesson Eleven Assignment**

As part of this lesson you will write an Expository Sermon and a critical analysis of it.

- 1.** You will begin your sermon by considering the various sections of the textbook using an outline of this chapter. You will derive your Rough Outline for your critical analysis by considering the points in this chapter of the textbook.
- 2.** To compose a rough outline of your sermon, go to each section of the chapter and make a note of which parts in the textbook will influence your outline and which ones are not applicable. The ones that are not applicable are to be marked NA on your critical analysis of your sermon. For the parts of the textbook that are applicable to your sermon, you are to mark them with a short sentence in your critical analysis explaining how they have been used in your sermon. If they necessitate that you only consider them rather than utilize them in your sermon, then simply mark them Considered.
- 3.** Your critical analysis will be composed at the same time you are composing your rough outline.  
Then that rough outline will be used to compose your final outline.
- 4.** Following is a Critical Analysis and Rough Outline sample. The first page covers those portions of the textbook that are simply explanatory; i.e., they are informational only. Thus they are marked as “Explanatory”. You can mark them in like manner or you can leave them blank.



Critical Analysis	Rough Sermon Outline
<p><b>I. DEFINITION OF EXPOSITORY SERMON</b> The expository sermon occupies itself with the exposition of the entire scripture chosen.</p> <p><b>II. ADVANTAGES TO BE DERIVED FROM EXPOSITORY PREACHING.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol> <p><b>III. THE POSSIBLE DISADVANTAGES OF EXPOSITORY PREACHING.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> </ol> <p><b>IV. SUGGESTIONS FOR EXPOSITORY PREACHING.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> </ol>	<p>Explanatory.</p> <p>Explanatory.</p> <p>Explanatory.</p> <p>Explanatory.</p>

Critical Analysis	Rough Sermon Outline
<p><b>ch. IV. INTERPRETATION</b></p> <p><b>I. Rules for Interpretations of a text.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is a literal text.</li> <li>2. The words need no defining.</li> <li>3. NA</li> <li>4. The analogy of faith.</li> <li>5. NA</li> </ol> <p><b>II. Sources for Interpretation of the text.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The text teaches exactly what it says.</li> <li>2. Context is plain and simple.</li> <li>3. Parallel passages.</li>   <li>4. Resources outside of the text.</li> </ol> <p><b>ch. V. THE THEME</b></p> <p><b>I. BY WAY OF SUGGESTIONS.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I know my theme thoroughly.</li> <li>2. People will readily understand the theme.</li> <li>3. Considered.</li> <li>4. Definite Aim.</li>   <li>5. I am in accord and believe in my theme.</li> <li>6. It is suitable to time, place, and occasion.</li> </ol> <p><b>ch. VI. GATHERING SERMON MATERIAL.</b></p> <p><b>I. THE GATHERING OF MATERIALS.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Considered.</li> <li>2. Considered.</li> <li>3. Considered.</li> <li>4. What have I gathered on this subject?</li> </ol> <p><b>ch. VII. SERMON MATERIAL ARRANGING IT</b></p> <p><b>I. THERE ARE CERTAIN ADVANTAGES IN THE ARRANGEMENT OF SERMON MATERIAL.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Considered.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Ro 3:23, 24; 5:8; 6:23; 10:13</b></p> <p><b>OT passages- Children of Israel in Num 21:6-9; Abraham in Gen 15:16; Nineveh in Jonah 3:5-10</b></p> <p>Commentaries by: Mathew Henry; Jamieson, Fausset, &amp; Brown</p> <p><b>Salvation of the lost and Encouragement to the Saved to Win Souls.</b></p> <p>Salvation of the lost &amp; encouragement to the believer.</p>  <p><b>John 3:16</b> by Kuhn  <b>Is John 3:16 the Gospel?</b> by David Pawson</p>

2. Considered.

3. Considered.

4. In accord with the needs of the Theme.

## **II. CHARACTERISTICS AND QUALITIES OF A GOOD ARRANGEMENT.**

1. One Theme.

2. etc.

3. etc.

## **III. THE ARRANGEMENT ITSELF**

Considered.

### **ch. VIII. THE SERMON ITSELF**

#### **A. THE INTRODUCTION**

##### **I. PURPOSE OF AN INTRODUCTION**

Considered.

1. etc.; etc.

2. etc.; etc.

3. etc.; etc.

etc.; etc.

etc.; etc.

**List each point in the textbook on through to the end of it and make appropriate comments in your critique of your outline and appropriate entries in your Rough Outline in the right-hand column of this page.**

**You will then use the Rough Outline to compose your Final Outline.**

**This Critical Analysis/Rough Outline page and your Final Outline must all be submitted to the college for assessment. You must submit all of these and then complete any rewrites required by the college before this lesson is considered completed. After you have completed all of these, you will then be allowed to take your test for this Lesson.**

**You will not take your Final Test in this course until you have completed this sermon assignment and all following assignments.**

After you have completed your Critical Analysis/Rough Outline and your Final Outline assignments and submitted them and received notice that they had been accepted, then you may click the red bar below to return to the course main page to take the test for this Lesson.