

Practical Ministry at the Chapel

Summer Preaching Series
Chapel Elders

Russ Kennedy

Series Introduction

- Purpose
 - The aim of this series will be to explain how we take the Scriptures and turn them into the ministry we do here at the Chapel.
- Objectives
 - To ground the ministry in the Word of God
 - To explain how the ministries we do are derived from the Word
 - To show how we work out doing ministry by wisdom
 - To give each ministry an opportunity to lay out its mission, vision, objectives and goals.

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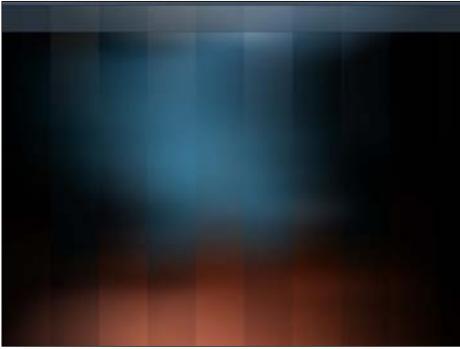
Date	Title	Speaker
June 4	The Public Ministry of the Word	Russ Kennedy
June 11	The Personal Ministry of the Word	Greg Cook
June 18	Spiritual Development and Education	Chad Bresson
June 25	Evangelism: To the Neighborhoods	Dan Turner
July 2	Missions: To the Nations	Dan Turner
July 9	<i>Annual Church Picnic</i>	
July 16	Ministry to Youth	Devon Berry
July 23	Spiritual Formation and Education	Dale Evans
July 30	Finances: Stewardship, Faithfulness, Integrity	Russ Kennedy
August 6	Flocks: Shepherds and Sheep	Russ Kennedy

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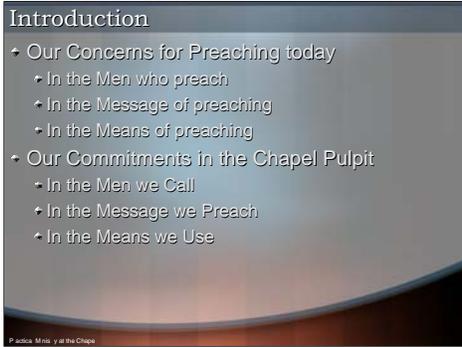
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The Chapel Pulpit

Colossians 1:21-2:7

Russ Kennedy



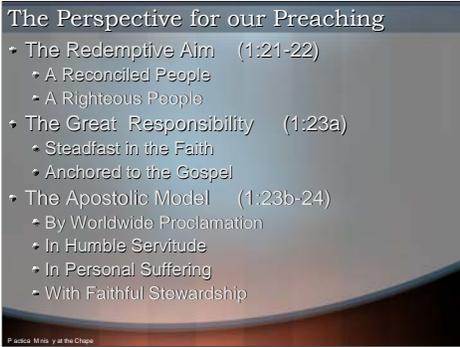
Introduction

Our Concerns of Preaching today

- In the Men who preach
 - Pastors who are not biblically qualified for office.
 - Pastors who have become professionals (Piper's *Gentlemen, We Are Not Professionals*).
 - Pastors who are preaching without the requisite teaching abilities or gifts.
- In the Message of preaching
 - The gospel has largely been abandoned for substitutes.
 - The gospel has largely been adulterated with errors.
- In the Means of preaching
 - Many preachers today are doing entertainment than exposition.
 - Many expositors today are doing exegesis (parsing the grammar) than exposition (explaining the flow of the text).

Our Commitments to the Chapel Pulpit

- In the Men we Call
 - We will call men who are trained for the eldership through practical serving in the church.
 - We will call men who are tested for biblical qualifications.
 - We will invite men as guest speakers who are trusted and tested.
- In the Message we Preach
 - We will preach Christ as central to all that it means to be a Christian.
 - We will preach the Gospel holding fast to all that it means.
 - We will preach the Bible from cover to cover.
- In the Means we Use
 - Proclamation - We will preach with an authority derived from God and the Word.
 - Purity - We will preach the truth with clarity in language, conviction in tone and a call to respond.
 - Passion – We will preach in way that convinces and convicts because we believe what we say.



The Perspective for our Preaching

The Redemptive Aim (1:21-22)

- A Reconciled People
God's redemptive work aims to bring His people back into relationship with Himself.
- A Righteous People
God's redemptive work aims to make His people holy in character and conduct.

The Great Responsibility (1:23a)

The redemptive work is accomplished if and when God's people are:

- Steadfast in the Faith
Through the exhortation and warning to continue comes the enabling grace to continue.
The emphasis here is not on the act of believing, but on the content of what is believed – it is *the faith*.
- Anchored to the Gospel
When God's people are steadfast in the faith they will be anchored to the truth that is the gospel.
When God's people are anchored to the gospel, then their hope is secured and sure.
The grave danger when we are not steadfast in the faith and thus have the true gospel is that we will then begin to lose our hope and confidence in the saving work of our Redeemer and Ruler.



The Perspective for our Preaching (cont.)

The Apostolic Model (1:23b-25)

Since this is Paul's concern, notice his commitment which shapes and serves us.

- By Worldwide Proclamation

The gospel truth that will convert and transform people will be and has been preached throughout the world.

- In Humble Servitude

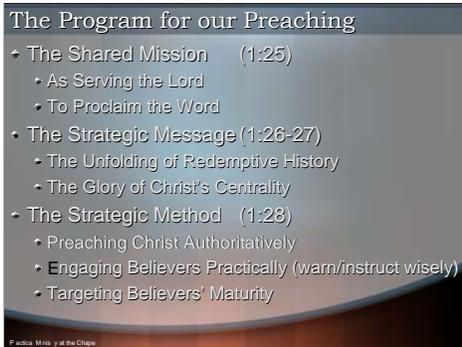
Paul has been brought by His King into the service of proclaiming the gospel. It is an honor and privilege to be the gospel slave of God.

- In Personal Suffering

The ministry of the gospel involves suffering and hardship, not ease, wealth and status.

- With Faithful Stewardship

The ministry of the gospel is a stewardship – we have been entrusted with the truth, what are we doing with it?



The Program for our Preaching

The Shared Mission (1:25)

- As Serving the Lord

We are serving the Lord and His agenda. God has determined what and how He will bring to completion the redemptive work in His people.

- To Proclaim the Word

Not just to confirm categories, but to “make the Word fully known”. We preach the maximum amount of truth to the maximum number of people.

The Significant Message (1:26-27)

Two key elements make up the core of the program for preaching.

- The Unfolding of Redemptive History (v.26)

The whole message of the Bible from beginning to end as a redemptive theology about a Redeeming God who redeems His people over time and history.

- The Glory of Christ's Centrality (v.27)

At the center of the Bible and thus our preaching, ought to be the Lord Jesus. Who is the Bible about? The Lord.

The Strategic Method (1:28)

So, how will this be done? What is the strategic method?

- Preaching Christ Authoritatively

As a herald proclaiming the King's love for His Son and His people, Christ is preached.

- Engaging Believers Practically

People are warned and instructed wisely. Who is Jesus, what does it mean and how must we then believe, desire, act and feel. It is pointed and practical.

- Targeting Believers' Maturity

The aim is not merely information, but maturity. Maturity is achieved with truth is believed in such a way that it is acted on.

The Pattern for our Preaching

- In the Toil of Ministry (1:29)
 - We are at Work
 - God is at Work
- In the Concerns in Ministry (2:1)
- In the Objectives for Ministry (2:2-3)
 - Encouragement in Hearts
 - Unity in Love
 - Confidence in Truth
- In the Challenge to Ministry (2:4)

The Pattern for our Preaching

In the Toil of Ministry (1:29)

- We are at Work

The ministry is hard work at which we toil mightily

- God is at Work

We work hard because God is at work in us enabling our labors.

In the Concerns in Ministry (2:1)

Concern for the ones being preached to is expressed in terms of *inward struggle*.

In the Objectives for Ministry (2:2-3)

- Encouragement in Hearts

Saints sitting under a biblical ministry aiming to mature them will have encouraged hearts.

- Unity in Love

Through preaching, the building up of the faith, the body of truth commonly held, brings true unity in love. Error divides, truth unites as it instills love for God and others.

- Confidence in Truth

This is having a confidence that what is known and understood is true. Christ-centered preaching aims to give confidence in the gospel.

In the Challenge to Ministry(2:4)

Preaching should be so clear, concise and convicting that it prepares people to resist plausible arguments to the contrary.

Mission and Vision

↳ Mission

- The Chapel Pulpit will systematically declare the whole counsel of God through the Bible saturated, Christ centered, Spirit enabled, Scripturally expositional preaching by godly men aimed at bringing people to maturity in Christ.

↳ Vision

- Our vision is to work out both the large picture and the immediate texts in Holy Spirit enabled exposition and application in the public and private ministry of the Word of God.

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Objectives and Goals (1)

Content - Getting it Right

- Truth – Holding the Line

We will stay in the line of Scripture, not adding to nor taking away. We will strive to be true to what the text says and intends

- Themes – Listening to the Symphony

We will speak in harmony with the large themes of the Scripture recognizing that God gave us a book in the shape and form that it is in. Our emphasis will be on the developing of a Canonical Theology.

- Texts – Following Melodic Lines

We will sing the song the text does. We will take larger sections so that we can follow the thoughts of the author. We will avoid micromanaging the text. We do paragraph by paragraph exposition.

- Telos – Submitting to Intent

We use the text the way the author intended. We will strive to bow to the text's agenda and not impose our own or use the text to serve our agenda.

- Trajectory – Pointing to Christ

We will see Christ through the text as the author and text intend. We will guard against "Jesus under every bush" while savoring His glory everywhere it is.

- Type – Observing the Literature

We will preach the literature of the Bible as it is. Our preaching will be different when we are in different types of Scripture: narrative, poetry, prophesy, epistles, doctrinal. We affirm that the form of the message as well as the content of the message are inspired.

- Terrain – Mapping the Contours

In our preaching we will follow the text's own structures. In studying and preaching, we will have our terrain following systems tuned high.

- Texture – Feeling the Affections

We will aim to resonate with the text. We will not preach in a dry, distanced academic tone. We will say what we are saying with the affections and emotions in the text itself.

- Tone – Speaking in its Voice

We will talk like the text does. We will be story-like in narratives. We will be authoritative where there are imperatives. We will talk in the voice the Scripture is.

- Travel – Getting from Then to Now

We will aim to get our travel instructions from the text itself. We aim to help bring the text to you and you to the text.



Objectives and Goals (2)

Content – Getting it Right

Communication – Getting it Across

- Authority – Speaking for God

We aim to speak with the authority of God. We are not having a conversation, making suggestions, giving optional counsel – preaching is the one way declaration of Word and Spirit.

- Humility – Depending on the Spirit

We will humble ourselves under our Redeemer and Ruler so that our authority is not arrogance. We will bow with joy to God and His Word so that we are utterly dependent on the Spirit for the power in our preaching and for our listeners.

- Charity – Loving the Listener

We will preach as Shepherds to the sheep, loving you with all we are. We will then bring the Scriptures with life and love so that even the hard medicines are balms in Gilead.

- Clarity – Making it Clear

We will preach in a way and with words that make the text clear. Our eloquence is the beauty of Christ, the truth of the Word, the grandness of the gospel described. We intend for what is in the Bible to become clear in your hearts.

- Accessibility – Keeping it Simple

We will preach in a way that makes the text simpler, not more complicated. We aim to take the difficult and obscure because of culture and distance and open the door so that you will be able to understand it.

- Connectability – Rising from the Text

We will preach so that what we say is obvious from the text we are preaching. We will pull no exegetical rabbits out of the original language hat. We will preach in such a way that you will be able to see how we got and learn how to get it for yourself.

- Visibility – Seeing through Illustration

We will use illustrations to illustrate. We will use them to help incarnate texts, to make them living and alive. We will do what the incarnation has done: the Word, the Lord Jesus, has become flesh,

- Practicality – Applying its Sense

We will aim to apply the text. We will not shift the meaning or the purpose of the text through application. The text is its own application. It was meant in its original giving to teach and transform the hearer and reader. Our application will be right from the text itself.



Objectives and Goals (3)

Content – Getting it Right

Communication – Getting it Across

Connection – Getting it Through

We aim to pierce the heart through our preaching to bring transformation in our beliefs and desires, our actions and affections. In doing so, these series of couplets express our desire to bring the message of the Scriptures in the midst of the mess.

- Instruction and Incarnation
Teaching that has flesh and blood in it.
- Truth and Doing
Doctrine that has action from it.
- Principle and Practice
Principles that have practice aim..
- Faith and Love
All that matters is love working by faith.
- Wisdom and Walk
Marrying the Word to life that has feet to it.



Agenda and Development

Explain – Teaching through the whole Bible

- Extended Planning
Thinking long term trajectories
- Expected Flexibility
Responding to immediate needs and issues

Enable – Teaching capable men

- Public Instruction
Classes, preaching and modeling
- Personal Interaction
Discipleship, challenging, practice

Engage – Thinking about issues deeply

- Reading widely
Where are the doctrinal and practical issues coming from and what will they be?
- Responding wisely
Interacting with issues in a careful, Biblical, and measured way.

Entrust – Transferring to the next generation

- Growing individually
An environment for the next generation to reach maturity
- Giving intentionally
Handing over the responsibilities with design and intent.



Practical Implementation (2)

Scheduling

Scheduling

- Fulfilling Responsibility
 - Every 18 months, each elder will:
 - Contribute one Series – Book or Portion
 - Contribute one Sermon – Topic or Issues
- Designing Series
 - Individual
 - Each elder proposes their series and plan the theme, purpose and outline
 - Collaborative
 - An elder proposes and manages the series, planning the theme, purpose and outline.
 - Administrative
 - Pastor Russ proposes and manages the series, planning the theme, purpose and outline.
- Assigning Texts
 - Given
 - Assigned by aptitude, background, skill or experience
 - Taken
 - Voluntary – “Who wants it?” “I will take it...”



Practical Implementation (3)

Training

- Observing Chapel Preaching
 - Getting it Right
 - Getting it Across
- Instruction in Elder's Meetings
 - Text a Month
 - Lucas Lessons
- Critique by Others
 - Primarily by Preaching Elder
- Growth through Development
 - Workshop on Exposition

Conclusion

- Exalts Christ
- Exposits Scripture
- Enables ministry
- Encourages believers
- Evangelizes the lost

Practical Ministry at the Chapel

Conclusion

The Chapel pulpit will be filled with preaching that:

Exalts Christ

Exposits Scripture

Enables ministry

Encourages believers

Evangelizes the lost