

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EXPOSITORY PREACHING AND ITS IMPLICATION
FOR CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN PREACHERS

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ABSTRACT

The place of expository preaching in the ministry of Christian community is very crucial. This study considered the significance of expository preaching and its implication for contemporary Christian preachers. Though, there are diverse preachers with different preaching styles in the community today, these preaching were carried out through different means or ways like radio, newspapers, and televisions. But it seems that there is no effect of this preaching in the lives of their hearers because most of these preachers are not preaching expositoryly, that is, they do not delve deep into what the Bible really means or intends. Rather they were peripheral in their interpretation of the Bible. This has been a problem that demands an urgent solution. The researcher discovered that expository preaching would be a solution to the problem. This was traceable to the fact that the type of preaching that carries the force of divine impartation was expository preaching. To achieve the objective of this work, the researcher consulted relevant scholarly materials such as text books, journals, periodical, dictionaries and internet sources on relevant literature was added. Major findings revealed that, the need for expository preaching involves the prevailing lack of Bible-centered emphasis on the pulpit, the current movement toward ecumenicity, worldliness and powerlessness of the church and the growth of secularism and threat of communism. Expository preaching is biblical. Jesus Christ used the prophet Isaiah to describe his own ministry. Stephen's Martyrdom sermon of Acts 7 is an exposition of Old Testament history, interpreted and applied. The goal of expository preaching is to expose the total meaning of the Bible to the hearers. Hence, the researcher recommends that Christian preachers should crave more for the indwelling power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they should endeavour to consult up-to-date study materials. Various theological institutions should ensure that expository preaching is included in their curriculum. Christian ministers fellowship should be organising seminars on exposition preaching on regular basis. The Nigerian Baptist Convention should develop some guidelines on expository preaching and Christian ministers of the Gospel should try to go for more academic degrees. The preaching of expository preaching from the Christian preachers to the listeners and readers should bring positive changes to the lives of the people and preachers' ministries.

5.2 CONCLUSION

Crime and immorality, hypocrisy and worldliness which have swept into the church today has paralyzed spiritual life and robbing it of its dynamic to challenge and appeal to the unsaved. Also, the modern ecumenical movement and the prevailing lack of a Bible-centered emphasis on the pulpit call for the need of the expository preaching in the contemporary age.

A preacher of the Word of God must be a disciple of Christ and genuinely called into the ministry of expository preaching before he can be a devoted servant of God. He must be ready to obey closely every instruction in the Bible and walking daily in sanctification until all in him is sufficient to preach to people around him. The Word to be preached can only be inspired by the Holy Spirit, and it is the same Spirit that opens the hearts of the hearers to God's disclosure of himself through the preached Word. If the preacher is spiritually prepared, the sermon will have a great impact on the audience.

To this end, effective interpretation of the Word of God cannot be done without the divine inspiration, sound education and acquisition of necessary study materials. However, putting together of all these leads to the achievement of in-depth

knowledge of the Word of God. So, expository preaching demands much of the preacher who will severely expose the total meaning of the Bible to the hearers.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Having examined the significance of expository preaching and its implication for contemporary Christian preachers, the following recommendations are hereby found to be inevitable for effective expository preaching among the contemporary Christian preachers:

- (1) Contemporary Christian preachers should crave more for the indwelling power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit in order to expose the hidden truth in the Word of God.
- (2) Contemporary Christian ministers should endeavour to consult up-to-date study materials that would help them understand the root of some lexical items and other necessary biblical details in the course of their preparation for preaching.
- (3) Various theological institutions should ensure that expository preaching is included in their curriculum in order to inculcate into their students the culture of deeper study and expository preaching of the Bible.
- (4) Christian ministers' fellowships should be organising seminars on expository preaching on regular basis which should be handled by seasoned Bible expositors.
- (5) The Nigerian Baptist Convention (NBC) should develop some guidelines on expository preaching that would motivate its ministers on how to preach expositively.
- (6) Individual Christian ministers of the Gospel should go for more academic degrees that would offer them good opportunities of becoming more

knowledgeable in the Word of God, and better expositors in their preaching ministry.