Expositional Preaching

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What Should I preach, and when?

Time Lapse

"I want to preach the whole counsel of God, but that's a pretty big counsel. How do I start, and is there a tool I can use to keep me on track?"

- The principle to follow is to consistently expose yourself and the congregation you serve to all the different genres (types of writing) in Scripture. This way you won't get stuck preaching Ephesians three times in five years.

- Develop a pattern that consistently alternates between Old Testament and New Testament, and is evenly dispersed among all types of literature found in the Bible.

The Benefits Package

Benefits of long term sermon planning

- Frees the pastor from the anxiety and enslavement of Saturday Night Fever.

- Frees the congregation from the hobbyhorse doctrines and topics of the pastor.

- Increases the pastor's breadth of Scriptural knowledge, and therefore the congregation's cover-to-cover familiarity with their own Bibles.

- Increases the likelihood that the pastor will preach the whole counsel of God over the span of his tenure as the teaching shepherd of a local congregation.

- Increases the pastor's confidence before God that he has been faithful to discharge his God given task on the day of accountability **(Heb 13:17).**

Cleaning out the Skeptic Tank

- "Yeah, those are great benefits. But what about leaving room for the Spirit to work? Doesn't all this prior preparation squelch out the freedom of the Spirit to act through our spontaneity? Isn't spontaneity more likely to be flexible enough both to meet the sudden needs of the congregation and to allow the Spirit free reign in our ministries?"

- The Spirit can work just as well through our planning as He can through our spontaneity. And the latter is often no more than a euphemism for our own laziness anyway.

- This kind of long-term intentionality helps us to keep ourselves accountable for feeding people a balanced expositional diet composed of all the Scriptural food groups over the course of our service among them