



- ✘ Important Considerations from Great Preachers
  - + John Stott, *Between Two Worlds*.
  - + Objection 1: the current culture hates authority. So certain people object to expository sermons.
    - ✘ Answer: Good preaching proclaims the wonderful indicatives of Scripture rather than moralistic checklists.
    - ✘ If people understand the indicatives, they will have less of a problem with the imperatives.
  - + Objection 2: University education is dialogical. Students can interrupt professors and ask questions. Thus, this culture will never tolerate a sermon.
    - ✘ Answer: Good preaching is dialogical, but in a different way. It anticipates questions and objections, and answers them. This creates an inner dialog in the listener.
  - + Objection 3: Cybernetic problem (TV and attention spans).
    - ✘ Answer: The divine component will overcome this.



- ✘ Important Considerations from Great Preachers
  - + Stott Continued.
  - + The preacher must understand the key issues of our day.
    - ✘ They must live in two worlds: the ancient biblical world and the present world. They must bridge the two together. This means they must be citizens of both.
  - + Priority must be on theology, not technique.
    - ✘ The secret to effective communication with the current world comes not from mastering certain techniques, but instead comes from the preacher being mastered by certain convictions (92).



- ✘ Important Considerations from Great Preachers
  - + John Piper, *Supremacy of God in Preaching*
  - + Piper captures the gravity of preaching.
    - ✘ "When I preach, the everlasting destiny of sinners hangs in the balance! (61)."
    - ✘ It is also the means that God uses to keep the saints within their salvation (64).
  - + Quote from the biblical text again and again.
    - ✘ Reading it at the beginning isn't enough. Keep making them look at it. Tell them, "look at the text."
    - ✘ As you move from verse to verse, keep having them read it. Let God talk. If you read a block, and then explain, they will not know what verse you are explaining.
    - ✘ If at any time the listeners don't know where in the text you are at, you have already failed.



- ✘ Important Considerations from Great Preachers
  - + T. David Gordon, *Why Johnny Can't Preach*
  - + Unique perspective since he is a media ecologist.
  - + It is not diminished attention spans that are the problem (TV, internet, smart devices, etc.). The problem is the current state of preachers.
    - ✘ The average seminarian enters seminary with the writing skills of a 6<sup>th</sup> grader from 1914.
    - ✘ The end result is sermons are disorganized and powerless musings of preachers whose message is devoid of the Holy Spirit and divine Scripture.
  - + People will not follow along with disorganization. They will tune out.



- × Important Considerations from Great Preachers
  - + Gordon continued.
  - + He makes the strong case that the length of the sermon is irrelevant.
    - × When something is well done, people get caught up in it and lose any sense of the passage of time.
    - × “I realized that sermon length is not measured in minutes; it is measured in minutes-beyond-interest, in the amount of time the minister continues to preach after he has lost the interest of his hearers (31).”
  - + If a preacher follows the principles laid out – unifier, supported points, illustrations, application, constantly asking the listeners to read the text again and again – then the audience will lose sense of time.



- × Important Considerations from Great Preachers
  - + Mark Dever and Greg Gilbert, *Preach: Theology Meets Practice*.
  - + Theology must be the focus of all sermons.
    - × Not technique, innovation, etc.
  - + Remember 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
    - × Paul divides the four things the Word of God does into two categories: doctrinal instruction and ethical instruction.
    - × Teaching and reproof deal with doctrinal instruction. One is positive and one is negative.
    - × Correction and training in righteousness deal with ethical instruction. Again, one is negative and the other is positive.



## × Conclusion

- + Putting together a sermon requires a lot of thought and intentionality. This is the difference between a disjointed waste of everyone's time, or a prophetic word that will change lives.
- + There are two things I want you to take away.
  - × Speak with a prophetic edge. It is the Word of God. You are His mouthpiece to this generation. But also use wisdom and sensitivity.
  - × If people are ever unsure of where you are in your text, you failed. Organization is more important than people realize.



## DELIVERY

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## ✘ A few considerations

### + Style

- ✘ Was articulate; phrasing was fresh, vivid, apt
- ✘ Used proper grammar; short sentences; simple words; active voice
- ✘ Was appropriate for this audience, speaker, and text

### + Delivery

- ✘ Forceful, natural, spontaneous, varied
- ✘ Projected intensity, energy, conviction, sincerity, and earnestness
- ✘ Were there any particular speaking elements or mannerisms that you feel the preacher should know about? (e.g., distractions, inadequate volume, lack of clarity of speech, etc.)



## ✘ These are specific things to look for in delivery:

- + Voice (clarity, projection, easily understood)
- + Rate of speaking
- + Pronunciation, grammar
- + Ease of communication
- + Posture
- + Gestures



- ✘ What do you go up there with?
  - + Manuscript
  - + Notes
  - + Outline
  - + Scooping
  - + Nothing
- ✘ It depends
  - + The speaker
  - + The audience
  - + The purpose
  - + Some people are wrongly dogmatic on this.

### C. Dynamic delivery diagram worksheet

Make a copy of this page, grab someone who's willing to listen to you, and ask them to plot the line they hear as you deliver a sermon. (It's kind of tricky to draw a 3D plot on a piece of paper, so they'll need to use their imagination... but they'll soon get the idea.) Alandon your natural embarrassment and challenge your listener to travel to the outer reaches of the margin!

