

# Keep It Short

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Preaching and teaching are a huge and complicated topics. There are many and various ways to learn how to preach and teach. There are plenty of books, tapes and videos. But like swimming, cooking and riding a bicycle -- you learn best by doing. And like most things in life it takes practice to bring improvement.

The bad news is that there are very few opportunities for a seminary student or graduate to express these gift of God. And let us be frank many people feel that most sermons are boring and too long. So if the three minute times governed the person that controlled the sound on the mike then there would be  $60+60+60=180$  seconds until the mike was turned off.

That is enough time to make one point very well. Most messages do not have such a narrow focus. So the following lists are provided to provide the spark that will ignite the fire. These tiny units are the 'nuts and bolts' of biblical Christianity. These are the simple elements that hold the big ideas together. These are like the nails, screws, nuts, bolts boards, tiles and bricks that make up a building. With these units ready to roll a preacher or teacher can bring a message on very short notice, plus spice up a longer Bible study.

A three-minute message needs to be based on a simple text. That can be verse of scripture or one of the following sayings. Note that if you listen carefully you will find that often the lessons that a person's parent or grandparent that stuck with them for decades was summarized in just a few words. They may say "my mother always said ..." or "The most important lesson I learned from my grandfather was ...". Those few words are still guiding their thoughts words, deeds, priorities, commitments, relationships, etc.

You can wrap a powerful message around these seed ideas. You can bring new light to familiar phrases. You can drive a small point home deeply. You can give them a richer frame of reference for the next times they here these words together.

Also it is probable that a minister could easily preach or teach for much more than three minutes on the inspiration that comes from just one of these. Go ahead and prepare as the Holy Sprit leads you. Knock for God to open those doors in due season.

Plus you could string together several of these short topics into lovely messages of any length.

A minister may be called upon to teach or preach on short notice. So they can have a batch of these brief messages in their heart, mind and files. They could round out the message with a) a personal testimony b) quotable quotes that you can get on the Web and c) illustrations that you can get from a good reference book on biblical illustrations.

There may be times when a minister just cannot come up with an idea for a sermon or a series of lessons. So they could use the following to spark their thinking.

## **BIBLE VERSES**

Love One Another

The Lord is my shepherd

Jesus is Lord

Serve the Lord with gladness

Praise the Lord

Hide the Word in your heart

Fear the Lord

Ask for Wisdom

Cast your burden on the Lord

Humble yourself before the Lord

God is faithful

The Lord will never leave you or forsake you

Preach the Word

God so love the world

Without faith it is impossible to please God

The grace of God is sufficient

Bless the Lord

Fear not

Study to show yourself approved unto God

Flee temptation

Submit to God

Call upon the Lord

Keep yourself from idols

Go ye therefore

Make disciples

Eat His Body

Drink His Blood

Take up your cross

Deny yourself

Walk in the spirit

Abide in the vine

Fight the good fight

Run with patience the race

Strive to enter the rest

Wait on the Lord

In the world but not of it

Die to self

Hate sin

Offer your body a living sacrifice

Choose one of the beatitudes

Choose one of the Ten Commandments

Choose one phrase of the Lord's Prayer

Choose one phrase of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm or other popular portion of the Scripture

### **BIBLICAL CONCEPTS**

Trust Jesus

Pray hard

Give God ALL the glory

Have faith in God

Receive the gift of God

Look unto Jesus

Hate sin while loving the sinner

The One who knows us the best, loves us the most

God is one in essence while three in persons.

Come away and find rest in Jesus.

Get right with God

Thank You Jesus

God answers prayer

Prayer changes things

God loves you

God is with you

Rest in the Lord

I have a home in Heaven

I will live forever with Jesus

Jesus is coming back soon

Forgive those who have sinned against you

Jesus Christ was the substitutionary sacrifice

You cannot hide from God.

Follow Jesus

Becoming Christ-like

Redeem the time

Lay down your life for your friend

Faith alone in Christ alone

## **SONG LYRICS**

God is good all the time.  
All the time God is good.

Choose one stanza (or a part of one) from a familiar hymn or praise song

Amazing Grace  
A Mighty Fortress is Our God  
What a Friend We Have in Jesus  
Old Rugged Cross  
Just as I am

Choose the title to a familiar or unfamiliar hymn or Christian song  
What a Friend We Have in Jesus

## **MODERN PROVERBS**

Doubt your doubts

Love people and use things (not the other way around)

Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable

Sorry looks back.  
Worry looks around.  
Faith looks up.

The quickest way to feel rich; is to figure out what you can do without.

You will never be the same

In God we trust

Together we stand, divided we fall

Let Go and Let God

## **MANY MORE**

There are many more sparks for messages on this blog  
<http://biblicalblogshub.blogspot.com/>