

Exalting Christ Conference 2016

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Steps of Exegesis to Exposition

1. Prepare your own heart and mind spiritually for a submissive study of the Word from the LORD to be preached/taught.
2. Familiarize yourself with the genre and historical background of the bible book under study.
 - a. Read historical background sections in reputable trustworthy commentaries
 - b. Read bible dictionaries and Encyclopedias
 - c. Read bible introductions
 - d. Consider specialized works as necessary
 - i. Manners and Customs of the Bible
 - ii. Genres of the Bible (samples would include the following)
 1. *Cracking Old Testament Codes* by Sandy & Giese
 2. *New Testament Exegesis* by Gordon Fee
3. Read the entire book in one sitting repeatedly both in English and in Greek, or Hebrew taking into account key observations.
4. Develop a flow-chart diagram of the entire book to gain an understanding of the general flow of the argument of the book and how each section contributes to that argument.
5. Determine how your passage appears to fit into the purpose of the book, its argument, the flow of the immediate contextual thought, as well as the broader contextual thought (see your flow-chart).
6. Ensure that the reading of the original text is correct.
 - a. Read several English translations (NASB, ESV, NIV)
 - b. Read the textual apparatus of your Greek, or Hebrew text.
 - c. Read textual critical works on your text (comparative works on bible versions and manuscripts, early church fathers, etc.)
7. Prepare a translation of your text under study.
 - a. Employ a Greek, or Hebrew lexicon to aid with vocabulary that you still do not understand, or terms with ranges of meaning that are unclear.
 - b. Read and re-read the text and your translation to ensure that the translation really does reflect the text under study.
8. For a didactical text, diagram the text with particular attention given to the syntactical relationship of each of the words of the text. For a narrative text, create a

block diagram of the text taking into account the shifts in scenes indicated by the syntactical and/or lexical features employed by the author.

9. Read reputable conservative exegetical commentaries on your text under study with a view to comparing your observations and questions to those observed and answered by the commentators. You will find that you never discover everything on your own. ☺
10. Based upon the textual translation, textual reading, textual diagram, and the reading of other solid conservative exegetical commentaries about the text under study, craft a list of lexical terms and syntactical relationships that need further thought and consideration, questions that need answering, problems that need resolution.
11. With help from reputable trustworthy commentators, define the contextual meaning of key lexical terms that have arisen out of the study up to this point (Do a lexical study).
12. With help from reputable trustworthy commentators, contextually define the significant syntactical relationships and questions that have arisen out of the study up to this point (Do a syntactical study)
13. With help from reputable trustworthy commentators, resolve interpretive problems in the context based upon considerations from your study of the contextual lexical meanings, contextual syntactical relationships, and historical background (Do a problem-solution for each).
14. Return to the initial diagram of the texts (step 7) to create a final diagram that reflects the final syntactical decisions of your study.
15. Harmonize conclusions from the study of the historical background, lexical study, and syntactical study into a synthesis that follows the outline of the final diagram, explains the text in its immediate context, and fits the argument of the larger context of the chapter, the section of chapters, and the book in general.
16. Define the exegetical outline of the text based upon the final diagram (step 13) and the harmonization of exegetical conclusions (step 14). See Kantenwein, *Diagrammatical Analysis (p79-106)* for sample sermonic outlining methodology.
17. Declare the Exegetical Proposition, the one singular point of the text (“Thus saith the LORD...”)
18. Define the universal truth of the text intended for the original recipients as well as the believer today. What does this text, in its context, teach concerning the Father, the Son, the Spirit and then how does that contextual-exegetical teaching transcend culture in its application and lead us to Christ and the exaltation of God today?

19. Declare the homiletical proposition. The homiletical proposition is derived from, and reflective of, the exegetical proposition (step 16) and universal truth (step 17). The homiletical proposition is the combination of the main exegetical point of the text with its contemporary application for the brethren telling them how the LORD would like to use the truth of the text under study in their lives.
20. Define the homiletical outline of the text. This outline is based upon the exegetical outline, but it is not the exegetical outline. The points of the exegetical outline must be converted to homiletical points for preaching without losing their original intent and significance. These points must be applicable to the brethren of the 21st century in a way that reflects the homiletical proposition, but yet is still meaningful and impactful to them.
21. Define the content to be preached. At this stage, you must determine what elements of historical background, lexical exegesis, syntactical exegesis, and problem solutions really need to be included in the sermon. You must answer the question, **what must I include in the sermon and what is not so important to include in order for the saints to concur with God's message**. You cannot, and should not, cram all of your exegesis into the sermon (you will not edify the brethren).
22. Write the conclusion of your sermon. This needs to recapitulate your homiletical proposition, main homiletical points, and the main application that flows from the text.
23. Write the introduction of your sermon. This introduction needs to foreshadow the proposition, main points, and the main application that flows from the text.
24. Establish the Title of your sermon.
25. Add illustrations. These illustrations must shed light on the truth of your points. They cannot distract from the truth of your points, or even worse they cannot serve as the source of your points.