

HOW TO PREPARE AND PRESENT A RELIGIOUS TALK

I. The Purpose of a Religious Talk

1. To arrest attention
2. To arouse interest
3. To give instruction
4. To convince the intellect
5. To stir the feelings
6. To influence the will
7. To inspire action

II. The Parts of a Religious Talk

1. The theme---subject or topic of the discourse
It should have the following characteristics:.....
 - (1) Clearness--the thought of the theme should be clear
 - (2) Propriety--of present interest
 - (3) Freshness
 - (4) Fullness

2. The statement of aim
This is primarily for the use of the speaker. It forces the speaker to be clear.

3. The central idea
The central idea must be wisely selected

Now to illustrate these parts let us notice the following:---

1. Subject----Justice
2. Statement of aim---you should be just
3. Central idea--- Justice means a clear conscience

4. The introduction
It has two objects:----
 - (1) To engage the interest of the hearers in the subject
 - (2) To prepare the minds of the hearers
 - a. To understand the truth which is to be presented
 - b. To appreciate its importance
 - c. To accept its conclusions

The introduction should be pertinent and brief.

5. The discussion----the body of the discourse
The divisions in it should be:----
 - (1) Clear--plain
 - (2) Proportionate---symmetrical
 - (3) Progressive---a positive advance as the talk proceeds

6. The conclusion
It merits the most careful preparation
It should include the following elements:----
 - (1) Recapitulation
 - (2) Application--Show how subject applies to persons addressed
 - (3) Appeal

A logical arrangement of the material prepared for a religious talk is of tremendous importance. It is of great importance:---

- (1) To the speaker
 - (2) To the people in the audience
- It is necessary if the talk is to be:---
- (1) Intelligible
 - Intelligibility depends on:--
 - a. Clear thinking b. Good arrangement
 - c. Perspicuous expression
 - (2) Instructive
 - (3) Impressive

III. The Presentation of a Religious Talk

- 1. Reading--have it written out in full and read it
- 2. Recitation--have it written in full and committed to memory
- 3. Extemporaneous speaking--have it prepared but not written out and appear before the audience with a manuscript or notes.
- 4. Use an outline which suggest the headings in a logical order.
- 5. Impromptu-- without any preparation

Regardless of the method of delivery, if the talk is to be effective, it should have the following elements:-----

- 1. Brevity--The more study there is the shorter the talk will be.
- 2. Sincerity
- 3. Simplicity
- 4. Sympathy

Now for some examples of religious talks of different types:---

I. A Topical Talk

The Arithmetic Of Full Salvation

- 1. Sin subtracted
- 2. Grace added
- 3. Gifts divided
- 4. Peace multiplied

II. A Textual Talk

Salvation.....John 6:47

- 1. A personal salvation..... "He"
- 2. A present salvation..... "Hath"
- 3. A permanent salvation..... "Everlasting"
- 4. A perfect salvation..... "Life"

III. An Expository Talk

The Story of Bartimaeus..... Mark 10:46-52

- 1. His condition...vs. 46
- 2. His circumstances...vs. 46
- 3. His courage.....vs. 47
- 4. His crisis.....vs. 48
- 5. His call....vs. 49
- 6. His conversion...vs. 50
- 7. His consecration.. vs. 52