



## SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORY PREACHING

### MESSAGE

You must prepare a sermonic message that is either expository (development of a particular passage) or topical (development of a topic from several passages). A focused topic will usually produce a stronger message than a broad or nebulous topic. You may seek assistance in selecting a passage or topic, but the sermon itself must be your own work. Plagiarism, close paraphrasing, or substantial borrowing of contents or ideas and representing them as your own work will result in disqualification. You must use a Bible; however, visuals (e.g., posters, charts, overhead transparencies) are not allowed. A lectern will be provided.

### OUTLINE

Type your outline on 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" x 11" white paper, single-spaced with double-spacing between major points. The outline must be no longer than two pages and must contain each major point and subpoint stated as a brief but complete sentence (not a topic outline).

1. Center your sermon title near the top of your paper. Type your name below your title.
2. Double space and type the word **THEME** followed by a colon; then type your theme sentence.

**Example for expository sermon from John 14:1-6:**

**THEME:** Jesus Christ is preparing a place in Heaven for believers.

**Example for topical sermon on purity:**

**THEME:** Christians must maintain purity in their lives.

3. Double space and type the word **INTRODUCTION** followed by a colon; then type your introduction word for word. The introduction should include your theme sentence.

4. Double space and begin your outline. You may have two to five main points, but three points are usually best. Each main point should have at least two subpoints.

5. All points should be written in complete sentences and should be parallel in construction.

### Not Parallel

- I. The description of Heaven
- II. We will see Jesus in Heaven.
- III. The only way to Heaven

### Parallel

- I. Jesus tells us what Heaven will be like (John 14:1, 2).
- II. Jesus tells us we will be with Him (John 14:3).
- III. Jesus tells us He is the only way to Heaven (John 14:4-6).

6. Illustrations should not be a main point or a subpoint. Put them in parentheses underneath the points they illustrate.

### Example

- I. Jesus tells us what Heaven will be like (John 14:1, 2).
  - A. Heaven is a beautiful place. (Illustration: million-dollar homes in our community)
  - B. Jesus is personally preparing Heaven for us. (Illustration: role of a finishing carpenter)

7. When your outline is complete, double space and type the word **CONCLUSION** followed by a colon. Type your conclusion word for word.

8. On the second page list the resources you used for the sermon. Title this page **BIBLIOGRAPHY** and use the proper format.

### Sample Book Entry

Dyet, James. *Understanding Salvation*. Schaumburg, Ill: Regular Baptist Press, 2005.

### Sample Magazine Entry

Webber, Gerald K. "The Emerging Church." *The Baptist Bulletin* (October 2005): 18-20.

### Sample Web Site Entry

Doerflinger, Richard M. "Medical Groups Begin Campaign for Lethal Embryo Research." June 1999. [www.nrlc.org/news/1999/NRL699/doer.html](http://www.nrlc.org/news/1999/NRL699/doer.html)

You must use at least five resources in addition to your Bible. These resources could be commentaries, Bible study tools, books on your topic, devotional

books, illustration or speaker quote books, or magazine articles. You may use Internet resources. However, exercise caution, and use only reliable resources.

## **PRESENTATION**

You may use a copy of your outline when preaching, but we discourage obvious dependence on the outline, which will result in a reduction of points for general delivery. You will find it helpful in your preparation to videotape your presentation so you can see and hear areas you need to improve (e.g., posture, gestures, vocal inflection).

## **TIME LIMIT**

Your message must be at least eight minutes, but no more than ten minutes, in length. At the end of nine minutes, the timekeeper will stand long enough to notify you that you have one minute to complete your sermon. At the end of ten minutes, the timekeeper will stand again. Any contestant using less than eight minutes or more than ten minutes will be disqualified.

## **IMPROMPTU SPEECH**

In addition to your prepared sermon, the judges will also ask you to speak impromptu for 90 seconds on a topic they choose. You will have 30 seconds to think about the topic before speaking. The timekeeper will stand at 60 seconds as an indication to wrap up your speech.

## **CHURCH MINISTRY**

To be eligible for state competition, you must give your sermon in your local church (or in some other ministry opportunity approved by your pastor). You must submit to the state judges a signed statement from your pastor or youth leader that you have done so.

## **STATE CONTEST**

Submit four copies of your sermon outline with the bibliography at the time specified by your state TFC director. You will receive your outline after the state contest and may correct and submit it for national competition.

## **NATIONAL CONTEST**

Each first- and second-place state winner intending to compete nationally must submit four copies of his sermon outline with bibliography to GARBC/TFC, 1300 N. Meacham Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60173-4806 by **June 1, 2007**.

## **ADJUDICATION AREAS**

*Theme*—significant; original; taken from the Scripture; not too broad or general; stated well

*Biblical content*—original message; Biblically accurate; shows investigation and knowledge; supporting material

*Arrangement and organization*—progression of ideas; transitions; balance of intellectual, emotional, and volitional elements

*Introduction and conclusion*—appropriate length; concise; effective

*Illustrations*—accurately applied; purposeful; balance between supporting material and remainder of content

*Style and articulation*—grammar; variety; correct pronunciation; vocal quality; breath control; variety in volume, rate, and pitch

*General delivery*—facial expressions; posture; mannerisms; gestures; sincerity; confidence; freedom from dependence on notes

*Impromptu speech*

*Outline and bibliography*—properly prepared, sufficient sources

*Appearance*—appropriate attire; good grooming