

# Agros

## Find, Train, Support

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Sermon Prep Workshop  
January 30, 2022  
Mound City, MO

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“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field,  
which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes  
and sells all the he has and buys that field.”

Matthew 13:44

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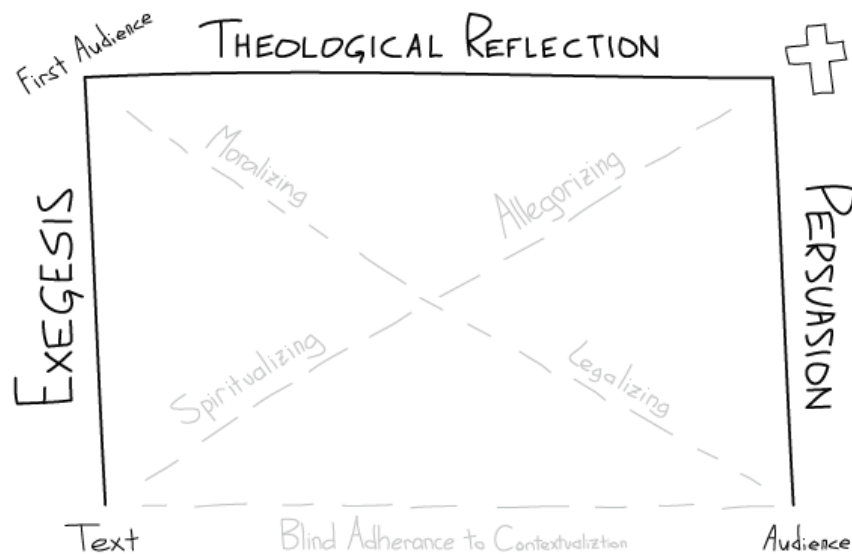
### Introduction

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Hello, brothers!

I'm eager for our fellowship around the Word of God this coming Saturday. May the Lord make it a morning of strengthening our resolve and skill in "doing the chores" of our Chief Shepherd. I pray that our confidence in and hunger for His Word will be deepened and that our love for his sheep will send us into even the smallest highways and hedges to feed them.

Because we believe that God's Word is the power of preaching—not human wisdom or enthusiasm—our aim in preaching is primarily to make God's Word clear. This belief about preaching is called "Expository Preaching." The diagram below is from a ministry called Simeon Trust, and it's a good overview of the steps for preparing an expository sermon. It begins on the bottom left at the Text, meaning a Bible passage. It then goes up through Exegesis to the First Audience. Next, it goes to the right through Theological Reflection to the Cross. And finally, it goes back down through Persuasion to our Audience. The dotted lines represent shortcuts that we want to practice avoiding. We might fail to give the rich food of God's Word to His sheep when we go straight from the Text to our Audience, from the Text to the Cross, or from the First Audience to our Audience. See if you can think of examples of those shortcuts to share.



For our workshop, we will try to follow these steps. In Session 1, we will practice Exegesis. In Session 2, we will define and practice Theological Reflection. In Sessions 3 and 4, we will practice different aspects of Persuasion. Sessions 1 and 2 focus more on getting the passage *right* for ourselves, and Sessions 3 and 4 focus more on getting the passage *across* to others. Since we are Christians fellowshipping, and not just men practicing a trade or a hobby, we hope to mix some prayer and singing into our time together as well.

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## Sermon Prep Workshop

### Session 1 “Exegesis” on 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

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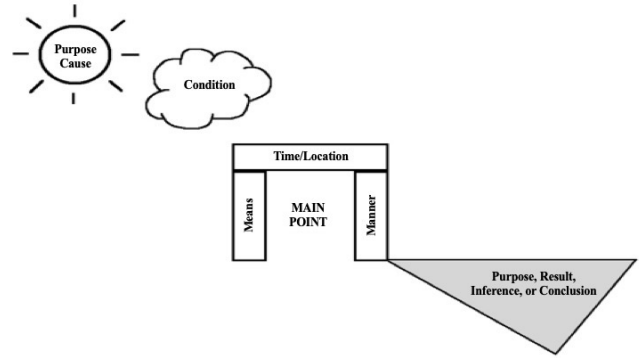
#### **1. With your group, make observations of the text below for 15 min.**

Have one member read the passage aloud while others take note of observations to share with the group. Repeat this process until time is up, stopping to make notations of your observations on the text. Consult the supplemental handout for the kinds of observations that can be made.

[1] For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. [2] But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. [3] For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, [4] but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. [5] For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. [6] Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. [7] But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. [8] So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

## 2. Write an exegetical outline in 15 min

Using the table below or the Jonah diagram (whichever is more helpful), have a group member read a clause from the passage and then discuss with your group how to classify it. If you discover a main point, write a summary of it next to a roman numeral below with the verse(s) reference in parentheses. If you discover a subordinate idea, write it beneath its main point, but indented to the right with its verse(s) reference in parentheses.



Type	Journalistic Question	Possible Examples
MAIN POINT	What?	Action verbs, commands, truths
Means/Manner	How?	By, through, with
Time/Location	When? Where?	When, after, before, beside, above, in
Reason/Cause	Why?	Because, for, since
Purpose/Result	Why?	That, so that, in order that, to
Inference/Conclusion	Why?	Therefore, thus, then, so
Condition	When?	If, unless, when, provide

I.

II.

III.

IV.

## 3. Write your Essence of the Text in a Sentence (ETS).

Combining 1. observations and 2. main points, summarize the argument of this passage to the original audience in one sentence of < 20 words. Do not simply summarize its topic, but what the author was *arguing about* that topic. Aim to be specific enough that your ETS could not come from another Bible passage. Share with your group and make any helpful adjustments.

## Different kinds of observations to make

### 1. Repetition of words

- How many times is the word repeated in this sentence?
- How many times is this word repeated in the wider context?
- Does the repeated word always serve the same function?
- Does the repeated word utilize the same meaning each time it occurs?

### 2. Contrasts

- What word signals the contrast?
- What ideas, people, or items are being contrasted?
- What differences are being pointed out?

### 3. Comparisons

- What ideas, people, or items are being compared?
- What similarities are being pointed out?

### 4. Lists

- How many items are in the list?
- What items are in the list?
- Is there any significance to how the items are organized into groups or a specific order?

### 5. Cause and Effect

- Does the cause have one effect or more than one?
- Which one is the cause and which one is the effect?

### 6. Figures of Speech

- What word or phrase is being used in a sense other than its normal, literal sense?
- What does the figure of speech add that a literal statement would not have?

### 7. Conjunctions

- What function does the conjunction serve? (Connecting: and; Contrasting: but; Concluding: therefore, so; Causing: for, because, since)

### 8. Verbs

- What is the tense of the verb? (present, past, future, perfect)
- What is the voice of the verb? (active, passive)
- Is the verb an imperative?
- Who is the subject of the verb?
- Does the verb have a direct object or an indirect object?

### 9. Pronouns

- What is the antecedent of the pronoun?
- Is the pronoun personal or possessive?
- What is the person (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>) and number (singular or plural) of the pronoun?

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## Sermon Prep Workshop

### Session 2 “Theological Reflection”

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#### **Definitions**

*Gospel Analogy:* A person, event, or object with traits/functions that foreshadow the gospel

*Typology:* A kind of Gospel Analogy that specifically foreshadows Jesus Christ

*Historical Trajectory/Themes:* Events/priorities that are repeated and built upon in the Bible

*Gospel-based Teaching:* Keeping gospel truths as the fundamentals of our obedience

*Gospel Aspects:* Truths that are closely related to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

#### **1. Practice identifying different types of theological reflection.**

As a group, read these passages and write down what theological reflection(s) applies to them.

Exo 20:16; Deu 19:16-21; Pro 19:5; Col 3:9-10... \_\_\_\_\_

Gen 22:9-13; Lev 16:20-22; Isa 1:11; John 1:29; Heb 9:11-14... \_\_\_\_\_

Exo 29:42-46; 1 Kin 6:11-14; Eze. 37:26-28; Rev 21:1-3... \_\_\_\_\_

Gen 7:4-7; Exo 14:26-29; 2 Kin 5:9-14; 1 Pet 3:18-22... \_\_\_\_\_

Heb 2:14-15; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Rom 8:34; 1 Pet 2:21-23... \_\_\_\_\_

#### **2. Identify relevant theological reflection for our passage.**

Have one member of your group read the passage aloud again, and then have each member read their ETS aloud. Afterward, discuss the following questions.

Since our passage is in the New Testament, will some theological reflections be more/less relevant than others? If so, which ones and why?

Are there any Old Testament Gospel Analogies or Typologies that our passage fulfills? If so, write a summary with the Scripture references.

Are there any Historical Trajectories or Themes in our passage that are repeated elsewhere in Scripture? If so, write a summary with the Scripture references.

Are there any commands in our passage that our teaching needs to connect to their gospel basis?

Does our passage refer to Christ's death/resurrection or indirectly through aspects of the gospel?

### 3. Reflect more deeply on Gospel-based Teaching.

With your group, list all of the explicit and implicit commands in your passage.

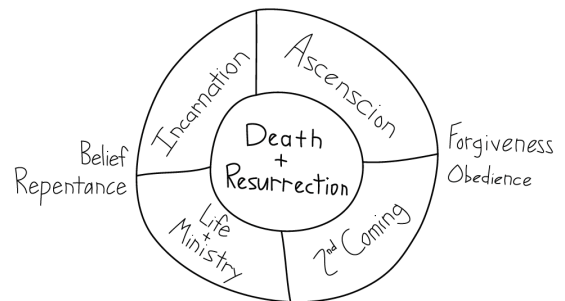
Discuss: What are some sinful or insufficient motives for obeying these commands? What are some false solutions to the problems that this passage brings up? Which ones are particularly tempting for you? For your church?

Discuss: Are any appropriate motives given in our passage? What are they? How do they confront our sinful motives or complete our insufficient motives? How are they connected to what God has accomplished in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

Discuss: Does this theological reflection add anything to your ETS? If so, write your new ETS below. If not, where would be a good place in your sermon to include these truths?

### 4. Reflect more deeply on Gospel Aspects.

Discuss: Is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ mentioned in our passage? If not, what aspect(s) of the gospel relates most closely to the truths in our passage?



Discuss: Does our passage contradict any doctrines that other Christians hold? Do we need to warn against a false doctrine? Reject one we've wrongly held? Can Christians disagree on this doctrine? Does it seem to contradict another Bible verse? If so, how do we resolve the tension?

Discuss: Does this theological reflection add anything to your ETS? If so, write your new ETS below. If not, where would be a good place in your sermon to include these truths?

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### Session 3 “Persuasion: Purpose and Structure”

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#### **1. Identify a Fallen Condition Focus (FCF) for the original audience.**

This is how you would summarize *why* this author wrote *these* truths to *this* audience. Reflect on what sins or suffering they might have been facing. The passage could address their fallenness (e.g. boasting, lust, greed) or the world’s fallenness (e.g. depression, financial stress, chronic pain). Discuss: what problems were they facing that these truths fix? Were they disobeying it? What emotions might they have felt? What were they lacking that only this truth completes? What were they loving that is inferior to this truth? Try to write specific, concrete answers.

#### **2. Find where the FCF of the original audience overlaps with your audience.**

Now consider where your church’s sins or suffering overlap with those of the original audience. Discuss: what feelings and problems do we share in common with them? In what specific, concrete situations, relationships, responsibilities, or trials does our church need these truths?

My FCF is:

#### **3. Determine the “big idea” of your sermon by combining your ETS and FCF.**

Taking turns, read your ETS and your FCF out loud to your group. Then discuss how those could be combined into one sentence that summarizes the big idea of your sermon. This will ordinarily be narrower or more focused than your ETS. That’s because the truths in your ETS could probably address multiple aspects of our fallen condition. By choosing just one, you are limiting your sermon to a focused purpose.

My Big Idea is:



#### 4. Relate the main points of your passage to the big idea of your sermon.

Work through steps 4 and 5 with only one other group member (or two, if necessary).

Read your big idea to one another. Then, consulting your outline from Session 1, discuss: how is my first main point related to the big idea of my sermon? How does it clarify, prove, develop, or give an example of my big idea? Does it answer a question about my big idea? (Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?) Write down how your first main point's verses are related to your big idea, and then repeat these steps for all the main points in your outline from Session 1.

**I. My 1<sup>st</sup> main point** (vv. \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ my big idea  
by \_\_\_\_\_

**II. My 2<sup>nd</sup> main point** (vv. \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ my big idea  
by \_\_\_\_\_

**III. My 3<sup>rd</sup> main point** (vv. \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ my big idea  
by \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. My 4<sup>th</sup> main point** (vv. \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ my big idea  
by \_\_\_\_\_

#### 5. Create a clear structure for your sermon.

Discuss: What would be the most persuasive order for my sermon's points? (This can be different from the order of the passage.) Can I simplify or clarify the wording of my main points? Can I include repeated words in my main points that unite them all to my big idea? After discussion, write your sermon outline below. Include the verses you will reference to prove each point. Look back at your theological reflections in Session 2, and write any of those truths under the main point they best serve.

My Big Idea:

I.

II.

III.

IV.

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### Session 4 “Persuasion: Application”

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#### **1. Determine the “What” of application.**

With only one other group member (or two, if necessary) work through steps 1-4. For each main point in your sermon outline from Session 3, discuss and write down one, primary, specific way that you want your audience to act on that point. *Text-Driven Preaching* (p. 284) offers the following 13 questions:

1. Is there an example for me to follow?
2. Is there a sin to avoid/confess?
3. Is there a promise to claim?
4. Is there a prayer to repeat?
5. Is there a command to obey?
6. Is there a condition to meet?
7. Is there a verse to memorize?
8. Is there an error to avoid?
9. Is there a challenge to face?
10. Is there a principle to apply?
11. Is there a habit to change—that is, start or stop?
12. Is there an attitude to correct?
13. Is there a truth to believe?

What to do: I.

What to do: II.

What to do: III.

What to do: IV.

#### **2. Incorporate the “Why” of application.**

Since this is a step of persuasion, it is appropriate to remind your church here of why they should obey this application of God’s Word. Consulting your reflections on Gospel-based Teaching from Session 2, write out the reasons/motives for each point of application in your outline.

Why to do I.

Why to do II.

Why to do III.

Why to do IV.

### **3. Incorporate the “How” of application.**

For each of your application points, discuss: What does a mature Christian look like when they do this? What does an immature Christian look like? What are attainable steps between them? When should it be done? Whom should it be done with? What are some barriers to doing it? What training, habits, accountability, or discipline could make this application grow in my church’s life? Write any helpful material for the corresponding application point.

How to do I.

How to do II.

How to do III.

How to do IV.

### **4. Personalize the application.**

Discuss: Which of these applications do you find hardest? When are you personally tempted to ignore these applications? Spend some time praying for one another to apply these truths more consistently and joyfully.

## “Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death”

What is our hope in life and death?  
Christ alone, Christ alone.  
What is our only confidence?  
That our souls to Him belong.  
Who holds our days within His hand?  
What comes, apart from His command?  
And what will keep us to the end?  
The love of Christ, in which we stand.

*Chorus:*

*O sing hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death.*

What truth can calm the troubled soul?  
God is good, God is good.  
Where is His grace and goodness known?  
In our great Redeemer’s blood.  
Who holds our faith when fears arise?  
Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

*Repeat Chorus*

Unto the grave, what shall we sing?  
“Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!”  
And what reward will heaven bring?  
Everlasting life with Him.  
There we will rise to meet the Lord,  
Then sin and death will be destroyed,  
And we will feast in endless joy,  
When Christ is ours forevermore.

*Repeat Chorus*

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## “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*Chorus:*

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in every high and stormy gale  
my anchor holds within the veil.

*Repeat Chorus*

His oath, his covenant, his blood  
support me in the whelming flood;  
when all around my soul gives way,  
he then is all my hope and stay.

*Repeat Chorus*

When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in him be found;  
dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne.

*Repeat Chorus*

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