

The Preparation Process in Question Form

November 22, 2008 by Peter Mead

Perhaps you have already thought it through in this way, or perhaps this will be helpful to you. The eight stage preparation process can be stated in the form of questions:

1. **Passage Selection** - Which passage will you prepare to preach?
2. **Passage Study** - What does the passage say and mean? (What is the content of the passage?)
3. **Passage Purpose** - Why was the passage written? (The intent of the passage.)
4. **Passage Idea** - What is the author saying about what he's writing about? What is the heart of the unit of thought? What is the main point here? (The goal is to write a one sentence statement succinctly and accurately.)

At the mid-point (not necessarily half-way through the preparation time), you begin to seriously consider to whom you will be preaching the passage. Audience analysis is essentially answering the "who?" question in reference to the preaching event.

5. **Message Purpose** - Why do these people need to hear this passage? Why will you stand and deliver this passage to them?
6. **Message Idea** - How can the idea of the passage be stated with an emphasis on the relevance to these particular listeners? How can the idea be stated in a way that is succinct, clear, accurate and ideally, memorable?
7. **Message Outline** - How can the purpose of the message be achieved? How can the idea of the message be delivered? This is the point of deciding the form of the sermon, the preacher's strategy.
8. **Message Detail** - How can each movement in the message be developed: explained, supported, applied? How can the message be most effectively introduced? How can the message be most effectively concluded?