

Giving Attention To A Sermon

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...” -2 Timothy 3:16

My Job: I typically spend anywhere from 10 to 15 hours studying, reflecting, writing and otherwise preparing for each week’s sermon. My primary goal each week is to preach a message that holds true to the original intent of the passage and provides specific points of application for you today. Secondly, I seek to share in a way that makes it easier for you to follow along. I know what it is like to try to stay focused and alert while sitting in a pew on Sunday morning. I usually prepare a message that is 25 minutes in length, but some passages demand more time to present, and some are best done in a shorter time period.

When you think of it, I encourage you to pray for my ability and willingness to listen to the Holy Spirit during this preparation time.

Your Job: Bring with you a set of tools: Bible, paper, and something to write with. Some people follow better and receive more when taking notes. Whether or not you are a “natural note-taker” it is probably a good idea to write down those things you feel God wants you to apply. Write down questions you have or items you don’t understand. Do more research later. You can always ask me questions.

Don’t automatically take everything I say as truth. It is important that you examine my teaching against Scripture. If you have a concern or question you are welcome to talk to me at a later date.

Prepare for the message time. Some distractions are difficult to control, but do your best--ask God for help. Being exhausted in church doesn’t help! One important part of the plan is to get a good night’s sleep.

It is okay to write in a Bible. Highlight passages you want to remember later. Write down cross-references provide insight. You may want to include explanations of key words discussed during the messages.

The Spirit’s Job: The Holy Spirit gave inspiration to those who wrote the Bible. He guides me during my preparation and delivery of the sermon. He will illuminate God’s Word to your heart and mind. We do nothing productive without the help found from God’s Spirit.

-Pastor Travis

Summarizing David’s words in Psalm 51

Vs. 1a

- I ask for _____ because you are a God of _____

Vs. 1b-3

- I have _____
- You can _____

Vs. 4

- I _____ against you so you are right to _____

Vs. 5

- I am _____

Vs. 8-12

- Your _____ brings renewal
(receiving mercy brings joy, gladness, a pure heart, and a renewed spirit)

Vs. 13

- My experience of _____ will _____ sinners

Vs. 14-15

- My experience of _____ will bring you _____

Perhaps you’re wondering, “How was David’s Sin taken care of by Christ’s sacrifice which didn’t take place until hundreds of years later?”

The question of “timing” is a fairly easy one to answer. Romans 3:23-26 says punishment was not meted out on past sins (and sinners) because God chose that those things done before would be taken care of by Christ’s sacrifice (God’s “divine forbearance” at work). Hebrews 9:1-15 states that the earlier temple sacrifices were just an “illustration” of Christ’s sacrifice. They looked forward to the real event. The temple sacrifices only made people outwardly clean. It was only Christ’s perfect sacrifice, offered, “once for all” that truly brought redemption to people.

Christ’s sacrifice paid the price for past, present and future sin.