

1 Peter 4:11a – “If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God.”

What is Authority? (or what is it not...)

A sermon vs. a speech – what is the difference?

Authority is a powerful tool that should be used carefully

Why might we get this wrong?

People are ashamed of the Bible

The words of the preacher are treated as the authority

The ego of the preacher

The risk of losing credibility

We as preachers aren't trained well

We have hearers that don't know how to listen

How to get this right

We should train our people to test what we say against God's word.

Acts 17:11 - Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for **they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures** every day to see if what Paul said was true.

We should avoid eisegesis (exegesis vs. eisegesis)

Exegesis – interpretation of a text so that the ideas of the text come through

Eisegesis – putting the interpreters ideas, bias, or presuppositions onto the text

Our choice of passage can encourage eisegesis (Expository vs. Topical)

Expository preaching means that we preach from a single text.

Topical preaching means that we might preach from several texts.

"Make sure it is God's trumpet you are blowing. If it is only yours it won't wake the dead, it will simply disturb the neighbours." (W. Ian Thomas)

How this looks in sermon prep

Letting scripture guide your content...

The good news in this...

"My sermon has no authority in it at all, except as an interpretation or an exposition or an illustration of the truth which is in the text. The text is everything. That is the point of authority." (Campbell Morgan)

Questions to unpack in groups...

How do we help people listen to God through the sermon, when their sinful nature is encouraging them not to?

Where have you seen authority go wrong, and how can we guard against this?

What have you found helpful in seeking to do this?