

Twelve Guidelines for Biblical Preaching and Teaching

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(Adapted from "Lectures to My Students" by Charles Spurgeon)

- i. Effective sermons are didactic (teaching) and doctrinal.
- ii. Hearers are entitled to sound doctrinal and accurate interpretations of Scripture.
- iii. Pastors are also to be theologians.
- iv. Sermon matter must be congruous to the sermon text.
- v. As much as is possible, stick to the exact words of God. (As I often say, the more of God's words and the less of our own, the better.)
- vi. Preach the whole counsel of God, but place the most emphasis on those truths that are vital to the soul's salvation.
- vii. Do not even give the appearance of calling into question the accuracy of any Bible text.
- viii. Do not overload a sermon with too much matter. (As I often say, do not say in 40 minutes what you can say in 20.)
- ix. Matter should be well arranged. Sermon points should build upon one another.
- x. Your doctrinal teaching should be clear and unmistakable. Nobody should be left wondering what you believe is true on a particular subject.
- xi. Keep the sermon matter fresh. Avoid "pet doctrines."
- xii. Preach Christ always. Avoid excessive extended discourse on non-essential or disputed secondary topics not related to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pastors, preachers, teachers, of the Bible: Follow these guidelines, and you cannot go wrong.

Hearers, students, seekers: If many of these points are missing from "Christian" sermons and teachings that you hear on a regular basis, you are being short changed. Seek out biblically sound preaching and teaching, which is done according to these precepts.