



May 2022

Fox River Life



On April 24th I spent some time professing the need and importance of Expository Preaching. I have decided for the next two months to share with you an article that expounds the importance and necessity of Expository Preaching. I pray that it will make clear my emphasis and practice in the matter and that it will give you a better appreciation for it as

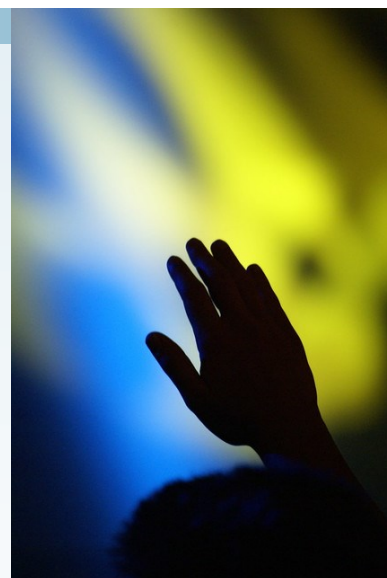
well. The following article is entitled: Why Expository Preaching is the Power for Pastoral Ministry and it is written by Dr. Michael Milton who is an American Presbyterian minister, theologian, educator, pastor, broadcaster, author, musician and retired U.S. Army Chaplain (Colonel).

There is a parable for young preachers in Walt Disney's Dumbo, the little circus elephant that had a hard time keeping up with mom and the other adults. He would just latch his trunk onto the tail of the massive mammal in front of him and go with the herd! He was small, but with one critical attachment, he could keep up.

How do we keep up as pastors in today's world? How do we even keep up with those who have gone before? How do we follow great preachers? How do we follow long pastorates? There are significant and divinely wise answers to those questions that may be located in the Bible, cultivated through prayer, study, consecration, and dying to ourselves. But I want to consider one single answer today. I must try to answer it, without apology, from the Word of God. So, I ask you to join me, and turn to 2 Timothy 3:16 through chapter 4:1-5. There, a little pastor named Timothy, just like the name of the mouse in Dumbo, who followed a ministry giant, a pastoral pachyderm named Paul, is instructed on how to latch on to the legacy. Hear the Word:

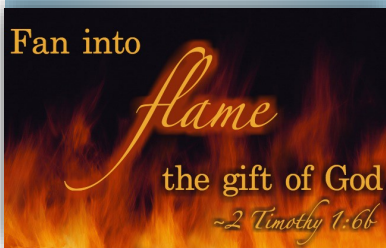
I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound* teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:1-5 ESV)

Let's just say it and let the power and the possibility for failure sink in: Timothy was pastor of the church planted by Paul. When I feel really challenged, I think of Timothy. The elders at Ephesus had fallen on the neck of Paul and wept over his departure at Miletus. Three years of powerful ministry gave Paul the right to call them to shepherd the Church of God that He had purchased with His own blood. And Paul, in his swan song at the twilight of his remarkable ministry, reminded Timothy how he had to follow Him. He gave the secret to power. He



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Preach the Word

"In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2)Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 3)For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4)They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5)But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry."

1 Timothy 4:1-5

From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

lifted a mouse (no, his words were so divine and powerful that they magically transformed the mouse into an elephant), a giant linked to his ministry, and linked to Jesus Christ, powered by Almighty God Himself. And what did Paul commend? He commended the Word of God, and after calling it God-breathed, he charged a God-called man to preach. The answer to the question, "How do mice latch on to elephants?" is neither original nor surprising at this conference. Like Charles Hodge addressing new students at old Princeton, I, too, say to you, "I glory in saying that you will learn nothing new here." But it is an answer that every frail follower of pulpit giants must remember:

The only way for any of us to stand in the long and honorable legacy of gospel preachers is through expository preaching. Why? I offer eight concise reasons why expository preaching is the power for the pastorate, whatever your situation.

1. Expository Preaching is the Power of the Pastorate because it is Divinely Wrought.

The way for Timothy to take his place as "[the] beloved child [of Paul]" (1.2), to latch on the legacy of "faith that dwelt first in [his] grandmother Lois and [his] mother Eunice" (1.5), to "fan into flame the gift of God" (1.6) which was transferred through the apostolic laying on of hands of Paul himself (1.6), to overcome a "spirit" of "fear" (1.7), to "guard the good deposit entrusted to [him]" (1.14), to teach others what he has learned from Paul, thus extending the apostolic succession to another generation (2.1-2), to avoid getting "entangled" (2.4) with "civilian pursuits" (2.4), to proclaim and teach the whole counsel of God, from the old covenant to the new covenant (as Paul speaks of in 2.8-13) "for the sake of the elect that they may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory," "to take his place," to "flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness" (2.22), and to do all of the things he is charged to do at Ephesus like: reminding the saints not to quarrel about words (2.14), to "avoid irreverent babble" (2.16), to correct his opponents with the aim of leading them to repentance and a knowledge of the truth (2.25) so that they may avoid "snare of the devil" (2.26); to say it again, the way to be this man and conduct this ministry is—*khrupon ton logon*—to preach the Word.

For Paul makes it clear that the Word of God alone is able to meet the mission of the preacher. The reason this is so is that the Word of God is the authoritative instrument from the throne of God to accomplish God's mission in the world. We remember that Paul's admonition to "preach the word" follows his teaching that "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent for every good work" (3.16-17). Paul had been building up to say that in everything he had written previously.

I love the way Dr. Robert L. Reymond puts it, "the Bible is a Word from another World." In his *New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*, Reymond writes, "When God gave his Word to us; he gave us much more than simply basic information about himself. He gave us the *pou sto* ("[a place] where I may stand"), or base that justifies both our knowledge claims and our claims to personal significance."

The Word of God is the place where the pastor may stand. Indeed, our very existence, our calling, our vocation only have meaning through this Word. I recently read J.C. Ryle's wonderful "Warning to the Churches," in which the old Bishop of Liverpool warned his diocesan ministers of the perils they faced. The book left me amazed at his prophetic gifts and understanding of the times. I do not have such gifts, I am sure. But I do want to raise a danger related to the matter before us.

We live in an ever-increasing iconoclastic culture that demands image and entertainment to communicate, that tells the preacher that short sound bytes are more persuasive than exposition of a text, that narrative is of more importance than the exposition of a text, that postmodern man cannot endure direct teaching, but needs to make the homiletical turns for himself. I say that this is a danger to the preaching of the Word, to evangelism, and to discipleship. And in the midst of such an age, we would all do well to remember that God called for Israel to do something that the heathen did not do, to think about Him in His Word, not in image. The late Neil Postman, a non-practicing Jew, saw this clearly. The God of the Jews was to exist in the Word and through the Word, an unprecedented conception requiring the highest order of abstract thinking. Iconography, thus, became blasphemy, so that a new kind of God could enter a culture. People like ourselves, who are in the process of converting their culture from word-centered to image-centered, might

(continued on page 4)



"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Acts 2:42



Our Ladies' Craft & Lunch was held on Sunday, April 24th. The craft I (Linda) chose proved to be a little more challenging than expected, but the ladies rose to the occasion and those who didn't finish their project in the time allotted, took them home to finish. I can't wait to see pictures from their finished products. Until I have those to share, here are some pictures of the ladies at work!

The Women's Ministry team has some exciting things in the works and will share more as we finalize details, so stay tuned!



Thank you for everyone who made Cindy Kempen's last Sunday here at FRBC such a special day. Her new address is in the new pictorial directory. If you haven't gotten yours yet, it's in your mailbox. (You have a mailbox if you are in the directory, so check it out!)

Deaconess Ministry UPDATE



Deaconess of the Month—Carol Smith

If you have any questions, you can contact one of the Deaconesses.

A date has been set for the next *All Church Event!* Worship in the Park is set for July 19th with a picnic to follow. Watch for more details about the location and what you need to do be prepared for. There will be a sign-up closer to the event.



Made Alive in Christ

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2) in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3) All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4) But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5) made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6) And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7) in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his

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grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8)For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9)not by works, so that no one can boast. 10)For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:1-10

From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

profit by reflecting on the Mosaic injunction.

The Word, my beloved brothers in the ministry, is the God-given place where we may stand, where we may reason, where we may dialogue with man. Indeed, we have been forbidden to go elsewhere. As a pastor, the reason that I want to focus on expository preaching "that is, proclaiming the inerrant and infallible Word of the living God as it is written, as it has been transmitted to me by God through the church, passing muster with the intent of the author, with conviction in my own life, and with love for those before me" is because expository preaching fixes itself, by its best definition, onto God's Word, divinely wrought and divinely authorized. This has powerful implications for my ministry that I want to explore further.

The only way for me to stand in the company of pulpit giants is to stand with this Word from another world. The truth is, if they are truly giants in the church, if they are linked from Spurgeon, to Ryle, to M'Cheyne, to Whitefield, to Bunyan, to Luther, to Calvin, to Wycliffe, to Augustine, to Paul, to Jesus and the prophets, then they are men of this one Book, and that is all they have to say. This leads me to a second reason that we must cling to expository preaching in order to find our place in the accredited college of godly preachers.

2. Expository Preaching is the Power of the Pastorate because it is Biblically Faithful.

We have seen that Paul tells Timothy to preach the Word, and we all know why. Preach the Word because the Word is divinely wrought. It is God's Word, and what could be nobler? If there were no other reasons to proclaim His Word other than the mere fact that the Bible is His Word that would be enough. The matter, then, becomes how shall we do it? To "preach" the Word must be to faithfully communicate that Word (from another world). Expository preaching, properly understood and properly done, fulfills this mandate.

Expository preaching is defined concisely and Biblically by Albert Mohler put it in his contribution to "Give Praise to God: A Vision for Reforming Worship": "Expository preaching is that mode of Christian preaching that takes as its central purpose the presentation and application of the text of the Bible." And if expository preaching is really exposing the mind of God in a given text and communicating the mind of God to men and women, then no other methodology will do.

William Temple was not an expository preacher, though he said enough good things that we often quote him. But the old Bishop of Canterbury did not believe that God would communicate His Word propositionally in the Bible because man could not understand it even if He did. Temple did not believe in the inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible. Temple did believe that you could understand what he wrote; otherwise, he wouldn't have written anything, but that is another argument. Enough to say, that if we believe that the power for our ministries is the Bible, as Paul teaches us, then it surely follows that expository preaching is the only model we should seek in communicating that Word.

As one who serves a seminary and who is also a professor who gets to teach preaching every now and then, and who, as a pastor, gets to mentor younger preachers before sending them to other places of service, the subject of "the future of expository preaching" in light of post modernity and post Christian America is a hot topic. I have found that many are wrestling with the question of whether such communication really can reach across the widening and ever-changing rivers of modern culture to grip the hearts and persuade the minds of an emerging generation. The realities of the emerging generation cause them to question expository preaching, and, in fact, have led several on a journey to "find their voice," as they tell me, apart from the safe constraints of exposition. I'm happy to say that many of these with whom I have met have worked through that question to re-discover the power of expository preaching for this generation.

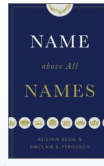
The whole matter of whether expository preaching can effectively communicate to a "late modern" Western secularized culture is a question that has been posed and pondered by many. Yet if we are preaching the very Word of God, then surely God knows what we need in every age. This Word worked in the fallen ruins of Eden when God promised a Savior in Genesis 3.15. The Word worked in Genesis 12 when God's Word provided promises to Abraham for a land, a nation, and a blessing that would reach around the world. God's Word was enough in 586 BC in the crumbled remains of Jerusalem when a weeping prophet named Jeremiah preached through tears. God's Word worked in first century Rome when Paul preached it. It worked in the 18th century in America when George Whitefield roared out its truths up and down the colonial coast.

Intentional Discipleship Update



~ The Adult Sunday School is on Lesson 152 in the *Answers Bible Curriculum*.

~ The Thursday afternoon Women's Bible Study is currently studying the names of God, and are beginning Lesson 1 in the book *Name Above All Names* by Alistair Begg & Sinclair B. Ferguson. They plan to finish this study by June 16th.



~ The Saturday morning Men's Bible Study is continuing in the book of Revelation, chapter 2. They are going to be going over the second letter.

~ The Saturday morning Women's Bible Study is in chapters 10-11 in Hebrews.



From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

It worked in the 19th century in Korea when missionaries preached there, and it worked in industrial Dundee, Scotland, when Robert Murray M'Cheyne preached there. It worked in the 20th century, the bloodiest century in the world's history, when modernity overtook the West and men such as Martyn Lloyd-Jones thundered from a world capital such as London. And it will work in the 21st century, in postmodern and post-Christian North America, as it will work in China, Africa, India, and in Bulgaria. The Word will work in Chattanooga, will free slaves to sin in Miami, give abundant life in Los Angeles, renew cold-hearted saints in Des Moines, restore marriages in Peoria, reunite severed relationships in Louisville, sprinkle the spirit of holiness in New Orleans, call new missionaries out of Kansas City, and save souls from eternal damnation in Bangor, Seattle and Paducah. The power of our ministries is expository preaching because, if what we have to say is the Word of God, how we say it matters. And expository preaching, rightly followed, is the way to say it.

Now, I have said that expository preaching is powerful because it is the Word of God and it is faithful to the Word of God. Let me continue with my reasons as to why it is the power for the pulpit, but let me be thoroughly pragmatic about it.

3. Expository Preaching is the Power of the Pastorate because it is Pastorally Effective.

If this is the Word of God and it is and if expository preaching is the biblically faithful method for giving out this Word of God— and it is— then it surely is the key to success in the pastorate.

What do I mean? I surely don't mean to imply that success and effectiveness in the pastorate is to be connected with being a celebrity, or selling books, or gaining fame. This past week I read a fine sermon by J.C. Philpot, from 1857, about the ever-present temptation of pride and vainglory among preachers, and I am aware that each of us deals in some way with this. But no, I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about effectiveness in what I call the essentials of the ministry—gathering, growing and sending forth strong disciples of Christ. I have in mind the work of seeing souls saved, lives transformed, marriages saved, young people's hearts burning with zeal for Christ and His kingdom, and desiring to die to themselves to live for Christ. I have in mind "setting in order the things that remain" and ordering our churches according to God's intentions. I have in mind speaking peace into a troubled, maybe even splitting, congregation. I have in mind being pastorally effective in shepherding the flock of God over whom God has made me an overseer. There is no program, no model, no paradigm, no experiment, no policy, and no amount of pure elbow grease or mental genius that can equal the power of the Word of God preached. It accomplishes everything I hope for in the ministry. Recently, I read where someone said that the best time-tested discipleship tool in the history of the church has been morning and evening worship where there is expository preaching. My own experience as a disciple and a pastor is that I couldn't agree more. I believe that this is so.

When I counsel people in trouble, I always ask if they are sitting under the expository preaching of the Word of God. I'm not asking them to come to my church, though I would love to have them. I'm simply saying that they must locate a place to belong, a local congregation, where the preacher is committed to moving sequentially through the Word of God—that may be moving through books, chapters, or other preaching portions within a book—in such a way that they are getting the mind of Christ in the study. Expository preaching is pastorally effective.

In His Name & For His Glory,
Pastor Tim

GROW

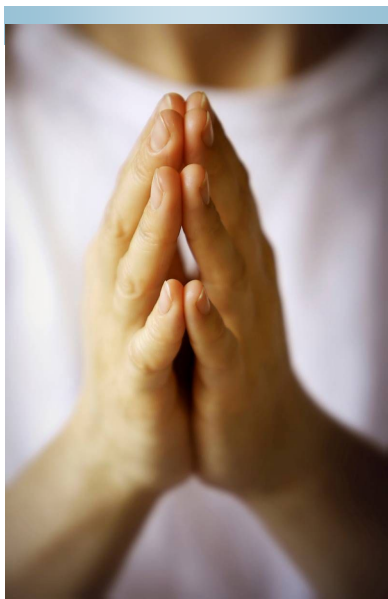


Grow in Grace

"Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. 15)And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16)as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to

understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. 17)You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. 18)But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen "

2 Peter 3:14-18



Sunday Evening Services Schedule

May 1—No Evening Service
 May 8—Prayer at 5 pm
 May 15—Solo Christos at 5 pm
 May 22—Prayer at 5 pm
 May 29—No Evening Service



SUNDAY



Financial Update—April 3-24, 2022
 Budget needed weekly: \$ 2,606.00
 Received: \$ \$9,270.00
 Contact Mark Wildenberg with questions.



Men's & Women's
 Bible Study
 Saturdays at 8am

Women's Bible Study
 Thursdays at 1:15pm

Women's Prayer
 Wednesdays at 9:30am



May 1

Jay Hoffman

May 8

Ray Rudzinski

May 15

Jeffrey Smith

May 22

Ryan Smith

May 29

Kyle Tubbs



Please contact **Carol Smith** at
(920) 788-9795

to volunteer in 3 different
 capacities in our children's
 ministry. There are also sign-up
 sheets for the different rooms
 you can serve in down the
 children's Sunday School wing.

St Joseph's Food Pantry

Each month we will collect non-perishable food items.
 Place your food items on the table provided in the foyer.



Connect
 WITH OUR
 CHURCH FAMILY

Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new prayer request email address: **prayer@foxriverbaptist.com**

Care to be part of the prayer chain? Email or call Becky Godfrey at becl.godfrey@gmail.com — (920) 277-1526 or Linda Hoffman at hofflad@gmail.com—(715) 255-3809.

Missions

“Go Ye into all the World, and preach
the Gospel to every creature.”
Mark 16:15

FROM THE MISSIONS BOARD

The last meeting of the Missions Board took place May 2nd. Presently we are working hard to revise the Missions Policy. It is a slow process as we work to include procedures for caring for our present missionaries and also create guidelines for new missionary selection.

Each of the board members is responsible to keep in touch with two or three of our present missionaries, and to supply information for the Sunday Missions Spotlights. We find that our missionaries respond very well to this personal communication. We hope you enjoy hearing each week what is going on in the lives of these faithful servants. We appreciate your prayers for the needs and praises they share with us.

The next Missions Board meeting will be held May 2 at 6:30 in the church conference room.



Our next meeting is Wednesday, June 2nd at 2pm.

UPDATE...

The Young@Heart Team will be ministering in song at Care Partners in Fox Crossing again on June 2, with Pastor Rich Engel from Shepherd's Care Ministry. We are planning to continue monthly, Lord willing, and would welcome any interested parties to join us. Contact Lynn Abitz with any questions.

Our spring seminar, "Making Choices for the Right Transition" will be presented on May 21 at 10:30 in the fellowship hall. Our speaker, Jean Long Manteufel, will help us figure out how to declutter our lives and will feature a "put & take" event. Lunch will follow the presentation. See the bulletin insert for details.



CHURCH LIBRARY
News

By Linda Hoffman
or Angela Groff
Church Librarians

This month, take time to browse the library for something to take on your road trips to help pass the time. You never know when you're going to have to wait at an appointment or you'll have a few extra minutes before you need to be somewhere. Instead of pulling out your phone to browse the internet...pull out a book, put up your feet, and...relax & read!



Our LORD

“The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. 9)The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. 10)All your works praise you, LORD; your faithful people extol you. 11)They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, 12)so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.”

Psalms 145:8-12

FRBC Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.



1—Ian Dohms
4—Ryan Smith
4—Jeffrey Smith
9—Linda Hoffman
17—Scott Smith
26—Tim Godfrey
29—Chuck Bintzler



14—Floyd & Donna Zoglman
20—Aaron & Laura Bressler



Fox River Baptist Church

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Office Hours: Wednesday &
Thursday - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm