THE EXPOSITORY SERMON

Reading the Text

- Was there an introduction to the reading? Or was there a well-thought-out segue (or liturgical prelude) into the reading?

- Was the reading clear and with appropriate interpretation? Was there a transition from the reading to the sermon (liturgical, transition sentence, or prayer)?

- Was it presented succinctly?

- Did the Preacher give attention to the public reading of Scripture (1 Timothy 4:13)?

Introduction

Opening Move:	- Is there a lead-in illustration, statement or quote that introduces theme of text (the issue or problem is raised by the Text) - The opening is not gratuitous humor, etc. - The opening speaks "Attention!" in a compelling way - The "Attention!" statement opens the garden gate to the rest of the Introduction - Is it personalized ("You have faced this issue of trusting God for tomorrow. So have I.")? - Does it introduce relevant themes to the sermon; pose a problem that needs resolution, or an issue that must be unpacked? - Does it "lead" the listener down the introductory pathway?

Exegesis

Exegetical Statement:	- Has the Introduction of the issue or problem of "fallen condition focus" ("our problem") prepared the auditor for the Scriptural response ("God's solution")? - Thus, the exegetical statement is not abrupt, but logical - Is the exegetical statement a clear interpretation of the text? Is it supported? Is it succinct? It is novel? Does it prepare the auditor to move to the expository idea, i.e., the universal idea of the text? - If the text presents common questions does the preacher address it appropriately or ignore it?

Exposition

Expository Statement ("Big Idea" or "the proposition"):	• Does it pass the "sticky note" test (you should be able to write down the sermon idea in a brief, concise, memorable way)?
	• Was it clear and simple (not simplistic), so that a strong body can flow from it?
	• Does it contain identifiable connections to the Scripture so that the listener can understand the relationship of the expository statement to the exegetical statement?

Transition

- Is there an interrogative sentence unspoken or spoken that is being answered? (Who, what, how, where; e.g., "How is God's faithfulness displayed in the text?"
- Is there a transition statement with "key word" that answers the interrogatory statement and does it tie the Proposition to the Teaching Points in the Body ("In this text, there are three features of God's faithfulness." The key word is "feature.")?

Argument

Division of the Argument	Are the divisions (i.e., 'the points") of the sermon argument (i.e., the "body" of the sermon) stated in a complete sentence and answering the interrogatory statement with the key word?
	Do the divisions ("points" or "arguments" of the Body) have
	o Proper flow from Proposition?
	o Discussion of the Text to support the Division?
	o Explanation, illustration, and application?
	o Contextualization?

Conclusion

- There is a Recap of the main points

- Closing illustration, quote, or other devise to demonstrate the sermon's answer (a positive illustration of what it looks like when your sermon is applied)

  o Does the concluding illustration demonstrate the "new life" promised by the exposition and argument?

  o No new material should be introduced at the Conclusion, except an illustration that brings (rhetorical) resolution to the sermon

- Final charge or concluding word

  o Is it stated memorably?

  o Does it leave an impression?

- Does the Conclusion support the Proposition?

Other Considerations

- The Preacher has obviously studied (prayed, meditated, prepared) for this sermon

- The Preacher connected with the congregation through contextualized language, appropriate illustrations

- The Preacher appearance is appropriate for the presentation

- The Preacher's speech is free of distractions

- This is an authentic voice (not preaching through the voice of another nor feigning another)

- The sermon followed a map and made it to the destination on time

- The sermon was a Christian sermon

- The Gospel *kerygma* was preached in the text

  - In Christian preaching the *kerygma* is faithful proclamation of the life, death, resurrection, ascension, and rule of Jesus Christ with the call to repent and believe

- Jesus Christ was not an "add-on" but an integral part of the whole sermon