

Proclaiming the Glory of God. A Homiletical Approach

by

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Declaration

I, the undersigned hereby declare that the work contained in this dissertation in my own original work and has not previously in its entirety or in part been submitted at any university for a degree.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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Summary

The intention of this research is to develop a homiletical approach that will better equip the preacher in proclaiming the Glory of God. The study comes in a context where there has been a legitimate shift in emphasis in the direction of the listener, but it is the contention of this study that the pendulum has swung away from the pre-eminence of God that should permeate sermons being preached.

Having established the need for a renewed apprehension of God in preaching the writer examines the general preaching landscape leading up to and including the 21st century. This part of the study includes some of the influences on the present day understanding on the role of knowledge and the questioning of God's ability to communicate truth to man. The study also shows how these influences have led to a focus in preaching on human feeling and experience.

The weight of God's glory is then examined with the consequent implication of God's passion for His own glory and the need for all preaching therefore to be Theo-centric. This is reinforced by an examination of the transcendence of God, unfolding the dangers of domesticating God by eliminating a sense of mystery as to the infinite nature of God.

An overview of more recent developments in homiletical theory is examined demonstrating the conspicuous absence of the pre-eminence of God in preaching. A summary of the following three preaching models is presented; expository, narrative and topical, to provide a basis for later comparison.

Key theological convictions and practices necessary to proclaim the Glory of God are then identified from the literature study. These are then used in a questionnaire compiled to be used in churches where the listeners are exposed to the three identified preaching models.

The results from the empirical study is then analysed in the light of the theory presented in the literature studies. On the basis of these outcomes the following guidelines were recommended:

- Guidelines on determining the content of the sermon.
- Guidelines on the focus of the sermon.
- Guidelines on the content of the sermon.
- Guidelines on believing that God is primarily concerned about Himself leading to greater confidence in God's grace to sinful people.

And then finally, concluding that if the desired goal of proclaiming the Glory of God is to be consistently accomplished, then the expository model of preaching is best suited to the task.

Keywords

Preaching

Knowledge

Human Feelings

Human Experience

Emerging Church

The Glory of God

The Transcendence of God

The pre-eminence of God

Preaching models

Expository

Narrative

Topical

Listener

Apprehension of God

Theo-centric

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	1
1.1	The Problem Stated.....	3
1.2	Purpose	5
1.3	Methodology	5
1.3.1	A Literature Study.....	5
1.3.2	Practical-theological Method	6
1.4	Development of Study	8
1.4.1	Understanding the 21 st Century Challenge.....	8
1.4.2	A Biblical View of the Glory and Transcendence of God	9
1.4.3	Theological Theories and Preaching Models.....	9
1.4.4	Towards a Homiletical Approach.....	9
1.4.5	The Effect on the Listener	10
1.4.6	An Adjusted Theory of Praxis	10
2.	Understanding The 21 st Century Challenge.....	12
2.1	The Role of Knowledge in the Christian Faith.....	12
2.2	An Emphasis on Human Feelings	21
2.3	The Church in the Market Place	24
2.4	The Emerging Church.....	30
2.5	Is Something Missing?.....	35
3.	A Biblical View of the Glory and Transcendence of God	38
3.1	The Glory of God	38
3.1.1	Glory in the Old Testament.....	38
3.1.2	Glory in the New Testament	41
3.1.3	God's Passion for His Own Glory	49
3.1.4	God Created the Universe to Show his Glory.....	50
3.2	The Transcendence and Immanence of God	52
3.2.1	Definitions.....	52
3.2.2	Biblical Theology	55

4.	Theological Theories and Preaching Models	64
4.1	An Overview of Recent Developments in Homiletical Theory	64
4.1.1	Developments Around the Kerygmatic Theory	66
4.1.2	The Growing Importance of the Listener	71
4.1.3	The New Homiletic	73
4.2	Contemporary Preaching Models	75
4.2.1	Narrative Preaching.....	76
4.2.2	Expository Preaching.....	81
4.2.3	Topical Preaching.....	90
4.2.4	Summary of Preaching Models	92
5.	Toward a New Homiletical Approach.....	94
5.1	Speaking God's Words.....	94
5.2	The Pre-eminence of God	97
5.3	God is the Most Self-Centred Person in the Universe	104
5.4	The Transcendence of God.....	105
5.5	The Light of the Gospel of the Glory of Christ.....	106
6.	The Effect on the Listener.....	108
6.1	Method of Survey	108
6.2	Analysis and Discussion of the Survey	111
6.2.1	One Way Frequency Analysis	112
6.2.2	Second Level "chi-squared" Analysis	139
7.	An Adjusted Theory of Praxis	144
7.1	Recommended Guidelines	145
7.1.1	On Determining the Content of the Sermon	146
7.1.2	On the Focus of the Sermon	148
7.1.3	On the Content of the Sermon.....	150
7.1.4	On Believing that God is Primarily Concerned about Himself.....	154
7.2	Recommended Preaching Model	155
7.3	A Sample Sermon	157

8. Bibliography	164
9. Appendix 1 – Questionnaire: Preaching	179
10. Appendix 2 – Narrattive Sermon: N1	184
11. Appendix 3 – Expository Sermon: E1	187
12. Appendix 4 – Topical Sermon: T1	198
13. Appendix 5 – Topical Sermon: T2.....	202
14. Appendix 6 – Topical Sermon: T3.....	207
15. Appendix 7 – Topical Sermon: T4.....	215
16. Appendix 8 – Expository Sermon: E2	219
17. Appendix 9 – Expository Sermon: E3	223
18. Appendix 10 – Expository Sermon: E4	229
19. Appendix 11 – Topical Sermon: T5.....	235