

Biblical Ministry Training

3 Minute Teaching

The purpose of the weekly 3 minute teachings is to help develop your skills at digging into the Word of God, mining/absorbing the precious Truths found there, and then communicating them effectively to others. Some of you have natural teaching gifts, while others may be more gifted elsewhere. What's important in my mind, is that we all *grow* in our love for God and in our ability to tell others about Him.

The following is a simple outline to help you prepare your message:

Laying A Firm Foundation -

- 1 - Meditate on the selected text/passage (read it over many times)
- 2 - Chart the passage using the IBS *Observation/Interpretation/Application* method
- 3 - Select a pivotal verse(s)
- 4 - Write down the main point or idea you want to communicate
- 5 - Compose a *title*
- 6 - Construct a *single sentence sermon*:
 - > Succinctly state what you want to say about your main point or idea

Raising The Building -

- 7 - Plainly/creatively state your purpose in your *introduction*
- 8 - Develop your theme through the use of *related scriptures* (2+) and *illustrations*
- 9 - Give *personal example* of how these *Scriptural principles/truths* have affected you
- 10 - Tie it all together as you *restate your theme & draw application* in your *concl.*

* IN SHORT: "*Tell us what you want to say, say it, then tell us what you said*"

Each teaching will be evaluated in 3 parts:

- 1) **Delivery:** Poise, eye contact, enunciation, verbally smooth & economic
- 2) **Content:** Theological correctness, interesting & effective illustrations
- 3) **Transition:** A strong, logical flow from one thought to the next

I recommend that you don't wait until Wednesday afternoon to finish your outline. Give yourself time to practice out loud what you've committed to paper (*time yourself!*). Your outline can be as detailed as you like - just don't *read* it to us. Try and give your message with enthusiasm and eye contact, glancing at your notes only as much as necessary to keep you on track.

Remember, you're not trying to impress anyone but the Lord - and the only thing that He desires is your simple trusting obedience. Try and relax and enjoy the fruit of your labor as you share the insights gained through humble prayer and meditation.

Resource Materials: www.blueletterbible.org (*concordance/dictionary*)

Further Up & Further In

The following is the email correspondence between a Wed. night student and Pastor Robert. It's a good lesson in how to go deeper with the text. In the end, this man gave one of the most insightful and inspiring messages of the entire book we were studying. May it help prove you a worthy workman (2 Tim 2:15).

Gentlemen -

I want to encourage you to go further up and further in w/ this Book of Wisdom. Though the basic premise is the futility of life apart from God, there are many inspiring/edifying facets to be discovered and developed. Approach your passage with fresh eyes, allowing the Lord to lead you into deeper meanings of words and ideas. I look forward to glorifying God with you each Wednesday night as I feed upon the fruit of your labor.

Much love in Jesus,
RC

Student: I just wanted to ask for some guidance for next Wednesday. I've read the text I'm supposed to teach on probably 25 times. I've been pondering it for about 2 weeks. I've searched through commentaries and I can't find one good one for the text. Most commentaries either don't address it at all or give a 3 or 4 sentence explanation of what is clearly already stated. I've a little nervous because I'm supposed to teach for 30-40 minutes and I'm really not sure what to say for that amount of time. My sermon in a sentence would be "Solomon hated and despaired of all his life labors because he will die and leave it to an heir who has not worked for it and could waste it all, but nothing is better for a man than that he should enjoy what he has labored for". So amassing stuff and leaving it for your heirs is pointless, but we should enjoy what we have? I really am not sure what Solomon is saying and no one's commentary helps at all.

RC: Find a key word and define it thoroughly. Take a word like "fruit" and find a context in the NT where it is spoken of. For example, Solomon hated the fruit of his labor, but Jesus says that we glorify God by bearing much fruit. Compare the 2 worldviews and explain why one satisfies

while the other leads to despair. "Despair" is another great word to unpack and give Scriptural examples. For instance, the psalmist upbraids his own soul in Ps 42:5 for despairing. What is the answer? Hope in God! Use your own experiences to illustrate. Use this text as a doorway into all the Bible. Enjoy! You might try listening to a teacher from Blue Letter Bible to see how they approached it. Let me know how it goes...

Student: I use Blue Letter Bible all the time and even Chuck glosses over the text. I have the Jon Courson CD's as well and he tends to teach on texts for a long time and he does the same as Chuck. I've read all the good ones too like Wiersbe, McGee, Guzik and everyone says really nothing about it. Thanks for the help and I'll see where that leads me.

RC: When a Bible teacher glosses over a text it's usually because they are in overview mode seeking to cover a lot of ground. We see this particularly w/ Chuck & Jon in their evening study series. Perhaps you can find someone going slower. Barnhouse took 10 years to complete Romans. He would teach for an hour on 1 verse, then come back the next week and teach another hour on the same verse but from a different slant. There are so many ways you can go w/ your text. Besides expounding on the contrast between fruit which amounts to nothing (*or worse, scorn/regret*) and fruit that glorifies God, and the cure for despair, how about mapping out the legacy you want to give to (*child #1*) and (*child #2*). What do words like "fruit", "despair" & "legacy" mean in the original NT language? As you study these things out I know the Lord will inspire you w/ many edifying ideas. Please let me know how your prayerful investigation goes...

Student: Things are still going ok. Pretty much all the words in the text mean what they say in the original language. I'm just going to talk about how hard Solomon worked to gain everything and it was all for nothing. All he passed on to his son was a huge fortune and which he lost 5 years down the road. Then I'll go into how I don't want to pass on houses and boats and stuff to (*#1*) and (*#2*), but I want to pass on Jesus. He is the only lasting heritage that will not bring despair and regret. But it will bring joy and peace if they choose to follow him.

RC: Beautiful...

Student: It's late but it's getting pretty good with the studying...

Ministry Training 2026

And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men (and women!), who will be able to teach others also. 2 Tim 2:2

This year, we will study the **Book of Romans**. Your main task will be to construct nine 3 minute sermons from this foundational book of the Bible. Here is an outline of our spring class:

9/16 **Orientation**/3 Minute Testimonies

I. The Revelation of the Righteousness of God (1:1-8:39)

9/23 CONDEMNATION: The Need for God's Righteousness
(1:18-3:20)

9/30 MOVIE NIGHT @ CCE

10/7 JUSTIFICATION: The Imputation of God's Righteousness
(3:21-5:21)

10/14 SANCTIFICATION: The Demonstration of God's Righteousness
(6:1-8:39)

II. The Vindication of the Righteousness of God (9:1-11:36)

10/21 ISRAEL'S PAST: The Election of God (9:1-29)

10/28 ISRAEL'S PRESENT: The Rejection of God (9:30-10:21)

11/4 ISRAEL'S FUTURE: The Restoration by God (11:1-36)

III. The Application of a Righteous God (12:1-16:27)

11/11 Righteousness of God Demonstrated in Christian Duties/Liberties
(12:1-16:27)

Select 1 verse from your reading to expound upon, create a title, sermon in a sentence, and away you go!

The Hope That Springs Eternal

MARK 16

No matter what trials we face in life, the bel. ought always find comfort in our hope of glory and seek to share such good news w/ the world ⑦

Intro: "All other good is sinking sand"

1-8

I - The Stone Is Rolled Away

A. When J. died, the disc. hope of a safe/same world w/o end dies ⑩

1) His res. galvanized our hope eternal ① ⑦

9-14

II - Overcoming Unbel.

A. Discs had wit'd J.'s power over nature but the pow. to take up His own life again they refused to bel. ⑫

B. Consider the capacity of G. + changed lives of Apostles + bel. their eye wit. accts. — turns sorrow into joy ⑧ ⑪

15-18

III - The Apostle's Credentials

v. 16 ② ⑤

A. The Hope of Glory is to be offered to all

B. Proof of their authority = signs ④

1) Proof of our authority = W. of G. ③ ④ ⑮

19-20

IV - In the Midst

A. The world is still in need of this "imperishable proclamation"

1) L. still sending out His church

2) Still working in their midst ⑬

Concl: J. cares abt. you personally - "and Peter" ⑥ ⑭

A. Don't be afraid/unbelieving

B. Embrace the imperishable proc. of E.L. (My hope is built on nothing less...

C. Share your hope w/ others

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The Hope That Springs Eternal

Mark 16

Intro:

A. Sitting on the *shut. bus* that wld take us on a tour of the fam. *Watrfd Crys. Fact.*

- A man w/ his hand on his *radio ear piece* told us that 2 planes had crashed into NY's twin towers, 1 into the Pentagon & a 4th was missing, presumably headed toward the White House

1) I don't think any of us will ever forget *where we were/what we were doing*

- When we heard the TRAGIC NEWS

a) Our hearts were stirred w/ every emotion: *Horror, sorrow, anger, fear...*

2) And as the hum. heart tends to do in *times of crisis* – WE LOOKED UP

a) “G. Bless America” has become the “*song of the moment*” & our PRAYER

3) But let me ask you this SOBERING ?

- WHY shld G. BLESS AMERICA?

a) Becuz we PRINT “*In G. We Trust*” on our \$?

b) Becuz we PROFESS to be “*1 nat. under G.*”?

B. G. has *blessed* this nat. & His *hand of protection* has been upon us

- Largely, I bel., becuz our CONSTIT. was forged upon Christ. principles
> (*i.e. “all people are endowed by their Creator w/ certain inalienable rights”*)

a) This, of course, is *echoing the sent. of P.* in **Gal. 3:28** when he says that in C.J. there is neither *Jew nor Gk, slave nor free man, male nor female*

1) I bel. G.'s blessings flowed becuz we *treasured & revered* His WORD:

a) In a *crt of law* when a wit. was sworn in it was w/ their hand > Bible

b) The *10 Commandments* were posted on the wall behind the judge

2) We have removed these from our *crtrms*

a) We have removed prayer from our *schools*

b) We have removed laws protecting the *unborn*

c) We have removed any serious discussion of *intell. design* from sci. clrm

d) We have removed all *sexual restraint*, endorsing *perverse behavior*

1. Is it any wonder, therefore, that G. might send us a WAKE UP CALL
- By removing, for the mom., His *hand of protection*?

C. We have *fixed our eyes* on the MATERIAL BLESSINGS

- And *turned our back* on the One "*from whom all blessings flow*"

- 1) We have become NUMB to the *greatest blessing* JC affords:
- The Hope of Glory – E.L.!

- 2) We have put our HOPE in the *American Dream*
- But when such an *unstable foundation* begins to CRUMBLE & FALL
 > Our *hopes are dashed* & we are prone to give in to FEAR

a) THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION for our pres. nat. crisis - **2 Chron 7:14**

"If My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

b) THE SHORT-TERM SOLUTION to combat our fears

> Is to "*turn our eyes upon J.*"

- "*On C. the solid rock I stand, all other grnd is sinking sand*"

[T] If you've had that *sinking feeling* lately

- I want to encourage you w/ the Cardinal Doc. of the Christ. faith

a) The *source* of ALL OUR HOPE – *The res. of JC!*

1. For as J. said in **Jn 14:19**

- "*Becuz I live, you shall live also*"

Mark 16:1-8

And when the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. 2 And very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. 3 And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" 4 And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large. (*Have you ever noticed how often the things we worry abt*

never come to pass? – Wasted energy!) 5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed. 6 And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. 7 "But go, tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He said to you.'" 8 And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

I – The Stone Is Rolled Away

A. For 3 yrs J. had been *"The Light of the World"* to these men & wmn

1) As Isa. had predicted -

"The people who walk in darkness will see a great light" Isa 9:2

a) J. was that GREAT LIGHT –

> While He shone, HOPE filled their hearts...

1. Hope for a world of PEACE
2. Hope for a world of FAIRNESS
3. Hope for a world of LOVE

b) Now their LIGHT has been *extinguished* –

> Their HOPE *snuffed out* – sealed in a TOMB behind a *heavy stone*

B. But on the 3rd day when these wmn come to *finish prep'ing* His body for *burial*

- They find the stone rolled away

1) And instead of the LIFELESS CORPSE they expected to find

- They are met by a LIVING MESSENGER of G.:

a) *"Do not be amazed; you are looking for J. the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter"*

b) The L. knew His disc. were SINKING INTO DESPAIR

> (And Pet. esp. aft denying Him 3x)

1. And so the “*F. of mercies & G. of all comfort*” sends this mess. of hope:
 - a. LIFE has *conquered* DEATH
 - b. LIGHT has *vanquished* the DARKNESS
 - c. LOVE has *triumphed* over HATE
 - d. Our SIN has been CANCELED OUT
 - > And *all who bel.* will LIVE w/ our Creator/Red. *now & forever!*

- c) This is the HEART of the GOSPEL –
 - > *Every sermon* in the **Bk of Acts** is a mess. on the Res.!

- 2) **Moh.** died & *stayed dead* - **Buddha** did the same
 - Their BONES are w/ us today becuz they died for their own sins
 - a) But the Holy Lamb of G. gave His LIFE “*a ransom for many*”
 - > For only the *sinless S.* of G. cld “*take away the sin of the world*”
 - b) When He ROSE, leaving behind an *empty tomb*,
 - > He brot w/ Him the *prom. of E.L.* for all who rec. Him by faith

C. Herein lies the dif. betwn *Christ.* & all other *man-made relig.:*

- 1) One is built upon the belief that we can work our way to heaven
 - The Bib. refs to such relig. as **Babylonian** (*Tow. of Babel – plains of Shinar*)
- 2) But Christ. stands in **stark contrast** to all other relig. when it says
 - That there is NOTHING you can *do* to earn G.’s fav. -
 - a) “*All have sinned & fall short of the glory of G.*” (Rom. 3:23)
 - b) “*All our righteous deeds are as filthy rags*” (Isa. 64:6)
- 3) Our SALV. is not based upon what we *do* but on what J. has already *done*
 - a) “*For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God*” 1 Peter 3:18
 - b) “*The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of G. is eternal life in C. J. our L.*”
Rom 6:23

[T] This is a HOPE that *transcends* every EARTHLY TRIAL/SORROW:
 - That “*as many as rec’d Him, to them He gave the right to become children of G.,*

even to those who bel. in His name" Jn 1:12

- a) Embrace this Etern. Hope, dear friend, & be afraid no more
 > For J. is able to *"keep what we've entrusted to Him until that day"*

Mark 16:9-14

[Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. 10 She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. 11 And when they heard that He was alive, and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

12 And after that, He appeared in a different form to two of them, while they were walking along on their way to the country. 13 And they went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either.

14 And afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.

II – Overcoming Unbelief

A. The disc. had seen J.'s POW. over the *laws of nature*

- They were accustomed to seeing Him perform the *supernat.*
 > But the pow. to *"take up His own life again"* they refused to bel.

- 1) J. rebuked them for their *unwillingness to bel.* trustworthy eye wit. accts.
 - And we are W/O EXCUSE if we *refuse to bel.*

- a) As P. quest'd **King Agrippa & Co.** in Acts 26:8 -
"Why is it considered incred. among you people if G. does raise the dead?"

- b) *"The deg. of dif. of any task must be meas. by the cap. of the agt doing the wk"*
 > And when it comes to the ALMIGHTY CREATOR
 - He is not *subj.* to the laws He has made, but *transcends* them

- 1. In other words,

- It was easier for J. to *rise from the dead* than it is for us *get out of bed*

2) ANOTHER REASON we ought to bel. these EYEWITNESS ACCTS.

- Are the changed lives of the disc. (*eyewitnesses*)

a) Nothing *short of the res.* cld have transf'd these *sad/despairing m & w*
> Into people *radiant w/ joy & flaming w/ courage*

b) In light of the fact that every one of the disc. (*except Jn.*) was *martyred*
> We must CONSIDER THIS –

1. Tho occas. you will find someone willing to give their life for what they bel. to be true (*Sept. 11*), never will you find someone willing to die for what they know to be a lie

B. UNBEL. cost the disc. much PEACE & JOY that 1st Sunday morning

- And unbel. is costing many of you "*peace of mind*" today

1) Trust the Risen Lord for E.L.

- And your Heavenly Father for *everything else*

a) For such FAITH turns *sorrow* into *joy*

Mark 16:15-18

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. (*Don't be confused – tho bapt. ought to nat. follow believing, it is the rej. of JC that brings eter. damn. None of the OT saints listed in Heb. 11 were bapt'd – neither was the thief on the X – It is our FAITH that G. reckons to us as right.*) 17 "And these signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it shall not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. "

III – The Apostle's Commission & Credentials

A. Here we find the **Great Com.** (*as we do near the concl. of all the gosp.*)

- 1) These “*signs accomp’ing those who bel.*” were given in context of the G. C.
 - a) And so it is today that we see more *overt demonic activ./deliv.* on MF
 - b) There the missionaries often end up “*speaking w/ new tongues*”
 - c) In **Acts 28** P. was bitten by a *poisonous snake* & came away *unscathed*
- 2) In addition, for the Apost., these “*signs*” were their CREDENTIALS
 - While the inspired NT was being *compiled* under the direction of the HS
 - a) Now, as **2 Jn 10** pts out,
 - > Our “*credentials*” are an adherence to the proven W. of G.
 - b) Today we know that someone is *of the L.* if he holds to the *His teachings*

Mark 16:19-20

So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.]

[And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.]

IV – In The Midst

- A. The world is still in need of this “*imperishable proclamation*”
 - And J. is still WORKING W/ US
- 1) J. is not a *fig. in a bk* but a LIVING PRESENCE...
 - “*The L. thy G. in the midst of thee is mighty*” Zeph 3:17

Concl:

- A. Don’t be AFRAID – Don’t harden your heart in UNBEL.

B. EMBRACE the *"imperishable proclamation"* of E.L. –

- *"Becuz I live", J. said, "you will live also"*

C. And w/ the L. in our midst to help us

- Let's *share* our GREATEST BLESSING – (*this Hope of Glory*) - w/ others

D. In closing, let me read to you from Ps 46

God is our refuge and strength,

A very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;

3 Though its waters roar and foam,

Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride.

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

The holy dwelling places of the Most High. – (*His church*)

5 God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved;

God will help her when morning dawns.

6 The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered;

He raised His voice, the earth melted.

7 The LORD of hosts is with us;

The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

10 "Cease striving and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

11 The LORD of hosts is with us;

The God of Jacob is our stronghold.