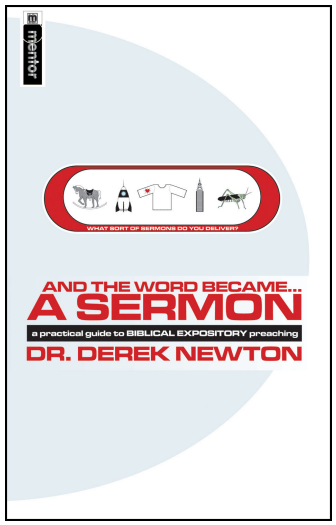
And the Word Became... a Sermon

A Practical Guide to Biblical Expository Preaching

Derek Newton

RELEASE DATE 21 MAY 2003



RELATED TITLES

AUTHOR

Derek Newton is a lecturer for the adjunct faculty of the Asian Theological Seminary, Manila, Philippines.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

LARGE TRADE PAPERBACK
280 Pages

ISBN 9781857927672
BISAC REL080000
PRICE £14.99 $23.99

ENDORSEMENTS

I must confess I have read a lot of books on Homiletics with a sense of reading the same content but with different cover. As I opened this book I thought it was another one to be set apart. Well, expository preaching is a very well-known concept among Seminary students. But why this title: And the word became... a sermon? My first impression was: wow! using a Bible verse to entitled a book sounds... don't know... daring. So the content must be toughly theoretical. But... wait a minute! This is a GUIDE! And it is really what it says it is: a guide. Well done, Dr. Derek Newton! It would be better to say: a Practical guide.

With an easy-to-read prose, Dr. Newton holds our hand and guides us through the ten steps for sermon preparation; and he steps with us, you can feel you are not alone through the process. Before beginning, we must identify what sort of sermon we deliver. Is it a Hobby-horse sermon? Yes, that sort of obsessive idea running through all our sermons. Is it a Rocket sermon? No fixed trajectory. Or a Heart-on-the-sleeve sermon? With no basis in the biblical text? Or a Skyscraper sermon? You know, a patchwork quilt of stories and illustrations. Or a grasshopper sermon? Jumping here and there, from theme to sub-theme and so and so.

As Dr. Newton puts:

We must go to the Scriptures themselves to ask whether this is a new problem and whether Scripture itself gives us clear indications or guidelines regarding the principles and practice of preaching. (p.13)

He gives room to two biblical arguments for Exposition of the Word, rooted in OT and NT passages. And as compulsory commentary, he writes a full chapter regarding the need for holiness in the Expositor (ch. 4), using the example of Timothy and Titus to give consistency to his argument.

Before starting our stepping forward, he talks about the nature of biblical expository preaching, writing things that every preacher must have as obvious on sermon preparation, but sadly things that we often forget, i.e., the sermon centres on biblical content; the sermon pays serious attention to contexts; also reflects the purpose of the biblical writer and applies the thought of the text.

Then we reach to the first step: reading and thinking. Obvious? It