

## **SECTION 30**

### **Resources for the Preaching Ministry**

## Resources for the Preaching Ministry

In one sense “the world” is your resource. You should glean from any and every source under the sun. Charles Koller lists five main sources from which we glean: Scripture, history, literature, experience, and imagination. A few guidelines should guide you in this area.

### I. Commentaries

Reportedly, Erasmus once said that if he had money, he would first buy some books, then some clothes, and then some food! Erasmus loved books and considered them “the greatest of all inventions!”

(Preserved Smith, *Erasmus*, pgs. 194-195. Quoted in *Rediscovering Expository Preaching*, pg. 187.)

To this Spurgeon added,

In order to be able to expound the Scriptures, and as an aid to your pulpit studies, you will need to be familiar with the commentators: a glorious army, let me tell you, whose acquaintance will be your delight and profit. Of course, you are not such wiseacres as to think or say that you can expound Scripture without assistance from the works of divines and learned men who have labored before you in the field of exposition. If you are of that opinion, pray remain so, for you are not worth the trouble of conversion, and like a little coterie who think with you, would resent the attempt as an insult to your infallibility. It seems odd, that certain men who talk so much of what the Holy Spirit reveals to themselves, should think so little of what he has revealed to others.

(Spurgeon, *Commenting and Commentaries*, pg. 1)

1. Buy the best (don't buy just to have pretty books on the shelves).
2. Buy what you need (4-5 minimum per book of the Bible).
3. Buy cheap (used books, discount houses).
4. Evaluate both authors and publishers.
5. Seek counsel from professors and experienced preachers.

## **II. Tapes**

- A. Get for **FREE** what is free!  
Ex: Believers Chapel Tape Ministry  
6420 Churchill Way  
Dallas, TX 75230
- B. Subscribe widely as to topics.
- C. Subscribe wisely as to sources (the quality/cost principle).
- D. Sources to consider:
  - John MacArthur
  - Chuck Swindoll
  - David Jeremiah
  - Max Lucado
  - Charles Stanley
  - Adrian Rogers
  - Jerry Vines
  - James Merritt
  - Kent Hughes
  - John Piper
- E. Organize by Bible book, subject and author.
- F. Tape your own messages and catalog them in your library.

## **III. Periodicals**

Subscribe widely, wisely and currently. Sources to consider include:

- Christian Research Journal
- Current Thoughts and Trends
- Discipleship Journal
- Christianity Today
- Moody Monthly
- Illustration Digest
- In Other Words
- World
- Quote
- Bottom Line
- Reader's Digest
- U.S. News & World Report
- Time
- Newsweek
- Conservative Chronicle
- USA Today

**IV. To assist you in getting the bedrock essentials consult *Building a Theological Library* by Danny Akin. And remember, you never complete the task of building a library. You should be adding to it regularly throughout the entirety of your ministry.**

**V. Conclusion**

The advice of James Stitzinger is wise counsel as you make your library a top priority of your ministry. Your library:

1. It is not a collection of inferior books donated to the preacher by well-meaning friends and listeners.
2. It is not an accumulation of books offered on sale or at discount prices.
3. It is not simply a collection of books that are highly recommended or found on standard lists of bibliographies.
4. It is not simply an accumulation of required texts used in seminary.
5. It is not an accumulation of material treating current religious trends or theological speculations.

(“Study Tools for Expository Preaching” in *Rediscovering Expository Preaching*, pg. 179)

“We must cultivate big farms, and we shall have well-stocked barns, and we shall not be moody gleaners searching for thin ears over a small and ill-cultivated field.”

(Charles Koller, pg. 44)

“My books are my tools, and I use them. I cannot afford to be a book collector; neither the budget nor the diminishing shelf space ... permits such a luxury.... I enjoy my library. Each book is a friend that converses with and teaches me. Better to have fewer of the best books than to clutter your shelves with volumes that cannot serve you well. Above all, love your books, use them, and dedicate all you learn to the service of Jesus Christ.”

(Warren Wiersbe)