

Preach for a Year

#8

104 SERMON OUTLINES

*Two complete outlines
for every Sunday of the year*

ROGER CAMPBELL

 Kregel
Ministry

Preach for a Year #8
by Roger Campbell

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Dedicated to the memory of
Dr. Leon J. Wood

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PREFACE

As I write this eighth and final volume of the *Preach for a Year* series, I'm struggling to find words to express my appreciation to the many pastors who have taken my simple sermon outlines and made them their own. Your calls, letters, and e-mails of encouragement have gone beyond my expectations. Thank you!

Now I'm faced with the responsibility of making *Preach for a Year #8* both timely and effective. In order to accomplish this, some of these outlines will cry out for a return to better days and proven practices that have brought constant conversions and growth. Others will call for moving forward in faith, expecting the future to be greater than the past even though new methods may require loving adjustments by pastors and people. Some things about effective preaching are unchanging; they are the constants of the Christian ministry. It is the gospel that saves sinners, and that should be our greatest goal. A sermon without the gospel is no sermon at all.

We most love those to whom we preach. Otherwise, according to Paul, we're not really preaching, just making noise (1 Cor. 13). We must live what we preach, because whether doing biblical exposition from the pulpit, walking down a hospital corridor, sharing our faith in an elevator, or ministering to hurting people while standing in line at the post office, we're preaching every day.

INTRODUCTION

Leon J. Wood was the pastor of my youth whose faithful preaching brought me to faith in Christ. Looking back to those early years of his ministry and my life, what impressed me most was his ability to set the scene of a Bible text in order to make it understandable. Not surprisingly, then, the words “setting and scene” have been handwritten in the margins of hundreds of my sermon outlines through the years, and I’m still striving to keep my preaching as relevant to my hearers as his was to me.

Pastor Wood was destined to exercise his gifts in preparing ministers to preach, so he soon left our country congregation to teach in a seminary where fortunate students could learn the importance of instructing without self-destructing, a technique that needs developing by all who may be tempted to impress rather than simply express biblical truth with humility and love for hurting hearers.

Preach for a Year #8 contains no sermon outlines so deep that, in their preaching, ministers will be acclaimed as eloquent orators who hold their audiences spellbound. Rather, in sharing these simple outlines with pastors, I desire to provide them with structured teaching tools for declaring the unchanging gospel in words all their hearers can understand.

The secret of great preaching, it seems to me, is not being polished enough to impress but humble enough for God to bless.

This is the final volume of the *Preach for a Year* series. The entire set provides busy pastors with 832 of my outlines, which they can improve and preach as they make them their own.

Roger Campbell

Developing Holy Habits for the New Year

Philippians 4:6–8

I. Introduction

- A. *We Are Creatures of Habit (You've heard this before and it's true: "The habits you develop, develop you.")*
- B. *Holy Habits That Will Change Your Life*
 - 1. Habits that will enable you to start each day right
 - 2. Habits that will enable you to stop worrying
 - 3. Habits that will cause you to stop being critical
 - 4. Habits that will make you a blessing to others

II. Body

- A. *Read the Bible First (Phil 4:6)*
 - 1. "Be careful for nothing"
 - a. Faith and fear are opposites
 - b. Develop habits that build faith and fight fear
 - 2. The Bible is the source of faith (Rom. 10:17)
 - a. Faith grows through exposure to Scripture
 - b. Minds saturated with Scripture develop strong faith
 - 3. Start the day with the Bible and have a better day
 - a. Read the Bible before you eat
 - b. Read the Bible before you read or watch television
 - 4. Bible reading turns our thoughts to the gospel
 - a. The gospel is about Christ's death and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:3–4)
 - b. This is the greatest love story ever told
 - c. When we read the Bible we're being equipped to share the gospel
 - d. Majoring on the gospel makes missionaries of us all
- B. *Start the Day Thankful (Phil. 4:6–7)*
 - 1. Stop trembling and start trusting
 - 2. Expect God to come through for you
 - 3. Focus on God's blessings and give thanks

- a. Give thanks for things you've been taking for granted
 - b. Give thanks that God loves you; that Christ died for you
- C. *Spend the Day Focusing on Positive Things (Phil. 4:8)*
- 1. Focus on things that are true, honest, and just
 - 2. Focus on things that are pure and lovely
 - 3. Focus on things that are virtuous and praiseworthy
 - 4. Focus on positive traits in others and you will become a positive person

III. Conclusion

- A. *Invest Your Day Ministering to Others*
- B. *Give Priority to Soul Winning and Reap Great Blessings*