Reformed Worship: How to Listen to a Sermon
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I. What is a sermon?

A. First, what a sermon isn't:

B. At its heart, a sermon is a _____.

i. This means that _____ is the heart of preaching (Col 1:24–29).

1. A sermon must make the _____ known.

2. The goal of a sermon is to present everyone _____.

3. The content of a sermon is _____—*Him we proclaim*.

ii. And when pastors proclaim Christ, we are _____ (Luke 24:27).

C. And pastors aren't just imitating Christ; they are _____ Christ today.

i. Pastors today are _____ & _____ of Christ (2 Cor 5:20).

ii. 2nd Helvetic Confession: "The preaching of God's Word is _____."

D. Preaching is how God speaks to sinners and calls them to be reconciled in Christ.

i. The dead are brought to life when they hear Christ _____ (1 Cor 1:18ff).

ii. Once the dead are alive in Christ, preaching also _____ them.

II. How a sermon is written

A. First, a sermon must have two basic things: _____ & _____

i. _____ is interpreting and explaining Scripture.

ii. _____ is strongly urging believers to respond in some way.

iii. Indicative (Gospel), therefore imperative (Law); exposition, therefore exhortation.

B. In order to communicate effectively a sermon needs to be _____ intentionally.

i. Not just a memorable outline, but one that does justice to the relationship between exposition and exhortation, and one that has _____.

ii. Basically: Explain Scripture, apply Scripture, preach Christ, all in an orderly way.

III. How to listen to a sermon

A. Before the sermon: What can we do to prepare to listen to a sermon?

i. One easy thing would be to read _____ ahead of time.

ii. You could also look through the _____.

iii. Big picture, get into the habit of regularly reading through _____.

iv. Another big picture thing is to _____.

B. During: What can you do during the sermon to be a better listener?

i. We talked about this last week:

ii. Take _____, put in effort to give your attention to what is preached.

iii. Your goal should be to write out in one sentence the main point of the sermon.

iv. Receive the sermon with _____, as God's Word (WLC 160; 1 Thess 2:13).

C. After: What can you do after the sermon is finished to be a better listener?

i. Whether you take notes or not, _____ on the sermon & discuss with others.

ii. If you took notes on the main point, or had any questions, talk to the _____.

iii. Pray that the Lord would work through the Word to make you more _____.