



Paluxy Baptist Association

1844 Acton Hwy, Granbury TX 76049

Ph. 817-579-5111

March 2023

“Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.” Psalm 71:18

BEACON NEWS

Sermons That Direct People to God - Part Two Pastor Don Smarto

How long (time wise) should a pastor preach? This seems like a simple question but it is an important one. The obvious answer is: As long as you can hold a congregation’s attention. That answer, however is not the deeper issue of clearly communicating a biblical message.

An effective sermon needs to fully illuminate a scripture. Having been preaching for forty years, this is my opinion about the essential parts of an effective sermon:

INTRODUCTION

KEY SCRIPTURE

MAIN POINT

STRONG ILLUSTRATION

SUB POINTS

CONCLUSION

Introduction Tell your congregation what they are about to hear and learn and how the selected scripture will support your message. Start a sermon with enthusiasm and passion. Your tone and direct eye contact are very important. You are telling them in the first minutes why this sermon has a personal application to them and why your theme is important.

Key Scripture Research your scripture carefully. Read it many times and seek God’s guidance. Since clarity is very important, don’t use seminary jargon like *ontological*, *exegesis*, or *presuppositional*. You may know Greek and Hebrew but excessive etymology can go over people’s heads. Save the definition of theological terms for a seminary lecture or a bible study, not a sermon. In fact, extensive terminology in a sermon can be a form of arrogance; trying to impress your congregation with your academic prowess. Jesus spoke clearly and so should pastors.

Main Point I use an outline to keep from rambling. Order is not the opposite of the Spirit’s guidance. We can make a spontaneous comment without going down rabbit trails. Stay with the main point of your selected scripture. If you are preaching about Grace, Prayer, Temptation, or Sin, be sure to be practical and make applications to everyday living and the experience of ordinary people. Be sure your scripture matches your theme.

Strong Illustration People don’t just listen to words. Visual illustrations remain in the mind days later. Sometimes I use PowerPoint photos or show objects during a sermon. For example, I once dressed a teenager in a full suit of armor along with a sword. I was preaching from Ephesians 6:11 “Putting on the armor of God”. Was it theatrical? Yes it was. But it was also fun and memorable especially for children and youth. A moving story helps develop your theme. Remember, Jesus told stories we call parables. Consider the strong visuals of the parables - The Prodigal Son or the Good Samaritan. They are dramatic and emotional.

Sub Points Your sub points are essentially the development of your main point. This is a form of reinforcement. Do not assume members of your congregation are not glancing at their watch, thinking about where to go for lunch, or glancing at their cell phone texts. This is a good time to use humor or introduce drama to support your theme. We all know an academic lecture can be boring. A sermon gets attention when it is practical and hits people where they live. Who doesn't struggle with temptation? Members of your congregation may have cut someone off in traffic on the way to church or had a verbal fight with their spouse. The great preacher Charles Spurgeon once said the purpose of a sermon is "to comfort the afflicted or afflict the comfortable." An effective sermon does both.

Conclusion An effective preacher closes strong. There is a place for emotion in your verbal delivery. For example, if you are preaching about hell, do it with a solemn tone. If you are preaching about heaven, your voice and face should illustrate hope and joy. Again, give your members practical applications for how to live their faith in the real world. The church world can be an isolated environment. After Sunday, your members work or try to pay bills on a fixed income. They endure traffic jams and inflated grocery bills. They are tempted to curse, drink, watch pornography, file for divorce, battle health issues, and get discouraged, have doubts, and get depressed. This is what people battle in the real world. That is why an effective sermon must be practical.

So, I return to my first point: How long should a sermon last? My suggestion is 35 minutes. I once heard of a pastor who only preached for ten minutes every week. Clearly, you cannot develop a scripture with applications and illustrations in ten minutes. On the other hand, do not preach for an hour. Divide your sermon into a two- or three-part series. Most people will not stay alert for an hour. If you are well paced, have appropriate tone, and preach with energy and enthusiasm, you can be very effective in approximately 35 minutes, give or take a few minutes. An effective sermon proclaims the gospel. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, an effective sermon will encourage, convict, and give your members the strength of their faith living in the real world.

© 2023 Pastor Don Smarto

NEW BEGINNINGS

NEW PASTOR

Brazos River Baptist Church has a new pastor, Michael Reed. He will be holding services there on Sunday mornings. Michael and his wife, Alysha, are also the leaders of a new church plant, Simple Home Church, where they hold Sunday evening services on Old Granbury Road and also run the Couch Surfers Homeless Shelter here in Granbury. Please encourage and support them in your prayers. Welcome to the PBA family!

NEW HISPANIC CHURCH

A new mission church, El Faro of Tin Top, will be holding Sunday morning services in the Lighthouse of Tin Top building. Tomias Davila is the Pastor and will be starting Spanish-speaking services there on Sunday, Feb. 26th, 2023. Please pray for this new gathering and tell your friends about it. The address is 320 Old Tin Top Rd. Ph. 817-583-5064 for more information.

Another installment of the history of our Paluxy Baptist Association Part II

Baptist associations are all uniquely different. Serving along side their supporting churches, they exist to provide valuable resources to meet the needs of the surrounding communities. Few if any, have the rich history that the Paluxy Baptist Association possess. In Today's installment we will be looking back to review the impact that one Pastor had on our community as well as our Paluxy Baptist association; his name was Fighting Joe Robinson.

During the early days of Hood County, a church building or meeting house as it was often called was built in Acton. It served a meeting place for the Methodists, Presbyterians, and as well as the Baptists. A bold and strong man of God entered the scene in 1850 by the name of Joseph Robinson. Many knew him by his nickname; "Fighting Joe". Here is a brief example of his style of preaching: *"the Baptist church was organized by Jesus on the banks of the Jordan River, and was named after John the Baptist. John baptized Jesus in the Jordan, thus the New Testament church was a Baptist church. Since Jesus was a Baptist, he would not have organized any other church but a Baptist church. Jesus said, 'the gates of hell shall not prevail against it'...thus, if Jesus spoke the truth, (who would dare to say he didn't) then his church is in the world today, has been since the first century and will be until He comes again. Anyone who does not believe this does not believe the Bible, all who are not members of a Baptist church are not members of any church at all."* Remember, I am merely quoting here.

Needless to say, anyone preaching such a bold and brash message had to be known as fighter. Preacher Robinson was far more than a pulpiteer, he was also a member of the vigilantes and was fond of fighting Indian, rustlers, and all types of criminals and evil in every form.

Someone has said that Fighting Joe would arrive for his preaching assignment, hitch his horse to a nearby tree, stand his rifle against the pulpit and begin to bellow out his message. Often found preaching under a shade tree in the summer, he would thunder out his wrath against Satan, sin, criminals and other denominations. A book I have been reading describes one typical Sunday in the life of this association man. *"On one occasion, he was interrupted by a group of men on horse back who rode up to announce, some Indians have just driven off a bunch of horses from a farm on Fall Creek: Preacher Joe immediately stopped preaching, closed his Bible, and garnered his rifle."* The following month he was questioned about the thieves and his reply was, and I quote: *"...the thieves were apprehended, the horses recovered and returned to their owner, and the thieves were dealt with in such a way that they will never again drive off another man's horses."* This standard barrier of the faith led in the organization of Acton Baptist Church on August 25, 1855. He served as its first pastor. You can visit his grave in the old part (eastern section) of the old Acton cemetery. If you are curious about this flamboyant character simple visit his grave site.

Fighting Joe later served Hood County as one of our first county commissioners. He was know by his peers for his fighting spirit, contagious smile, and firm handshake. Perhaps the most enduring legacy of this man is the fact that he stood for what he believed, and was willing to fight to preserve his faith. On the final page of the story that I have been studying is this remarkable statement with which I conclude this article: *"...we who follow after Fighting Joe, and his peers, owe a debt of gratitude to them for the heritage we enjoy which they have given to us...we can only hope to partially repay this debt by holding high the torch they have handed down to us, thus giving to our posterity the same glorious heritage we enjoy."*

May God bless You, please pray for our beloved association.
Boots Hubbard, Interim D.O.M

SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
Will be showing the movie "WAR ROOM"
March 19, 2023 at 5:00 PM

War Room is a compelling drama with humor and heart that explores the power that prayer can have on marriages, parenting, careers, friendships, and every other area of our loves. War Room is a vivid reminder that prayer is a powerful weapon! EVERYONE WELCOME!

JOB OPENINGS

PBA—DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS Ph. 817-579-5111 or upload resume to paluxybaptist.org

Acton Baptist Church—Minister of Music. Ph. 817-326-4693

Fairview Baptist Church is seeking a fulltime Minister, Ph. 682-597-6851 or mail resume to Fairview Baptist Church, 5041 Weatherford Hwy, Granbury TX 76048

Rainbow Baptist Church—Music Director, part-time Ph. 254-897-2121

Southside Baptist Church—Bi-vocational Worship Leader. Call for job description, 817-573-1462

March BIRTHDAYS

3 Betty Baldwin (Barry) - FBC Lipan

26 Mark Forrest - Lakeside

ANNIVERSARIES -

1 Don & Darlene Atchison - Thorp Spring/PBA

6 Gary & Connie Leonard - Triple Cross

7 Scott & Melanie Athey - Bear Creek

14 Paul & Carole Rummage - Lakeside

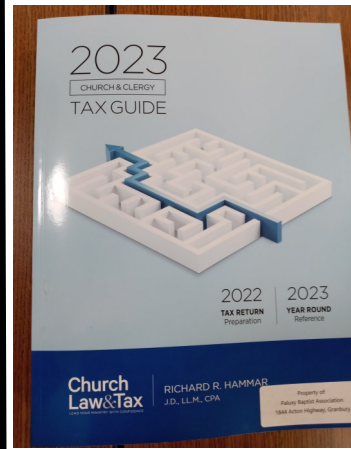
15 JJ & Terry Jennings - Happy Trails

18 Mike & Heather Corb - FBC Granbury

29 Jerry & Beverly Lindsey - FBC Thorp Spring

PBA RESOURCES

In the PBA Resource room, we had a new book donated, the "2023 Church & Clergy Tax Guide" so feel free to stop by and look. We have many other books, Bible Studies and Sunday School literature.



The PBA Office is open Mon.-Fri. 9:00 AM-3:00 PM.

Take a look at PBA's newly designed website, paluxybaptist.org.

If you have a prayer need, contact us paluxybaptist.org/prayer.

UPCOMING PBA EVENTS

PBA SPRING SAFETY/SECURITY WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 22nd, 8 AM - Noon

At The Lighthouse of Tin Top Church

320 Old Tin Top Road

Weatherford, TX 76087

Call PBA Office, 817-579-5111 if you have questions.



UPCOMING PBA EVENTS

Paluxy Baptist Association

Youth Director/Youth Leadership NETWORKING WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 18, 2023 8:30AM—3:30PM

At TOLAR BAPTIST CHURCH

400 Tolar Hwy, Tolar, TX



Includes experts in the field of Youth Work.

**For All Youth Pastors, Church volunteers,
Youth Directors (Paid as well as Volunteer)**

Please R.S.V.P. the PBA Office, 817-579-5111

or register online at paluxybaptist.org/events

to make reservations for a light lunch

PRAYER TIME



Search for the new PBA Director of Missions servant
 Prayers for the PBA Executive Committee as they make decisions
 Church Pastors and Leadership to speak God's truth
 Area Food Pantries and answer to prayers for the Lost, Hungry and Homeless
 Closeness of our PBA Churches as we grow in His Love and are bold in Community Outreach
 Praises that Bro. Glenn's house sold, his last tests showed NO cancer, and he is enjoying his woodworking
 Pray that God will send workers to fill the job openings in our churches
 God's blessings on the upcoming PBA events, Women's Gathering, Youth Leadership Workshop, Safety/
 Security Training...
 New churches to grow, speak God's Word, and give Him the glory

ANNIE ARMSTRONG OFFERING

TEXAS WMU announced that the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Materials are available now. Phone 214-828-5150 or go to wmutx.org for further information.

Paluxy Baptist Association Statement of Cash Flows

	1/31/2023	Year to Date	Monthly Budget	Annual Budget
Receipts:				
From Churches	\$ 12,402.84	\$ 12,402.84	\$ 14,675.94	\$ 176,111.31
Missions	\$ 450.00	\$ -	-	-
Other	\$ 21.26	\$ 21.26	-	-
Total Receipts	\$ 12,874.10	\$ 12,424.10	\$ 14,675.94	\$ 176,111.31
Expenses:				
Partnership Ministries	\$ 842.50	\$ 842.50	\$ 845.83	\$ 10,150.00
Support Ministries	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 6,241.67	\$ 74,900.00
Personnel	\$ 5,835.07	\$ 5,835.07	\$ 5,096.78	\$ 61,161.31
Office	\$ 775.95	\$ 775.95	\$ 2,491.67	\$ 29,900.00
Missions	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 10,053.52	\$ 8,053.52	\$ 14,675.95	\$ 176,111.31
Receipts Over (Under) Expenses	\$ 2,820.58			
Bank Balance -- Beginning	\$ 246,770.90			
Bank Balance -- Ending	\$ 249,591.48			

PALUXCY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION 1844 Acton Hwy, Granbury TX 76049 Ph 817-579-5111

Interim - Chris "Boots" Hubbard Ministry Assistant—Darlene Atchison

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