

Whole Life Preaching

A six-part video series on the power of preaching for everyday life

For Further Reading

Walter Brueggemann, *The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann*

(Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2011).

Here's an example of someone who takes the Bible seriously but can make you feel as though you continue its story in your own life. He uses a lectionary and so connects Old Testament narratives with Psalms or prophecy and passages from the New Testament – and does so in fresh ways.

Murray Capill, *The Heart is the Target: Preaching Practical Application from Every Text*

(Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2014).

Helpfully addresses the issue of application head on and pushes for a 'holistic' approach, woven through the whole process of preparation and preaching, from beginning to end. Well worth checking out.

Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*, 2nd edn.

(Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005).

Tim Chester and Marcus Honeysett, *Gospel Centred Preaching: Becoming the Preacher God Wants You To Be*

(The Good Book Company, 2014).

A brief workbook-type approach with short chapters and questions for reflection and discussion.

John Addison Dally, *Choosing the Kingdom: Missional Preaching for the Household of God*

(Herndon: The Alban Institute, 2008).

Dwight L. DuBois, *The Scattering: Imagining a Church That Connects Faith and Life*

(Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2015).

Not on preaching as such, but very consonant with the broader concerns of equipping God's people for ministry in the whole of their lives.

Chris Green, *Cutting to the Heart: Applying the Bible in Teaching and Preaching*

(Nottingham: IVP, 2015).

An extended treatment of theological and hermeneutical issues surrounding application in preaching and the 'relevance' of the Bible to today.

Jonathan I. Griffiths, *Preaching in the New Testament: An Exegetical and Biblical-Theological Study*

(London: Apollos, 2017).

Not so much a 'how to' book as addressing how preaching is defined and characterised from a biblical-theological perspective.

David Helm, *Expositional Preaching: How We Speak God's Word Today, 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches*

(Wheaton: Crossway, 2014).

David Heywood, *Transforming Preaching: The Sermon as a Channel of God's Word*

(London: SPCK, 2013).

Phillip D. Jensen and Paul Grimmond, *The Archer and the Arrow: Preaching the Very Words of God*

(Kingsford: Matthias Media, 2010).

Phillip Jensen summarises and explores the task of preaching as follows: 'My aim is to preach the gospel by prayerfully expounding the Bible to the people God has given me to love' – a summary which includes the essential elements of proclamation, prayer and people.

Darrell W. Johnson, *The Glory of Preaching: Participating in God's Transformation of the World*

(Downers Grove: IVP, 2009).

Patrick W.T. Johnson, *The Mission of Preaching: Equipping the Community for Faithful Witness*

(Downers Grove: IVP, 2015).

A bit technical in places, but a full treatment of what a 'missional homiletic' might look like, summarised as: 'Preaching confesses Jesus Christ, through a missional interpretation of Scripture, in order to equip the congregation for its witness to the world.' Worth persevering with if you want to explore this area more fully.



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For Further Reading (Cont'd)

Julius J. Kim, *Preaching the Whole Counsel of God: Design and Deliver Gospel-Centered Sermons*

(Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015).

A fairly concise book, but manages to cover a lot, including a chapter on the influence of neuroscience on the design and delivery of sermons.

Timothy J. Keller, *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism*

(London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2015).

Helpful, as ever, from Keller, this one comes in three parts: 'serving the word', 'reaching the people', and 'in demonstration of the Spirit and power'. Perhaps especially useful in its chapters on 'preaching Christ to the culture' and 'preaching Christ to the heart'. There is also a long appendix on writing an expository sermon.

Abraham Kuruvilla, *A Vision for Preaching: Understanding the Heart of Pastoral Ministry*

(Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2015).

Kuruvilla has written other books on the topic, but this is the most accessible, exploring preaching as biblical, pastoral, ecclesial, communicational, theological, applicational, conformational, doxological, and spiritual!

Jonathan Lamb, *Preaching Matters: Encountering the Living God*

(Nottingham: IVP, 2014).

A clear and helpful book, from the former Director of Langham Preaching, drawing on years of experience training others in the craft of preaching.

Jonathan Leeman, *Word-Centered Church: How Scripture Brings Life and Growth to God's People*

(Chicago: Moody, 2017).

As Leeman says, he 'hopes to illustrate that the "ministry of the Word" indeed begins in the pulpit, but then must continue through the life of the church as members echo God's Word back and forth to one another'.

Thomas G. Long, *The Witness of Preaching*, 3rd edn.

(Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2016).

Conrad Mbewe, *Pastoral Preaching: Building a People for God*

(Carlisle: Langham Preaching Resources, 2017).

John S. McClure et al., *Listening to Listeners: Homiletical Case Studies*

(St Louis: Chalice, 2004).

The first in a series of four books published by Chalice Press on 'Channels of Listening' (check out the others in the series), designed to help preachers understand the factors that influence how sermons are heard and how they can use this information to preach more effectively.

Jason Meyer, *Preaching: A Biblical Theology*

(Wheaton: Crossway, 2013).

Marvin A. McMickle, *Shaping the Claim: Moving from Text to Sermon*, Elements of Preaching

(Minneapolis: Fortress, 2008).

Part of the 'Elements of Preaching' series (worth looking out for others in the series), this one looks at addressing hearers at the levels of head, heart, and hands through a threefold process of (1) What to preach? (2) So What? (3) Now What?

Mark Meynell, *What Angels Long to Read: Reading and Preaching the New Testament*

(Carlisle: Langham Preaching Resources, 2017).

Great practical sections – with worked examples – on preaching the gospels and Acts, the parables, the letters, and the book of Revelation.

Gary Millar and Phil Campbell, *Saving Eutychus: How to Preach God's Word and Keep People Awake*

(Kingsford: Matthias Media, 2013).

Helpful and very practical insight and advice.

Josh Moody and Robin Weeks, *Burning Hearts: Preaching to the Affections*

(Fearn: Christian Focus, 2014).

Explores the whole area of preaching to the heart for a response from the heart.

Alec Motyer, *Preaching? Simple Teaching on Simply Preaching*

(Fearn: Christian Focus, 2013).

James R. Nieman, *Knowing the Context: Frames, Tools, and Signs for Preaching*, Elements of Preaching

(Minneapolis: Fortress, 2008).

Daniel Overdorf, *Applying the Sermon: How to Balance Biblical Integrity and Cultural Relevance*

(Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2009).

Perhaps a bit too 'mechanistic' in its approach, but one of the few books which tackles the issue of application head on.

Eugene H. Peterson, *Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading*

(London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2006).

Many of Peterson's works are really helpful in seeking to help people find how God is using them in their particular contexts. This book is great at inspiring us to re-enter the world of the Bible and live our lives in its light.

Mark Allan Powell, *What Do They Hear? Bridging the Gap Between Pulpit and Pew*

(Nashville: Abingdon, 2007).



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For Further Reading (Cont'd)

Michael J. Quicke, *360-Degree Preaching: Hearing, Speaking, and Living the Word*

(Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003).

Roots preaching in a trinitarian dynamic, and tries to take into account the relationship between the Trinity, the preacher, and the congregation. Quicke explores what he calls the 'preaching swim': immersion into Scripture, interpretation, sermon design, sermon delivery, and outcomes.

Michael J. Quicke, *Preaching as Worship: An Integrative Approach to Formation in Your Church*

(Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2011).

This is helpful not just on preaching but on how preaching coheres with the wider worship experience and how it all takes into account people's everyday contexts.

Melinda A. Quivik, *Serving the Word: Preaching in Worship, Elements of Preaching*

(Minneapolis: Fortress, 2009).

Brian D. Russell, *(re)Aligning with God: Reading Scripture for Church and World*

(Eugene: Cascade Books, 2016).

Not on preaching as such, but a really helpful book-length introduction to the significance of reading Scripture through a 'missional' lens.

Greg R. Scharf, *Let the Earth Hear His Voice: Strategies for Overcoming Bottlenecks in Preaching God's Word*

(Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2015).

Analyses and addresses specific 'bottlenecks' in preaching (e.g., faulty text selection, inadequate understanding of the preaching passage, inadequate contextualization to the preaching situation), which provides a different 'feel' compared with more standard books on preaching.

James K.A. Smith, *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit*

(Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2016).

Smith explores how our worship (in the widest sense) leads to formation which leads to new ways of seeing the world. He doesn't say much about the role preaching plays as part of that formation, but his work is very suggestive for preachers.

Geoffrey Stevenson and Stephen Wright, *Preaching with Humanity: A Practical Guide for Today's Church*

(London: Church House Publishing, 2008).

Peter K. Stevenson, *Preaching*

(London: SCM, 2017).

Part of the 'SCM Studyguide' series, with practical exercises for use by individuals or groups.

John Stott, *The Preacher's Portrait: Five New Testament Word Studies*

(Carlisle: Langham Preaching Resources, 2016).

John Stott with Greg Scharf, *The Challenge of Preaching*

(Carlisle: Langham Partnership International, 2011).

A very good abridgment of John Stott's classic book, *I Believe in Preaching*.

James W. Thompson, *Preaching Like Paul: Homiletical Wisdom for Today*

(Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001).

Al Tizon, *Missional Preaching: Engage • Embrace • Transform*

(Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2012).

Worth a look, but 'missional' seems to be defined mainly in 'social engagement' terms rather than a wider everyday life sense.

J.R. Woodward, *Creating a Missional Culture: Equipping the Church for the Sake of the World*

(Downers Grove: IVP 2012).

Like some others here, not on preaching as such, but explores both the nature of the church and its practical life together as it seeks to enable people live faithfully in culture.

Christopher J.H. Wright, *Sweeter Than Honey: Preaching the Old Testament*

(Carlisle: Langham Preaching Resources, 2015).

Stephen I. Wright, *Alive to the Word: A Practical Theology of Preaching for the Whole Church*

(London: SCM, 2010).



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