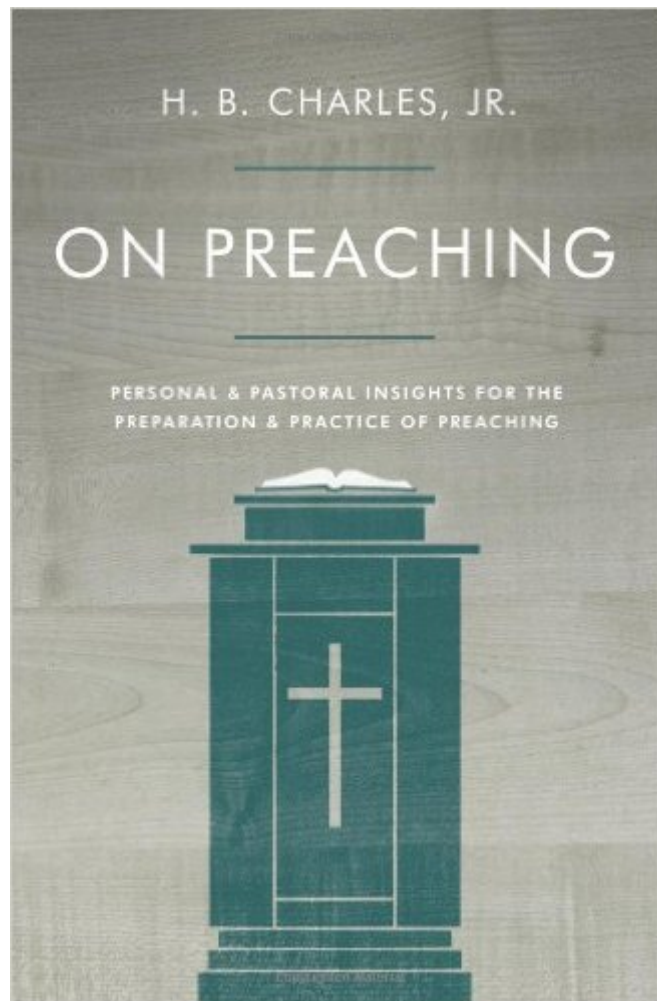


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# On Preaching: Personal & Pastoral Insights For The Preparation & Practice Of Preaching



## Synopsis

Preaching Magazine's 2015 Book of the Year! If you are a pastor, you know the importance of preaching. You have spent time learning and refining the art of preaching because it is vital to the life of God's people—including the preacher. But you probably also find it challenging. *On Preaching* is a masterful resource that will refresh your soul and revitalize your preaching ministry. Drawing upon Scripture and years of preaching experience, H. B. Charles offers a practical resource for pastors, seminarians, church planters, and Bible teachers that is full of energy and wonderfully enjoyable. He gives tips like, "Avoid indecent exposure—get your wife's permission before using your family in the message" and "Illustrate! A good illustration is like a window on a house. It helps your listeners see in or out." Written in a very clear and concise manner, this resource is formatted into 30 short chapters that can easily be read as a devotional. *On Preaching* will encourage seasoned preachers to dig deeper into the basics as they pause and reflect on the effectiveness of their ministry. It will also serve as a spring board for those who are just beginning a preaching ministry.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What is biblical preaching? Is it necessary for a preacher or preacher to be to go to seminary? How can one get ready for preaching each week and every week? What about taking a sabbatical from preaching? What has prayer got to do with preaching? These questions and many more are dealt with in this very down to earth treatment of all things preaching. Broadly framed in three parts, the book's central conviction is that preaching is such a huge privilege that it cannot be taken for granted. In talking about the three kinds of preachers, the most important kind is the one we "must"

listen to, not can or cannot. Thus, renowned preacher and pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida has given us a handbook of preaching best practices to help us, especially for those who periodically encounter a "preaching crisis." Such a crisis is not something that is bad. Rather, it is an impetus to seek improvement. It is a motivation to become a better herald of God's Word. It is a calling to be equipped to be a better preacher one sermon at a time. Part One is about the Preparation for preaching. Charles emphasizes the centrality of Scripture as the main text to use. Due to the importance of proper biblical exegesis and understanding, while it is not absolutely essential, preachers are urged to obtain seminary training where possible. This is part of the due diligence process in the preparation for preaching. In order to ensure sufficient time to study, one needs to plan ahead, optimize time usage, and focus. Remember that sermon preparation is also spiritual warfare. Praying, reading, studying, developing, writing, and other steps go into the whole preparation process.

H.B. Charles, Jr. has provided a short and helpful resource for preachers in his book *On Preaching*. Charles from the very beginning of the book demonstrates his understanding of the vital importance of preaching for pastoral ministry. Charles addresses three main areas surrounding preaching preparation for preaching, the practice of preaching, and general points of wisdom for preaching. Charles in addressing the need for preparation recommends that if one is able to get theological training at seminary they should, while also emphasizing that whether one attends formal schooling or not one should still be a student. He also addresses a bias towards candidates with a master's degree in churches. This is a needed word for the church and for pastors. I know men who have graduated with a M.Div. and have departed the faith while on the other hand I know men who have never completed college who are faithfully serving the Lord in pastoral ministry. His focus on preparation focuses on preparing a preaching calendar, studying the text, and praying before preaching. In his advice on preaching itself he recommends writing out a full manuscript before for clarity of communication and becoming familiar with the material in such a way that neither a manuscript or notes are needed. The overall focus of the final section is becoming comfortable with being yourself as a preacher and not trying to imitate or steal another preacher's sermons or style. His last two chapters are probably ones that bear repeated reading as reminds preachers that we are not to seek to be somebody and that the aim of our charge is to be men of God who faithfully and rightly handle the word of God. I think there is much to commend this book to wide audience of preachers and pastors.

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