Effective Preaching with PowerPoint
FC Lecture

Intro: What a world we live in! In terms of technology there are so many things we can do in this generation that were not possible before; and now technology can also be an aid to those of us who preach the gospel. Many churches in the past several years have added to their technological assets the data-projector system. And with it, effective visual presentations can be made through software presentation programs like Microsoft PowerPoint. So this lecture focuses on "Effective Preaching with PowerPoint". All of us want to improve our skills as teachers of the word of God (I'd like to believe that the best sermon I ever preach is still out there to be preached). And I think you must feel the same way since you are here. So I hope to share some things that will help us do that.

But let's start here:

What is Effective Preaching?
Paul in 2 Cor. 4:1-15 gives one of the most powerful and definitive descriptions of effective preaching.
Effective preaching is preaching that causes people to honor and glorify God.

> We preach so that men may *"see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (2 Cor. 4:4).*
> We preach to "*cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God (2 Cor. 4:15).*
> *For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. (2 Corinthians 4:5)*
> It is important that we consider what we are discussing in this room with what is being emphasized elsewhere. Preaching is about God and His message, not about us, and how much less about the technology we use or how we use the technology!
> Technology must always be kept as an <u>aid to</u> true worship and never a <u>distraction from</u> true worship! If someone leaves a sermon and all they can say is, "Boy that preacher sure knows how to use a computer, we've failed." If all they can say, "that was a great PowerPoint presentation, we've failed! The goal of our teaching is not to make people say, "Wow, what a speaker! But, wow, what a Savior!"
> So let us all agree that whatever we do with technology must always be subordinate to the glory and praise of God. Don't let technology get in <u>God's </u>way!

Effective preaching is preaching that demonstrates God's living word in transformed people (the gospel in personality).

> In this paragraph see can see in Paul the features of a person transformed by the gospel. We can see his manifest sincerity.
> "*we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation*

of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. (2 Corinthians 4:2)

We see his sense of blessing in knowing the truth.

For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (Corinthians 4:6)

We see his dependence upon God.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves; (Corinthians 4:7)

We see his boldness of conviction.

But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore also we speak; (Corinthians 4:13)

And so it should be with us! Effective preaching is preaching that demonstrates God's living word in transformed people.

When a preacher preaches to you and you can see his sincerity, the fervor of conviction based on study of God's word, his dependence upon the message to make its impact, and his sense of blessing in having applied God's word to his own life, then there is power in that message. So don't let technology get in <u>your</u> way! Let your presentation enhance you and your message, not diminish and distract from you and your message.

> *Don't forget that the people need to see and hear you, not merely watch a pre-programmed projector screen! So don't let the presentation get in your way!*

Effective preaching is preaching that focuses on the needs of the people and helps them experience the life of God.

> Paul told the Corinthians "all things are for your sake". All of his efforts were intended to "unveil blind hearts" and "open up eyes to see the light of God's truth so that life would work in the Corinthians. Preaching is about the people! About helping them to know and respond to God. Don't let technology get in <u>the people's</u> way!
>
> Keep Paul's image in v. 14 in mind. "He will present us with you"—you and your audience together in heaven!

Effective Preaching with PowerPoint

Though use of technology can be a distraction to God, to you, and to those you teach when used improperly, it can be a great asset in achieving these goals when used effectively.

> ***How the use of PowerPoint can make the presentation of God's message more effective.***
>
> > It reinforces the Bible-centered nature of our worship and teaching.
> >
> > > *When we can show the verse and make the point, every person can easily see that God's word is important and that our teaching is based on what God said!*

It aids those who are unfamiliar with the Bible and who can't easily use their Bibles.

>*More and more guests at our services have little experience in finding the verses and long delays while everyone gets there may hinder the pace of the teaching. I am persuaded that the use of projection helps us keep seekers who come among us; several newcomers have told me personally that they like the way the lessons are presented with the video-projector.*
>*It helps those who are dealing with the obvious distractions (parents caring for young children).*

It assist communication effectiveness

>*It is a matter is scientific fact that visuals enhance the memory capacities of the audience. Visuals add another sensory channel to the learning process. Synergizing both left brain and right brain processes results in a higher attention rates, retention rates, agreement rates, comprehension rates, and response rates.*
>*Well prepared visuals can improve the audience's perception of the presenter. He will be perceived as more prepared, professional, persuasive, credible, interesting. A less capable presenter using visual may have the same impact as a very good presenter without visuals. And so that will give confidence to those who take the time to prepare good visuals.*

It enables us clarify complex ideas (chronology, relationship of ideas)
It enables us to make the abstract become concrete. It enables us to bring photos to the audience making people and places more "real" (lessons about archaeology, landscape of Palestine, pics of real people in evangelistic work overseas). Sometimes "a picture is worth a thousand words".

Some effective uses of PowerPoint in teaching
>***Self-teaching presentations***
>***Home Bible Studies (a few slides of a couple)***
>>Lessons by Thomas Jones
>>Lesson by Kevin Kay
>***Pre-service and in-service kiosks***
>>Informing visitors and members before worship (Ill. Stan Cox, Danny Haynes at Embry Hills, Michael Schmidt)
>>>*Each of these men has done a good job of exploring the possibilities for communication with visitors and members before the services. By such kiosks we can provide:*
>>>>(1) Information for visitors (service times, sermon topics, tapes & CD's, info about the congregation, first principle teaching, offers for Bible studies, church web site)
>>>>(2) Information for members (encourage yearly themes, Bible reading, group meetings, prayers for sick, people supported)

Preparing hearts for worship (Ill. My kiosk on Ps. 148)
Providing guidance in worship (Ill. Michael Schmidt)

> *Another dimension not explored is using PowerPoint in the service for song lists, scripture readings during the Lord's Supper*

Bible classes (representative by Ed Law, master chart man)
Ill. Ed's charts

Sermons

Some suggestions for making effective presentations

Give your presentation structure

> *We must be careful not to let technology become a crutch for developing good rhetorical skills.*
> *Prepare your lesson as if the audience were blind. Prepare your lessons in such a way that if the bulb shoots (or the computer crashes, and I guarantee you it will happen at the worst possible time), your lesson will not suffer in effectiveness.*

At least mentality, start with your last slide.

> *What do you want your audience to do, to believe when you get done?*

Organize your supporting ideas to reach your goal.

> *Structure your thoughts.*
> *You can project badly organized sermons and they will still be badly organized! But a sermon rhetorically well planned is even more effective.*
> *Cf. lesson by David Tant "Too"*

Remember these four essentials of your visuals

Big

> *Use readable fonts*
> *For me that usually means no font under 32 point!*
> *Use six-foot rule*

Clear

> *Fonts without serifs are easier to read.*
> *Shadows can be problematic from a distance*
> *Mixing upper and lower case is easier to read than all caps*

Simple

> *Remember KISS! (Keep it simple, stupid!)*
> *The audience should grasp the point being made in seconds; don't let artistic exuberance result in confusion.*
> *Use your visual to express the key words; let your voice fill in the needed information. Don't allow the monitor to become your "notes" and end up reading your lesson to the audience.*
> *Less is more!*
> *Put less on a page, generally no more than 5 to 6 lines of 5 to 7 words per line.*

Consistent (Use a consistent design)

Avoid numerous backgrounds and color changes that add meaningless confusion to your presentation; instead go for consistency of style

Instead use a consistent background, a few compatible colors, and animations that enhance the presentation.

Don't forget about the "master slide" view which allows you to make global changes to documents without the need to alter every slide.

Judicious use of graphics and photos can add interest and clarity.

Graphics can be used to support a theme

ill. God's blue print pattern by Don Hooten

The Microsoft web site allows users to download themes.

Think about how these could be used for various lessons.

Graphics can be used to stress a point

Ill. Matt's sermon on Abortion

Graphics can be used as a substitute for text; but make sure the graphic doesn't mislead.

Ill. Brent Hunter's sermon on women

Photos can make the abstract come alive!

Ill. Under his feet

One word of warning here: Be aware of the copyright laws in your use of graphics and photos. Most web sites and photos archives have quite strict rules about using their material. So honor the copyright law.

Use color, but use it wisely!

Studies show that good use of color makes your presentations more desirable to be read, more memorable

Use complementary colors for the greater visibility

Use analogous colors when using more than one color for a background

The PowerPoint designs menu includes an array of compatible color schemes and designs.

Remember that a small number of males are color-blind so be careful about red-green combinations.

Animations can add interest and assist structure.

Animations can add interest

Ill. Steve Brewer's "what in your head"

Animations can be a big distraction!

Computers can do "neat" things; concentrate on "needed" things! Sometimes in our excitement to use all the bells and whistles of program we may actually create distractions from God and our message. Does an animation have to turn six flips to get attention? Could it actually steal the thought being presented? An unusual animation may at first amuse the audience; but then repeating it may actually annoy them. So

be careful. We don't have to put all of the 100 plus animations in every sermon! ;>)

Animations can assist the structure of your sermon
Perhaps ideas on the same plain could be presented in one way subtly showing their relationship.
A new main section might be introduced with a slide transition or a new transition.

Animations help build the idea of a lesson by adding a little at a time.
Ill. Lesson by Sewell Hall on baptism

Some practical things I've learned from using PowerPoint
Save fonts with presentations when you are preaching on another system.
Take active steps to prevent equipment failure!
Clean the filter! (My projector once quit in the middle of a lesson because of overheating caused by not cleaning the filters often enough.)
Watch for dead batteries in remote mice.
Be aware of bulb life and provide a replacement (sometimes it can take days to get one in and it may fail in a gospel meeting).
Be prepared for unexpected "surprises".
Murphy's Law will strike. Things that you never expected will happen when dealing with computers (software crashes, mouse will go dead).
Make sure the host computer has been set up for your projector if you take one with you!

Conclusion: As preachers of the gospel we want to do the best job we can in communicating God's message. Take pains with your presentations! Make them the best you can make them; but keep your balance. Remember it's not what they think of the presentation that matters; it's what they think of the message and the God we serve. If we can use PowerPoint to aid in "true worship", then we have done our job.