

# **Preaching to the heart**

## ***Keeping sharp in preaching***

### **1. Convictions about Scripture**

#### **The Bible is God's Word**

- Jesus accepted the Old Testament as God's word (Matthew 5:17-19; 19:4-6)
- Jesus prepared for the New Testament to be God's word (John 14:25-26; 16:12-14)
- The Bible's own claims for itself (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 3:15-16)

#### **The Bible is God's contemporary word**

##### Old Testament

Contemporary voice of Jesus (Hebrews 2:12-13)

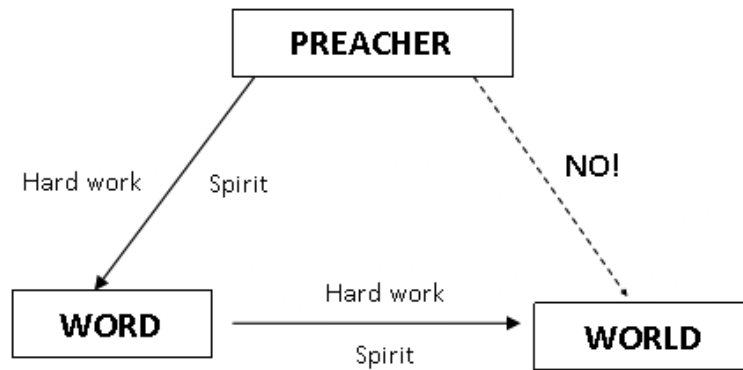
Contemporary voice of the Spirit (Hebrews 3:7-8)

##### New Testament

2 Timothy 2:2; Revelation 2:7

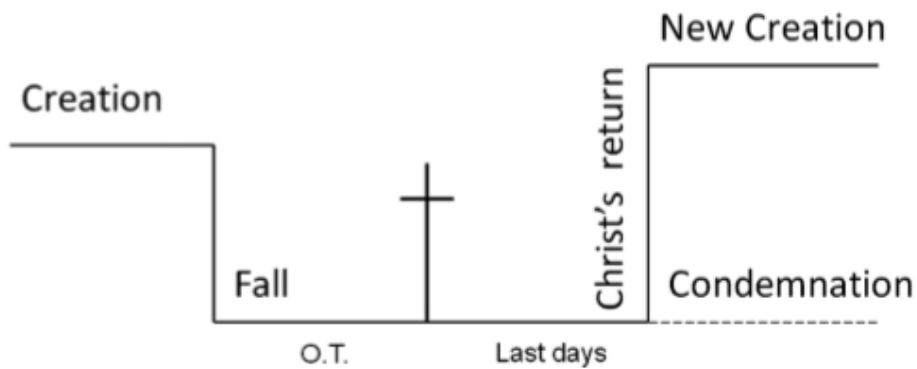
- God the Father speaks through the word (Hebrews 4:12)
- God the Son rules through the word (Ephesians 1:13; John 10:27; Colossians 3:16)
- God the Spirit works through the word (2 Timothy 3:16; John 3:5; 1 Peter 1:23; John 17:17; Ephesians 6:17)

## Faithful preaching is expounding God's word



## 2. Context

1. Where does the book fit in the Bible?



2. Where does the passage fit in the book?

- a. What is the structure of the book?

3. What is the melodic line/central ministry purpose of the book?

- a. What is it designed to do?

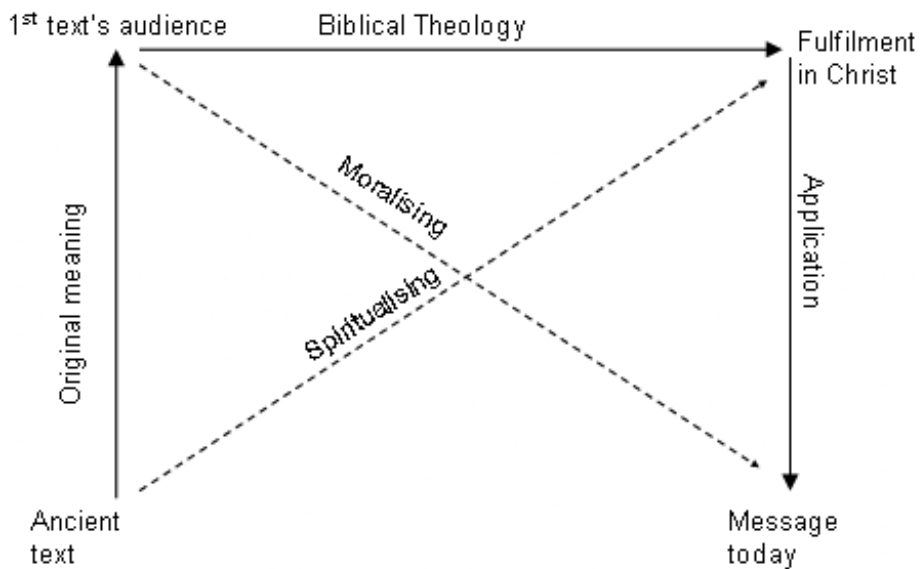
### 3. Content

1. What are the main sections of the passage?
2. Look for repeated themes and words
3. What is the big idea?

What question is the passage answering?  
What is the answer?

Summarise the message in a sentence.

### 4. Christ



### Wrong ways of bridging the gap

- Allegory
- Spiritualizing

- Imitating Bible characters

- Moralizing

The deadly Bes!

### **Common abuses**

**The hijack** (e. g. 'The benefits of vegetarianism')

- using a text to support an alien idea

**Distortion of scale** (e. g. 1:8 'Daniel's politeness')

- Focus on a detail to displace the major theme

**Ignorance of immediate context** (e. g. 1:8 'The value of resolutions')

- Ignoring the immediate context to make a general point

**Ignorance of wider context** (e. g. 1:19 'Godliness will bring promotion')

- Ignoring the teaching of the Bible as a whole

**Hobby-horse emphasis** (e. g. 1:2 'God disciplines his people')

- Over-emphasising parts that support a favourite theme