

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 5:24 ESV



BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH

Worship Service & Communion

Sunday, 6 September, 2020

Morning Worship Live Stream - 11:00am

 <https://www.youtube.com/user/bereanbarbados/live>

 <https://www.facebook.com/BereanBarbados/live>

Midweek Online Service (Wednesday)

7:30 pm | ZOOM links provided

 **WhatsApp 845 - 5752 or Tel: 426 - 4707**

email: info@bereanbarbados.org

www.bereanbarbados.org

Should I Always Preach through Books of the Bible?

By Jay Thomas

There was a time when a fellow pastor might ask me, “So what are you preaching through these days?” The key word was through. The assumption was that I was preaching through a whole book of the Bible.

Nowadays, I’m usually asked, “So what are you preaching these days?” Through has been dropped. The assumption that exposition and lectio continua—the commitment to preach serially through whole books of the Bible—go hand in hand is not always commonplace, even among theologically robust pastors.

Particularly Effective Method

I don’t think exposition demands lectio continua. It’s quite valid to argue that one can preach a topical series and yet do exposition on individual passages that support it. But I’d argue that lectio continua is a particularly effective means of preaching not only to spiritually mature Christians, but also to people ensconced in our modern world.

I’m concerned that many pastors are retreating from this method, not because of lack of commitment to exposition, but because they’re concerned lectio continua can’t bear the weight of modern ministry needs. Many of my fellow pastors are firmly committed to exposition as a matter of treating individual passages, yet they may not feel lectio continua, as a default method, is sustainable or even wise for our day.

Here are some questions and arguments I often hear against preaching through whole books of the Bible:

- Lectio continua is not an ideal preaching method to hit all the important topics. My average congregant is only in my area for a few years. How can I faithfully catechize them in all the Christian faith?
- We no longer run adult Sunday school classes, so the sermon is where people get most of their instruction. Therefore, shouldn’t I use the sermon to teach systematic theology, worldview, and the storyline of Scripture?
- I can’t find a clear biblical command that requires lectio continua. Most preaching in the Bible seems akin to a topical approach.
- I’d love to geek out on lectio continua, but the average person today wouldn’t benefit as much from that as from a topical series.

These objections are reasonable and must be taken seriously. But I think the assets of lectio continua are far greater than its possible liabilities, for five reasons.

1. The Holy Spirit inspired the structure of both single passages and also entire books.

This affirmation is vital, since knowing structure is an important part of arriving at the meaning of a text. While one-off expositions can unpack close context, whole-book preaching forces the preacher to consistently point to the macro-structure or melodic line of a book. But when expositions aren't set within the overall context and structure of a book, it's easy to miss that macro-structure—and also (therefore) the emphasis and meaning of individual texts.

2. It teaches people to read, study, and teach Scripture in a way non-sequential preaching doesn't.

I like cooking shows. I also like to eat. But the act of eating is deepened when I understand the process by which my meal came about. Topical preaching, even when done expositively, can undermine one of the most important parts of good preaching: training people to be students of the Word.

By shaping a thematic series according to logical and practical categories, often based on theological training and a good eye for cultural needs, a pastor can inadvertently teach people that he's the only resource for insightful and rich teaching. *Lectio continua* shows that God's Word is packed with relevant themes and doctrines that naturally arise as the book unfolds.

3. It allows you to leave the teeth and the tension in individual passages.

When using a text to support a doctrine or theme, it's tempting to bring in systematics or your pet framework to provide the balance in each sermon. Whether the tension is law and gospel, hierarchy and equality, justice and mercy, or truth and compassion, *lectio continua* frees the preacher to let the emphasis of the text stand, knowing the tension will be balanced or resolved as the book unfolds.

4. It's a practical means of catechizing and teaching thematically.

Preaching through books of the Bible offers myriad opportunities to do biblical theology, touch on doctrine, reflect on church history, teach a worldview, and apply ethical matters. The added benefit is you're able to explore a theme or doctrine as originally expressed within the inspired emphasis and structure of the book.

5. Should we rest the weight of all our catechesis on the pulpit?

Is this the role of the pulpit? I realize many churches choose not to have adult learning classes outside the worship service due to various constraints (for example, facility limitations, cultural factors, and so on). But there are other venues in which to teach on topics and themes. Midweek seminars and studies are a viable option, even for busy urban settings. Small groups, which many churches now emphasize, are a fruitful context for studying truths arranged thematically.

I would encourage pastors not to put the full weight of the church's teaching ministry on the pulpit. The pulpit is most liberated to be all that God intended when the gospel is proclaimed within its biblical context.

Order of Service

September 6, 2020, 10:40 am

“...from death to life” John 5:24b ESV

1. Call to Worship – Bro. Tony Marshall
2. Announcements – Secretary Celeste Porte
3. Meditation & Invocation
4. Hymn #13 – Crown Him With Many Crowns (Vs. 1, 2, 3 & 6)
5. Hymn #192 – One Day (Vs. 1, 2 & 5)
6. Scripture Reading – I John 5:1-13 – Bro. Harold Codrington
7. Prayer
8. Ministry of Music – Nathan Ottley
9. Hymn #448 – I stand Amaze (My Saviour’s Love) Vs. 1, 4 & 5
10. Sermon – Rev. Paul Garnes
11. Hymn #840 – What a Day That Will Be
12. Distribution of Elements
13. Hymn – O Great God
14. Benediction



PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:

- Give God thanks for His grace and continual goodness
- Continue to pray for our sick members, friends and relatives.
- Pray for the ministry and wellbeing of Pastor Paul Garnes, and his family
- For the care of our elderly. shut-ins, the bereaved
- For the Berean Church families in The DR Congo as they combat Covid-19 and related challenges
- For the friends of Berean – The Gilmores, Hulls, Taylors, Haecks, Moores and Porchers
- For our unemployed members to find meaningful employment
- For the economic recovery of our country Barbados
- For a cure for the Corona virus
- For the peace of Jerusalem

September Birthdays



2nd – Mikeala Smith-Clarke	13th – Kenny Maycock	25th – Esmay Maycock
7th – Myrna Belle	15th – Stephen Mendes	26th – Adrian Greenidge
9th – Julia Ifill	17th – Shelah Alleyne	– Aubrey Maloney
– Gavin Neblett	19th – Diana Bentley	27th – Cardinal Alleyne
10th – Cynthia Trotman	– Sherry-Ann Wiltshire	– Sylvine Marshall
11th – Shelley Peters	20th – Anne-Marie Cruickshank	30th – Beverley Wason
12th – Ormenta Hoyte	24th – Marva Springer	

Anniversaries



2nd – Joan & Michael Aimey	23rd – Shurley & Marilyn Reece
15th – Leon & Debra King	26th – Lauraine & Ian Bovell
22nd – Nicholas & Rachel Williams	27th – Patrick & Eartha Skeete