

be no bad idea. However, before beginning exposition it is absolutely necessary that the end be seen from the beginning, so that every single discourse may be a distinct and discernible step toward that end.

2d. By mapping out a plan and dividing the whole field into separate sections, so as to determine what and how much is to be taken up in each sermon. The attempt to carry on a series of expository discourses from week to week without a definite and previously arranged plan, will result in confusion, and destroy the proportion which one topic should bear to another. If the section be a narrative, suitable marks must be discovered by which one portion may be distinguished from another; if an epistle, one should analyze the logical course of the writer's thought, and divide accordingly. In general, in choosing the division for each sermon, one ought not to be guided simply by the length of the passage, but by the unity of its structure; however, the passages should not be so long that the expositions of them must be weak and incomplete on account of the limited time which an ordinary sermon affords. In such cases it is better to divide into two sermons. On the other hand, the passage should not be so short that the expositions must be minute and microscopic, unless it is a very interesting or important sentence, which requires a separate sermon to meet, perhaps, the special wants of a congregation.

1. Having passed through this preparatory course of systemization, the preacher is now ready to begin the work of preparing sermons as they are needed, week after week. "The introductory discourse will naturally deal with matters which will lead up to, and clear the way for, others. If the book be historical, it will be well to give a lucid but brief summary of the state of things existing before and at the time to which it refers. Some attention also should