A. I want us to use our _____________ this morning.
   1. Imagine going to ___________ and being a _____________ for the next 25 years.
   2. Imagine coming back 25 years later to find your country had drastically _____________.
   3. Imagine the congregation, which once had supported your mission work, is now __________ and __________ up.

B. With that scenario in mind, consider these questions:
   1. How do you think such an experience would affect your __________?
   2. How do you think your converts in China are going to react when you return and inform them that the people who had originally supported your mission efforts are no longer ___________?

C. The reason I’ve asked us to picture such a future scenario is so that we can accurately understand a __________ _____________.
   1. This hypothetical exercise of our imagination wasn’t hypothetical at all for the __________ _____________.
   2. If you substitute “_________” for “___________,” and replace America for __________, then we will be prepared for today’s text.

D. Paul was the missionary who found great success among a foreign people - the __________ - while seeing the gospel rejected by his people - the __________.

E. The Jews were the most prepared people on earth to __________ the Messiah, yet when he finally came, they _________ him.

F. Unless we understand this _____________, then we are going to misunderstand the passages we will explore in the next few sermons as we think about God’s ____________, predestination, and _____________.

G. A whole system of theology called _____________ has sprung out of a misreading of Romans chapters __ through __.

H. Four truths to keep in mind:
   1. First, it is possible to have great spiritual ___________, and yet end up ___________.
   2. Second, _________ can be saved, but not _________ will be saved (Matthew 7:13-14; 21-23).
   3. Third, our salvation is not due to physical _________, but to spiritual _________ (Romans 9:6-9; John 1:10-13).
   4. Fourth, we must be saved by _________, or we cannot be saved at all (Romans 10:9-13; 1:16-17).