

Bob Kauflin & Devon Kauflin

ARRANGING TO SERVE YOUR CONGREGATION

I. Introduction

II. The Wisdom of Preparation

A. God commends planning.

The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty. Prov. 21:5

Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established. Prov. 16:3

B. We've already been planning and preparing for years.

C. Practice may not make perfect, but it does make better.

D. It's possible to plan and prepare too much, but more often, we plan and prepare for the wrong things.

III. Know What Your Goal Is

A. What are we seeking to do?

1. We want people to see the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ and respond with our minds, hearts, and wills. (2 Cor. 3:17-18; Rom. 12:1-2; Mk. 12:30)

“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” (2 Cor. 3:18)

2. We have nothing better, bigger, brighter, or more beautiful to give people than a deeper knowledge of Jesus Christ.

B. Our goal is to pursue “undistracting excellence.”

“We will try to sing and play and pray and preach in such a way that people's attention will not be diverted from the substance by shoddy ministry nor by excessive finesse, elegance, or refinement. Natural, undistracting excellence will let the truth and beauty of God shine through. We will invest in equipment good enough to be undistracting in transmitting heartfelt truth.”

(<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-unites-us-in-worship-at-bethlehem>)

IV. How Then Should We Prepare? Gospel vs. Performance Mindset

A. Prepare your own heart.

- 1. A gospel mindset seeks to show people the glory of Christ.*
- 2. A performance mindset seeks to show people our own glory. Its greatest concern is what people will think of me vs. what people will think of Christ.*

B. Prepare to display Christ.

- 1. A gospel mindset seek to make Christ's person and work big.*
- 2. A performance mindset seeks to make human planning, ability, skill, and execution big.*
- 3. A gospel mindset realizes we'll never be able to adequately communicate the glory of Christ.*
- 4. A performance mindset thinks Jesus looks better because of our contribution.*
- 5. A gospel mindset values clearly articulated theology and compelling presentations of the gospel.*
- 6. A performance mindset is geared more towards sentimentalism, tradition. It prefers what feels good vs. what actually is good.*

C. Prepare to make connections between our need and God's provision in the gospel.

- 1. A gospel mindset acknowledges weakness and challenges.*
- 2. A performance mindset focuses solely on victory and triumph.*
- 3. A gospel mindset seeks to expose sin for what it really is - disgusting, defiling, and deadly.*

4. *A performance mindset tends to treat sin generically and broadly.*

D. *Prepare to give people opportunity to reflect, be affected, and respond.*

1. *A gospel mindset is full of expectation for how the Holy Spirit will move in people's hearts.*

2. *A performance mindset thinks the work is over when the plan is well executed.*

3. *A gospel mindset seeks spiritual change.*

4. *A performance mindset seeks emotional gratification.*

V. **Conclusion**