



SESSION 3:
**REFLECTIONS ON PREACHING
IN THE MODERN AGE**

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|-----------------|---------------|--|--|
| The Message | Strengths | <p>Consistency throughout</p> <p>Beneficial to us (God's blessings)</p> <p>Gives us hope and purpose</p> <p>Provides a moral compass</p> <p>Eternal Life in God's Family</p> <p>Always new and fresh on every reading</p> <p>Encouraging to know the trials of faith heroes</p> <p>Timelessness (always relevant)</p> <p>Textual reliability maintained through history</p> <p>People of the Book (it's our final authority)</p> <p>Selfless example of Jesus/Apostles shows they didn't have an agenda (only God's)</p> | <p>Infallible, Absolute Truth, Defines Right and Wrong (real life examples),</p> <p>Fulfilled Bible Prophecy</p> <p>Mutual Improvement (living for others),</p> <p>Friendship with God</p> <p>Transformative (Power to change us)</p> <p>Explains suffering and consoles us when suffering</p> <p>The ecclesia tries to follow pattern of early church</p> <p>The ecclesia provides great fellowship and hospitality</p> |
| | Weaknesses | <p>Still small voice doesn't slap you in the face</p> <p>Difficult to understand, symbolism/parables (resources/community, bible interprets itself, problems engages/interests us)</p> <p>Sacrifice can seem foolish and a stumblingblock,</p> <p>Instruction of scripture often a hard pill to swallow</p> <p>Delayed gratification (God's time)</p> | <p>Challenge of upholding God's righteousness in fallen world (love sinner, hate sin)</p> <p>Bad/Good things happening</p> <p>Misunderstanding cultural context, style</p> <p>Insufficient focus on application</p> <p>Genocide in the old testament</p> |
| The Environment | Opportunities | <p>Many are searching for meaning, purpose (an invitation is extended)</p> <p>Fearfulness of World Conditions (wars, strife, etc.)</p> <p>Hopelessness and nihilism</p> <p>Mainstream Christianity</p> | <p>Technology helps communication,</p> <p>Transportation helps accessibility</p> <p>Our financial ability to reach others with loving support</p> <p>Climate change and global inequity has an answer in God's plan.</p> |
| | Threats | <p>Thoughtlessness, focused on the moment</p> <p>Traditional views of orthodoxy</p> | <p>The Truth is culturally out of style,</p> <p>Controversial topics are avoided</p> <p>Misrepresentation of God by bad examples</p> <p>Short attention spans (rather watch a video than read the Bible)</p> |