

# (Sermon Preparation) Lecture 07

by Alan Redpath

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of living according to God's principles and prioritizing worship over work.*

**Duration:** 37:46

**Scripture:** Luke 14:26, Acts 20:20, Acts 20:24, 2 Corinthians 12:14, Colossians 3:8

**Topics:** "Sermon Preparation"

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## Description

In the video, the preacher introduces fourteen principles for Christian living. He challenges the audience to quickly find Bible verses to support each principle. The principles include the importance of repentance, the need for discipleship and lordship in salvation, and the significance of putting off the old life and putting on the new. The preacher emphasizes that these principles are often overlooked and need to be emphasized in ministry.

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## Transcript

Thank you, Lord, that we ask you to do that. Your Holy Spirit does indeed take the things of Christ and reveal them to us. He's the only one who can, and we submit to his authority.

Thank you for this day, and for your goodness and mercy to us, renewed every day. In Jesus' name, amen. Now, my apologies for interrupting for one hour the lectures of this week, but I covered the course of homiletics very inadequately, and I'm leaving it this way, that you will try to secure a copy of the books by W.E. Sangster, *The Craft of Sermon Preparation* and *The Craft of Sermon Illustration*.

They're absolute masterpieces. And all I know and more has been found in those two books. Tonight, I'm going to do something different.

I want to give you what I would have done if I'd had more time one other evening. I want to give you fourteen principles for Christian living, and I want you to write them down. And having written them down, I'm then giving you a text to support each of them.

And I'm asking, who will be quickest in standing up, finding the text, standing up, reading it? Now, I'm always told that Americans and Canadians are the quickest of all, but I question it. I'm going to put them against people from the United Kingdom and people from the rest of the world. Europe, Southern Ireland, the Far East, and all other countries, and see if it's really true that Americans and Canadians are the

smartest of everybody.

All you have to do is first to get down on paper the fourteen principles of Christian living, and then be the first one to stand up on your feet and read out the text that I give you. Okay? And I'm here marking just to find out exactly who gets the best. But these fourteen principles are very important, and at least I want you to take them home.

I'd have been developing them had I more time in our lecture periods this term on hermeneutics and similar subjects. Preparation for Christian service, really. Now then, ready? All bright-eyed, bushy-tailed, all set? Right? Ready with pen and paper? Go on.

One. By the way, you will find, if I may just introduce it this way, you will find that these basic principles are most unpopular in most circles, and they're greatly in need of emphasizing in all our ministry. One.

The whole life of the faithful should be an act of repentance. The whole life of the faithful should be an act of repentance. To rule out repentance in the Church is like inviting another Dunkirk to the spiritual warfare.

Do you know what that is, a Dunkirk? Anybody not know? If I say, invite another Pearl Harbor, is that lighting it up for you? Okay. Say that again. The whole life of the faithful should be an act of repentance.

To rule out repentance in the Church is like inviting another Dunkirk, or Pearl Harbor, into the spiritual warfare. Got that? Now, the verse. Ready? 2 Chronicles 7.14. Yes, you come from? I give you that one mark, but you didn't read it too well.

It should be read audibly, clearly, slowly, with authority. Right. Why are you still holding your hand? Good night.

Nice just knowing you. Number two. Ready? Right? 2 Chronicles 7.14. That lady won by a very short head.

You know what I mean? Just made it. There was someone else just getting up on their feet at the time. Now, here's the second one.

Repentance is void. Void, V-O-I-D, is meaningless. Repentance is void if it does not result in personal crucifixion.

It must get into every relationship, wife or husband, church, ethics. Ethics, E-T-H-I-C-S, that's moral standards, really. Ethics.

No area of total living will be unaffected by it. No area of total living will be unaffected by it. Right? Verse? Colossians 3.5. Sorry.

You come from and give it to you because of your boldness, your boldness, bravery to stand up and knowing that you haven't got free English. Very good. Right? Third.

Third. Ready? You'll be exhausted by the end of this, I tell you. Come on, all set? For sin to be forgiven, it must be forsaken.

We have learned to live with it. For sin to be forgiven, I'm repeating, it must be forsaken. We have learned to live with it.

Right? Ready for verse? Colossians 3.8. You just made it by half an inch. That's right. Very good.

Always remember that that chapter is full of the expression, put off, put on, put off, put on. Change from the old life to the new. That's repentance.

You come from? America? Right. Well, that's very interesting. Right.

Now then, number four. Ready? Number four. There is no salvation without discipleship.

Verse? Luke 14.26. Oh, no, you haven't found it. This one gets it. You haven't found it when you stood up.

Right? Right. Very good. You come from? Right.

Sorry about that, Carolyn. You're just a bit too smart. Typical of you.

Bless your heart. Right. Ready for the next one? That was number five.

No, number four. That's what I was saying. Right.

Number five. Right? Number five. There is no saviourhood without lordship.

There is no saviourhood without lordship. Right? Verse? Ready? Matthew 7.21. I'm sure you'll find it before you stand up. You haven't found it.

You have? Come on, then. That's it. Right.

And you come from? Philippines. Right. Right.

I haven't had anybody from Britain. You see what's happening to us? Now, next one, number six. Ready? The way of the cross is hard.

The way of the cross is hard. The spirit of the church was, underline was, give up and die. Give up and die.

The spirit of the church is, underline is, keep, live, grow fat. Got it? What? Got it? The way of the cross is hard. The spirit of the church was, give up and die.

The spirit of the church is, keep, live, grow fat. Verse? 2 Corinthians 4.11. Yes? A little bit clearer. Sorry.

Yes. Get that verse. It's vital.

We who live are given over to death, that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal body. Also, another verse on this one. Where do you come from? What country? Oh, where that is.

The general group here. Right. Another verse on that one, which is equally important, is Acts 20.24. Yes? Acts 20.24. Thank you.

That's right. You have a country? All right. Ready for the next one? Now this is a longer statement, but get it down now, go slowly.

Methods of the Holy Spirit and methods of men are utterly opposed. Methods of, repeating. Methods of the Holy Spirit and methods of men are utterly opposed.

There are churches from whom the Holy Spirit could leave and nobody would ever know. Again. Repeat.

Just a moment. I'll go through the whole thing. A church can run a long time on its own momentum.

A church can run a long time on its own momentum. Inertia, I-N-E-R-T-I-A, that's laziness. Inertia will carry us for a lifetime with no Holy Spirit impulse.

Methods of the Spirit always humble the flesh. I'll repeat the whole statement. Methods of the Holy Spirit and methods of men are utterly opposed.

There are churches from whom the Holy Spirit could leave and nobody would ever know. A church can run a long time on its own momentum. Inertia will carry us for a lifetime with no Holy Spirit impulse.

Methods of the Holy Spirit always humble the flesh. Right? Right now? Last phrase again. Methods of the Holy Spirit will always humble the flesh.

Verse Romans 8, 13. Yes. Right.

Is that the NIV? Good news, eh? Thank you. And you're from? Mm-hmm. All right.

All right. Hm. Statement 8. Ready? Christ saves us to make us worshippers before workers.

Saves us to make us worshippers before workers. Verse 2 Corinthians 12, 14. Same one as before.

Sorry. You just missed it by half a second. No, let me have it again loud.

Here. Yes, thank you. You may wonder how that applies to the statement we've just made.

The answer is this. I'm putting those words on the lips of the Lord Jesus. I seek not yours, but you.

Not your gifts, not your talents, but you. Christ saves us to make us worshippers before workers. 2 Corinthians 12, 14.

And you're from? Mm-hmm. All right. You came.

Now, this one. This one. Evangelical Christians violate Scripture without knowing it.

Evangelical Christians violate Scripture without realizing it or without knowing it. Careless. We are careless of relations with other people.

Repeat this sentence. Mm-hmm. Evangelical Christians violate Scripture without knowing it.

We are careless of relationships with other people. Verse. Not a verse this time.

But who can tell me where in Scripture that is prominently stated by a Lord in a particular sermon he preached, and what sermon? Who said that? You? Sermon on the Mount? You both said it. That's awkward. All right.

You come from? And you come from? Where? Casey? Oh. I'm going to give you both for that. You come from? Mm-hmm.

And you come from Australia. All right. All right.

Now then, here's one very, very important. Ready for it? Number ten. Meekness, modesty, and humility make a man dear to God.

Meekness, modesty, and humility make a man dear to God. We have too many chiefs and too few Indians in the church. Now, that will be an illustration that puzzles some of you.

We have too many chiefs and not enough Indians in the church. Verse? Ready for it? John 15, 14. Right? Yes.

What version is that? Yes, that's right. But there are stronger translations of that. But that'll do, seeing you're ready for that.

And you come from Australia? Right. Yes. Right? Now, here's one for you, and you'll have to think this one out when I come to the verse.

Ready for it? We cannot, by prayer, justify disobedience. We cannot, by prayer, justify disobedience. We cannot justify disobedience by prayer or by fervency.

Fervency? Oh, that means enthusiasm in preaching. Or faithfulness in our message. We cannot justify disobedience by prayer, fervency, or faithfulness.

Tell me somebody in the Bible, a man in the Bible, who attempted to do that. And where do you find reference to him? Now? Yes? No. No.

No. A man in the Bible, in the Old Testament, who tried to justify, by prayer, his disobedience. Now, who was that? Who said that? Who said that? Joshua? Right.

But do you know where? Joshua, I'll give you, I'll give it, it's a, that was difficult. Joshua at Ai, chapter seven, verse ten. He tried to pray and justify his disobedience.

Chapter seven, verse ten of Joshua. And you're from? Right? Right, it's getting very crucial now, we're near the finish. Now then, here's another similar question.

You cannot cover up disobedience by becoming a missionary. You cannot cover up disobedience by becoming a missionary. Not asking for a verse this time.

Tell me someone in the Bible who tried to do so and wrote a book and told us about it. Who's that? Was that you on your feet? Jonah, you said? Were you first? All right. All right.

Right. And, and, yes, I'm never quite sure with you, where you come from. That's all right.

Right, a lady too, that's good. Jonah, who tried to cover up disobedience by becoming a missionary. Now, reading number thirteen.

We can't cure a spiritual malady by more activity. We cannot cover, sorry, we cannot cure a spiritual malady, that's an illness, a spiritual malady, or spiritual wrong, or anything like that, by more activity. Busyness is no evidence of reality.

Busyness and the Lord's work, no evidence of reality. The test will be, the test will be the final exposure at the throne of God. Is that made clear? And where? You can only speak to him until you hear what he has to say.

No. Pardon? Sorry. Yes, standard reading.

Which verse would you say? Well, what about verse four? Standard reading. That's right. Thank you.

Well, I'll give that one to you. Pardon? This, I think, yes, there are one or two that really could be described as this, but I think this one is outstanding, because I said, business is no evidence of reality. The reality, the test was, yet forsaken the first love for Christ.

Right, now the last one. Ready? Ready? Number fourteen, number fourteen. Our urgent need is not revival, but more of what, sorry, repeating.

Our urgent need is not revival, but reformation. Not more of what we have now, but a new attitude. Correct? Not more of what we have now, but a new attitude.

Give me a verse in scripture which, though not saying that, implies it. I'm prepared to listen to alternatives here. I have one in mind, especially, but listen to other alternatives.

Oh, but you must find the verse. You know the verse, but you don't know the reference. What do you mean? Well, you read it.

Can you read the verse? Can you find it? Well, that was rather subtle. I hardly think that does, but let me have another one. Romans, I beseech you therefore to present.

Who is saying that? Oh, you didn't stand. Right? Has anybody else got a verse that says that? Yes? Yes? Yes, well that's been quoted. Yes? Somebody else? Stand.

What verse is that? That's to Laodicea Church. Yes? That's, yes, Caroline? Ephesians 4, stand. Aye.

How does that begin? Put on, a command that is. Yes. Well, yes, I think that is good.

Yes. Stand. No, neither am I. Let his mind be in you, which is in Christ.

Yes. Yes. Well, now, the one I had for that, perhaps you would question this, I don't know.

Joel 2, 13. Joel 2, 13. Gird on sackcloth and lament, O priests! Wail, O ministers of the altar! Go in, pass the night in sackcloth, O ministers of my God, because offering and drink-offering are withheld from the house of your God.

However, I think that Caroline and, remind me, Bob, both deserve something for that. So I'll give them each a mark. That's North America.

No, England. Right. And Caroline is Britain.

Yes. Right. Well, now, just a minute till I just see.

North American ladies got three points, and men from North America got four. So that's seven. Now, the rest, three from, three men, sorry, two men and one lady from Britain.

That's three. Three ladies from other countries, and one, two, three, four men. So that's four, seven, ten.

Yes, Americans and Canadians got seven first, and the rest got ten. I think that's about going even in relation to numbers. But the important thing is I want you to remember those fourteen principles are

absolutely vital in Christian living.

Thank you very much. Hope that isn't too difficult for you. But I wish I had one, two more hours to complete what I want to do.

Down to Willowbrook on skates, please, twenty-four of you. Good night. The Lord bless you.

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