

THE PREACHER'S WORKBOOK

Volume I of the Lucius Alston Preaching Collection

**From Text to Sermon: Study, Structure, Application, Delivery,
and Reflection**

Lucius Alston

How to Use This Workbook

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This companion volume is designed for repeated use beside *Preaching? Whatever Happened to the Word?* It does not provide canned sermons. It trains the preacher to listen carefully to the biblical text, form a faithful message, serve real people, and evaluate the work with humility.

Print pages as needed, write directly in the book, or duplicate the forms for personal ministry use. Every module follows one conviction: the sermon must come from the text, reveal Christ faithfully, address the congregation honestly, and depend upon the Holy Spirit rather than manipulation.

1. The Preacher Before the Passage No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without prior written permission from the publisher, except for brief quotations used in reviews, teaching, or ministry discussion.

What is happening in my own soul before I study?

Scripture quotations identified as KJV are from the King James Version, which is in the public domain.

This book is intended for educational, devotional, and ministry-development purposes. It does not replace prayerful Bible study, pastoral accountability, denominational guidance, or professional counsel where needed.

What sin must I confess?

Title: The Preacher's Workbook

Subtitle: Volume I of the Lucius Alston Preaching Collection

Author: Lucius Alston

Whom in the congregation am I carrying in prayer? First Edition, 2026

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ISBN:

Am I seeking a sermon or seeking God?

What outcome am I secretly trying to control?

Prayer

2. First Reading: See What Is There

Passage and translation used

Repeated words or ideas

Commands, promises, warnings, contrasts

People, places, movements, and tensions

Questions raised by the text

Prayer

3. Context Guardrails

Immediate literary context

Book-level purpose

Historical and cultural setting

Canonical context

What this text cannot honestly mean

Prayer

4. The Big Idea

Subject: What is the author talking about?

Complement: What is the author saying about it?

One-sentence exegetical idea

One-sentence sermon idea

One sentence a listener can remember Monday morning

Prayer

5. Christ and the Gospel

What does this passage reveal about God?

How does it expose human need?

How does it connect to Christ without forcing the connection?

What gospel hope is present?

How should believer and unbeliever respond?

Prayer

6. Build the Sermon Structure

Opening biblical tension

Movement 1

Movement 2

Movement 3

Transitions

Conclusion and response

Prayer

7. Explanation

What terms require definition?

What background is essential?

What difficulty must be addressed?

What false interpretation must be avoided?

What can be removed because it does not serve clarity?

Prayer

8. Illustration

What truth needs a window?

Is the illustration accurate and verifiable?

Does it illuminate rather than dominate?

Does it protect confidential people?

Can it be told more briefly?

Prayer

9. Application

What should listeners believe?

What should they stop?

What should they begin?

What comfort should they receive?

What concrete obedience can happen this week?

Prayer

10. Invitation Without Manipulation

What response does the text itself call for?

How will Christ be presented clearly?

How will I avoid pressure tactics?

What next step is available?

Who may need private pastoral follow-up?

Prayer

11. Delivery and Time Stewardship

Target sermon length

Where must I slow down?

Where can I simplify?

What sentence deserves silence afterward?

What can be cut if time is short?

Prayer

12. The Sermon Autopsy

Did I explain the text?

Did I preach Christ?

Was the main idea clear?

Did application arise from the passage?

Where did attention drift?

What will I change next time?

Prayer

Complete Text-to-Sermon Laboratory

Passage

Date / Occasion

Audience

Prayer Burden

Observations

Context

Exegetical Big Idea

Sermon Big Idea

Purpose Statement

Christ Connection

Outline

Explanation Notes

Illustrations

Applications

Invitation / Response

Opening

Conclusion

Final Cuts

Follow-Up Plan

Annual Preaching Planner

January

Week 1: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____
 Week 2: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____
 Week 3: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____
 Week 4: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____
 Week 5: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Major pastoral needs / church calendar notes:

February

Week 1: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____
 Week 2: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____
 Week 3: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____
 Week 4: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____
 Week 5: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Major pastoral needs / church calendar notes:

March

Week 1: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____
 Week 2: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____
 Week 3: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____
 Week 4: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____
 Week 5: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Major pastoral needs / church calendar notes:

April

Week 1: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____
 Week 2: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____
 Week 3: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____
 Week 4: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____
 Week 5: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Major pastoral needs / church calendar notes:

May

Week 1: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 2: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 3: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 4: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 5: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Major pastoral needs / church calendar notes:

June

Week 1: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 2: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 3: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 4: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 5: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Major pastoral needs / church calendar notes:

July

Week 1: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 2: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 3: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 4: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 5: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Major pastoral needs / church calendar notes:

August

Week 1: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 2: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 3: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 4: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 5: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Major pastoral needs / church calendar notes:

September

Week 1: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 2: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 3: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 4: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 5: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Major pastoral needs / church calendar notes:

October

Week 1: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 2: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 3: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 4: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 5: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Major pastoral needs / church calendar notes:

November

Week 1: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 2: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 3: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 4: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 5: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Major pastoral needs / church calendar notes:

December

Week 1: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 2: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 3: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 4: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Week 5: Passage _____ Title _____ Purpose _____

Major pastoral needs / church calendar notes:

Funeral Message Builder

What is true about grief?

What is true about God?

What hope does this text give?

How will I honor the deceased without preaching fiction?

How will I proclaim Christ tenderly and clearly?

Wedding Message Builder

What covenant truth governs this message?

How does Christ shape marital love?

What counsel is specific to this couple?

What should be omitted to keep the focus holy and joyful?

Communion Meditation Builder

What aspect of Christ's work is central?

How will the text lead to remembrance, examination, gratitude, and hope?

Baptism Message Builder

What does baptism signify?

How will the gospel be made clear?

How will the church be called to support discipleship?

Revival Message Builder

What spiritual condition does the text address?

What repentance is required?

What grace is offered?

How will urgency remain biblical rather than manipulative?

Thirty-Day Pulpit Health Check

- ☐ I opened the text before secondary sources.
- ☐ I prayed for the people, not merely the sermon.
- ☐ I stated a clear main idea.
- ☐ I respected context.
- ☐ I preached Christ clearly.
- ☐ I explained theological terms.
- ☐ I applied truth specifically.
- ☐ I protected confidential information.
- ☐ I avoided manipulation.
- ☐ I verified stories and claims.
- ☐ I honored the congregation's time.
- ☐ I received feedback humbly.
- ☐ I cared for my family and body.
- ☐ I followed up pastorally.
- ☐ I left results to God.

Most needed improvement this month

One practice I will begin

One practice I will stop

One person who will hold me accountable

The Preacher's Covenant

- ☐ I will preach Christ.
- ☐ I will honor the text.
- ☐ I will study diligently.
- ☐ I will pray fervently.
- ☐ I will shepherd lovingly.
- ☐ I will pursue holiness.
- ☐ I will preach the whole counsel of God.
- ☐ I will trust the Holy Spirit more than my own ability.
- ☐ I will seek faithfulness above popularity.
- ☐ By God's grace, I will preach the Word.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Accountability partner: _____

Additional Sermon Notes 1

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Additional Sermon Notes 2

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Additional Sermon Notes 3

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