

Biblical Exposition: Hearing from God Together

At Shawnee Bible Church, we value biblical exposition, mainly through a regular diet of expository preaching¹ in our corporate worship services. We are convinced that when the Word of God is faithfully and accurately taught the voice of God is heard. We do not believe that God speaks to believers apart from the content of his written Word which points to the Living Word, Jesus Christ. We see preaching the Scriptures as the lifeblood of the local church (2 Timothy 4:1–5).

We value expository preaching as the most important characteristic of a biblical local church because if we get it right, then the rest of what we believe and do will follow. We believe that the Bible originates with God (2 Timothy 3:14–16) and is without error. Therefore, we have a high view of the authority of Scripture and are convinced that God has given it to us for the purpose of knowing and obeying him. Additionally, we are confident that as we understand it, we are enlightened to know the very mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16) through the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3).

Throughout human history, God has revealed himself by words. In the beginning, he spoke directly with the first humans, Adam and Eve. Later, he personally called Abraham into a covenant relationship with himself in order to create his chosen people to bless the entire world. Throughout Israel’s history, God gave his people the “covenants,” the “Law,” and the “promises,” often speaking directly to their “fathers” (Romans 9:4–5)—all effectively preserved in the Old Testament writings. However, we believe God has spoken most clearly and completely through the incarnation of his Son, Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1–4). Hence, in retelling the story of Jesus, John refers to him as the very “Word” (revelation) of God, whose life and teaching are effectively preserved in the New Testament writings. We believe that in the Gospel message God has finally spoken (Hebrews 1:2) so that now we “must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away” (Hebrews 2:1).

Therefore, we believe in constantly returning to the *text* of Scripture—reading it, explaining it, and understanding it in context. We believe that in the gift of Scripture God has granted to us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:2–4).

¹ “Expository preaching” is the discipline of purposefully teaching verse by verse through a text of Scripture with a goal to proclaim what that passage communicates to today’s hearers. This includes understanding and explaining its historical and grammatical context. Expository preaching explicitly seeks to be “exegetical” (drawing the meaning *out of* a passage) and not “eisegetical” (reading a foreign meaning *into* it).