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Low's "Preaching that comes alive: Delivering a word from the lord" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Low, M. (2017). *Preaching that comes alive: Delivering a word from the lord*. Carlisle, Cumbria, UK: Langham Global Library. 288 pp. \$24.99. ISBN 9781783682447

People go to church every Sunday hoping to hear a life-giving word from the Lord but often find that they have to make do with either the dry crust of all intellectual sermons or the empty calories of emotional exhortations. This book provides preachers with the tools to feed their congregations with hearty sustenance.

Using real-life sermon examples from across Asia that reflect issues facing Asian Christians, Maggie Low builds a picture of a sermon as a body, taking you step-by-step through guidelines for what this body needs to come alive. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced preacher, you will learn to preach more confidently and relevantly through this skillful integration of biblical theology, homiletical theory, spirituality, and communication skills.

Preaching cannot deliver life unless preachers themselves listen to the Word of Life. Low guides the reader to examine the Scriptures thoroughly and to listen to God personally so that they can deliver a life-giving word to the hearers.

Low is an Old Testament faculty member at Trinity Theological College, Singapore. She holds a PhD from Union Theological Seminary–Presbyterian School of Christian Education and is an ordained minister of The Presbyterian Church in Singapore. She has extensive experience in pastoral ministry as well as being a sought-after speaker among other denominations. As a lecturer in Old Testament, Hebrew, Old Testament Theology, and Exegesis, she integrates biblical studies with homiletics and trains theological students and pastors to preach more effectively.

The book is rich with real examples that brings out the author's thought processes as she interacts with various biblical passages as well as her student's sermon manuscripts. What I like most is a whole chapter incorporated on how one could pray to seek a word from the Lord in one's preparation of a sermon. Coupled with the lucid way she brings across her ideas with economy of words, this book will indeed serve as a guidepost for me in the ministry of preaching the word.

In my humble opinion, this book would be a very useful tool for both beginning and seasoned preachers and is full of practical examples using actual sermon scripts written by the author herself. Indeed it reinforces that preaching is about delivering a life-giving word from the Lord.

I would highly recommend this book for all preachers.

Reviewer

Deborah McConkey, Horizon College & Seminary