**Preaching Challenges Today**

Based on Erickson & Heflin, *Old Wine in New Wineskins*, 58-93

***What solutions would you propose to these hazards to relevant preaching today?***

# Preaching on the Decline

\*Preaching in today’s worship service is being replaced by music, drama, etc. (pp. 58-61).

*Solutions/Advantages to Preaching* (some ideas from pp. 62-75):

## Preaching gives God’s Word (pp. 62-63)

## Preaching is personal and spontaneous (p. 63)

## Preaching confronts (p. 74)

# Listener Obstacles

## General Characteristics (pp. 76-80)

### Apathy

### Superstar Mentality

### Impatience

### Lack of Commitment

### Competition

### Demands and Concerns

## Characteristics Specifically Related to Listening (pp. 80-84)

### Indifference to Authority

### Need for Visual Stimulation

### Need for Movement & Action

### Attraction to the Spectacular

### Short Attention Span

# Preacher Obstacles

## External (pp. 84-86)

### Time & Priority Pressures

### Pressure to Succeed

### Pragmatism

## Internal (pp. 86-89)

### Lack of Training (in drama, literary theory, and how people learn)

### Uncertainty About Role (numerous hats, declining prestige)

### Difficulty Speaking to a Culture which One Does Not Want to Imitate

### Uncertainty About Style

### Struggle whether to give listeners what they want or what they need

# Church Obstacles

## Internal (pp. 89-91)

### Lack of Emphasis on Doctrine

### Lack of Denominational Loyalty

### Many Activities Not Specifically Christian (e.g., more time for announcements than reading of Scripture)

## External (pp. 92-93)

### Demand for Instant Relevance

### Lack of Interest in Religion in General

### Members Changing Churches Frequently

### Preacher’s News is Old (they already heard it before Sunday)