



## Consecutive Expository Preaching

At NHBC, we seek to embrace various core values that relate to each aspect of our vision statement. With regard to the ministry of God's Word, we value "carefulness." But what does that mean?

We believe that one of the best ways to preach and teach the Bible "carefully" is through *consecutive expository preaching*. *Expository* preaching seeks to discover the main point of the biblical text, and make that the main point of the sermon. By *consecutive*, we're referring to studying systematically through various books and passages of the Bible -- paragraph by paragraph, verse by verse.

Without going into lots of detail, we do believe there are various other legitimate Biblical models of preaching:

- Thematic approach (tracing progressively-unfolding themes throughout the Biblical canon)
- Topical approach (compiling Biblical data from various passages in order to see a truth more comprehensively)
- Systematic approach (drawing legitimate inferences from passages where the inference is not the primary point of the original context)

However, we believe that *consecutive expository preaching* is our best choice for the main diet of our pulpit ministry. Other types of preaching are built upon this foundation of successive Bible teaching.

Why consecutive expository preaching?

1. Human church authority is always derived authority – it rests upon the Bible. Seeing for ourselves that the main point of the sermon is the intended message of that Biblical text gives the sermon its proper weight of authority.
2. Without this kind of commitment, we might easily skip over many important but neglected passages, which are part of the whole of God's story. Imagine doing this with any other book – just reading a sentence here or there, rather than following the plot as it goes along. You might get a few of the details, but miss out on the whole point!
3. Consecutive expository preaching safeguards Gods' agenda from being hijacked by ours. What we *think* we need to hear and what God *knows* we need to hear are not always the same things. Consecutive expository preaching requires that we are confronted with *all* that God chose to reveal, and not just what we want to hear.
4. Consecutive expository preaching makes it harder for us to abuse the Bible by taking verses out of context. The Bible is not open to just anyone's private interpretation; we must discover what God actually intended to say. We are driven to do that when we are forced to consider the connection between a particular verse or section and the other verses that surround it.
5. There are so many different topics, moods, and writing styles in the Bible. Consecutive Bible preaching means that sermons are full of as much variety as the Bible itself.

Right now at NHBC, we are studying through the book of Ephesians at 10:30 a.m. and through the book of Exodus at 1:00 p.m. each Sunday. Come join us and discover God's Word – one passage at a time.