

**Communications  
& Homiletics (CL2)**

# **Arrangement (Organizing)**

**February 12, 2015**

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Lakeside institute of Theology**



# **Communications & Homiletics (CL2)**

Jan. 29 – Introduction to Rhetoric

Feb. 5 – Invention (finding the meaning)

Feb. 12 – Arrangement (organizing)

Feb. 19 – Style (answering real questions)

Feb. 26 – Memory (preparing to present)

Mar. 5 – Delivery (the presentation)

Mar. 12 – The Act of Preaching and Teaching

Mar. 19 – Applying the Principles; Final Exam

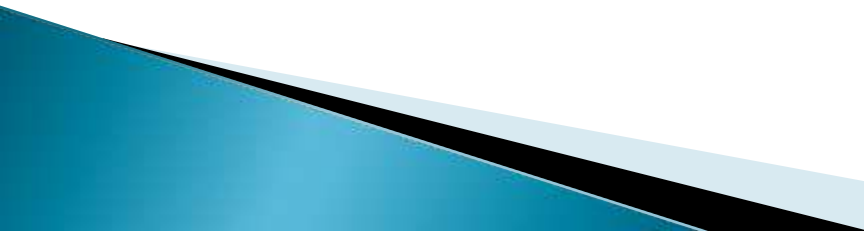
- **Rhetoric** – the use of language (logic + grammar) to instruct & persuade a listener or reader.
- **The Five Canons of Rhetoric** (per Aristotle)
  - **Invention** – evaluating your purpose and developing the argument or message. (What do you want or need to say, and why do you need to say it?)
  - **Arrangement** – organizing the argument or message for best effect. (How do I structure and organize my message to best communicate with *this* audience?)
  - **Style** – determining how best to present the argument or message. (By what approach can I best communicate *this* message to *this* audience?)
  - **Memory** – learning and/or memorizing the argument or message. (How can I be best prepared to effectively deliver this message to this audience?)
  - **Delivery** – the gestures, pronunciation, tone and pace used when presenting. (In the most practical terms, how can I best present this message?)

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# Elements of Structure in Classical Rhetoric

- 1. Introduction (*exordium*)** –from the Latin meaning "to urge forward." Tell them why what is at stake and why this is important. (Opening arguments: ***“tell them what you’re going to tell them...”***)
- 2. State the case (*narratio*)** – give the main argument, and all the relevant information (***“tell them...”***)
- 3. Outline the major points (*partitio*)** – name the issues in dispute and list the arguments to be used in the order they will appear.

# Elements of Structure in Classical Rhetoric

4. **The proof of the case (*confirmatio*)** – confirm or validate content in the *narratio* and *partitio*.
  5. **Refute possible opposing arguments (*confutatio*)** – anticipate that some people may disagree and address possible (or previous) arguments against your case.
  6. **The Conclusion (*peroratio*)** – sum up the arguments, and arouse sympathy for the case. (“*tell them what you told them...*”)
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# Case Study in the Elements of Structure

*“Why We Believe in the Resurrection” Sermon, from 2/8/155, at Lakeside Presbyterian Church.*

## 1. Introduction – Tell them why what is at stake and why this is important.

- ▶ Stated series purpose; read Scripture that established basis of sermon.
- ▶ *“...our Christian faith stands or falls on ONE ASPECT about Jesus – and that is the belief that, on the third day following his death, he was resurrected, coming back from the dead proving that he was and is the Son of God. This is, without doubt, the most critical doctrine of the Christian faith.”* Michael Green quote: *“...disprove it, and you have disposed of Christianity.”*

# Case Study in the Elements of Structure

## 2. State the case – Give the main argument, and all relevant information.

- ▶ “...we believe it (*the resurrection story*) because it has all the marks of being true. It makes complete sense to accept the biblical accounts of the resurrection as a reliably reported historical event – and that’s what I want us to look at.”
- ▶ ...Dr. Wilbur Smith, professor at Trinity Evangelical Seminary and one of the most important biblical scholars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, put it like this: *"Let it simply be said that we know more about the details of the hours immediately before and the actual death of Jesus, in and near Jerusalem, than we know about the death of any other one man in all the ancient world."*
- ▶ “Famed Cambridge scholar and professor Brooke Foss Westcott said: *‘Indeed, taking all the evidence together, it is not too much to say that there is no historic incident better or more variously supported than the resurrection of Christ.’*”



# Case Study in the Elements of Structure

## 3. Outline the major point. Name the issues in dispute and list the arguments.

- ▶ “Such bold comments in support of the historicity of the resurrection – and thousands more I could quote from great scholars and legal minds – reflect that the accepted Gospel accounts are FULL of historical facts.... We have details on the day and time Jesus died; the location; the events of his several trials; details of his torment at the hands of the soldiers; of the procession to the place of execution (with Simon of Cyrene forced to carry the cross); of the location of the crucifixion; the actions of the Roman guards in gambling for his clothes; comments from the other two crucified victims; the wording of a sign posted above Jesus’ head; the words Jesus said; the witnesses who were there; what time he died; how and when his body was removed.... And on and on. Historical detail after historical detail.”

# Case Study in the Elements of Structure

## 4. The proof of the case – confirm or validate content in the *narratio* and *partitio*.

- ▶ I say that because when information about any event is published and there are still people alive who were eyewitnesses of that event, those people are able to verify whether the written report is true. So we can reasonably ask ourselves whether it's likely the Gospels, describing events that occurred only twenty to forty years prior to their writing, would have been accepted and cherished as they were if the stories in them were false or mythical.
- ▶ It would be like someone today publishing a biography of John F. Kennedy that was full of stories and facts that simply were not true. The book would be contradicted at once. In the same way, it is VERY unlikely that the accounts of the resurrection given by the Gospel writers could be pure invention and yet went unchallenged in the first century.

# Case Study in the Elements of Structure

## 5. Refute possible opposing arguments.

- ▶ Nevertheless, in the centuries following the event, there have been many attempts to discredit reports of the resurrection. Of all those attempts, it is fair to say that only FIVE arguments against the resurrection have come to remain – the five accepted as the most likely non-supernatural explanations of what happened 2000 years ago.
- ▶ Those five arguments are the Swoon Theory; the Hallucination Theory; the Wrong Tomb Theory; the Theft Theory; and the Passover Plot. Let's take a few moments and look at whether any of these – the five VERY BEST attempts to explain away the resurrection – make any sense to us.

# Case Study in the Elements of Structure

## 6. The Conclusion – sum up the arguments, and arouse sympathy for the case.

- ▶ These FIVE – the best theories ever developed to try to explain away the resurrection, just don't make sense. As we say in the South, "That dog won't hunt!"
- ▶ My final two points are ones I've suggested before, but which need to be emphasized: The first is the complete failure of the Jewish and Roman authorities to even TRY to refute the Christian claim that Jesus had come back from the dead. ...
- ▶ And the second – to me the most compelling – reason to believe the resurrection accounts, is the extraordinary effect it had on the followers of Jesus.

# Case Study in the Elements of Structure

## 6. The Conclusion – sum up the arguments, and arouse sympathy for the case.

- ▶ John Stott said: *"Perhaps the transformation of the disciples of Jesus is the greatest evidence of all for the resurrection... ."*
- ▶ Famed Harvard jurist Dr. Simon Greenleaf said of the disciples: *"It was ... impossible that they could have persisted in affirming the truths they have narrated, had not Jesus actually risen from the dead, and had they not known this fact as certainly as they knew any other fact."*
- ▶ This then, is the resurrection of Jesus. It is the most fundamental belief of all Christians, the thing on which our faith is built; and THIS is why we believe it. Amen.

# Creative Points in the Case

- ▶ **Tell where you're going and why it's important.**
- ▶ **Use expert quotes to establish credibility.**
- ▶ **Give yourself permission to do something unusual or not ordinary.** (*"I will be using more quotes than is usual – quotes from historians, scholars and judges – people with special training and expertise..."*)
- ▶ **Make judicious use of catch phrases to sum up your major points.** (*"The empty tomb was, in fact, the cradle of the Church."*)
- ▶ **Surprise them by arguing the other side.** (*"Of course they would question (the resurrection)! What person in their right mind would accept without question that ANYONE really died and REALLY came back from the dead? ... There is simply no way anyone could believe such a tale... **unless, of course, it were true.**"* )

# Creative Points in the Case

- ▶ **Use a modern and relevant example to illustrate a point.** (*“It would be like someone today publishing a biography of John F. Kennedy that was full of stories and facts that simply were not true. The book would be contradicted at once. In the same way, it is VERY unlikely that the accounts of the resurrection given by the Gospel writers could be pure invention and yet went unchallenged in the first century.”*)
- ▶ **Use “quick lists” to build the argument.** (*“We have details on the day and time Jesus died; the location; the events of his several trials; details of his torment at the hands of the soldiers; of the procession to the place of execution (with Simon of Cyrene forced to carry the cross); of the location of the crucifixion; the actions of the Roman guards in gambling for his clothes; comments from the other two crucified victims; the wording of a sign posted above Jesus’ head; the words Jesus said; the witnesses who were there; what time he died; how and when his body was removed.... And on and on. Historical detail after historical detail.”*)

# Creative Points in the Case

- ▶ **Use humor – but only in a way that makes sense to the context.** (*“Devious plots. Mysterious sleeping drugs. Induced coma. Sneaking past Roman guards at the cross, and then again at the tomb. Spiriting away a not-quite-but-almost-dead body in the night. Somebody cue the “Mission Impossible” music.”*)
- ▶ **Challenge your audience to think and agree with you.** (*“And think for a moment about what this theory is suggesting: After a night in which Jesus was had no rest and was given no food, endured the mockery of multiple trials, suffering beatings and a flogging, Jesus was crucified – perhaps the most painful way that has ever been found to execute a person. After appearing to be dead, and being stabbed in the heart to prove it, he was given no food, no warmth, no medical care. Instead, he was wrapped head to toe in burial clothes and spices, and laid in a cold stone tomb where – after almost three days alone and without aid – he awakened... Does that sound a little far-fetched to you?”*)



- **Rhetoric** – the use of language (grammar + logic) to instruct & persuade a listener or reader.
- **The Three Types of Rhetoric Proof** (per Aristotle)
- **Ethos** – how the character and credibility of a speaker can influence an audience to consider him or her to be believable. (*intelligent, moral, presentable, of good reputation, trustworthy*)
- **Pathos** – the use of emotional appeals to alter the audience's judgment through metaphor, amplification, storytelling, or presenting the topic in a way that evokes strong emotions in the audience.
- **Logos** – the use of reasoning, either inductive or deductive, to construct an argument.