

## Notes on the Concept of Biblical Exposition

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*Princeton was a renaissance experience. I discovered John A. MacKay, a great Biblical preacher with the world on his heart. His way of preaching became a model to me. Along with fellow seminarians, I started Bible study groups across campus with young men at Princeton University... I learned that if I could encourage people to read the biblical text, it would do its own convincing. Blaise Pascal reminds us "people are generally better persuaded by the reasons which they have discovered than by those which have come into the mind of others. Palmer, (2022) 129-130. Citing Pascal, Pensées. 7. Pascal (1623-1662)*

*I have learned from Bonhoeffer's approach to Bible study. He would ask questions of the text as the words unfold. His introduction to the Cost of Discipleship gives an example of his approach in exposition of biblical themes. Palmer, (2022) 149.*

### What is exposition of the Bible?

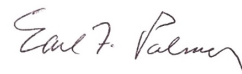
I define exposition as a teaching/preaching form that enables a text in the Old and/or New testament to make its own point here and now, and, in turn positions the content of the text within the whole biblical and theological witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Exposition of a biblical text becomes a natural way to make a theological and discipleship truth relevant and allows people to discover it for themselves. The goal is to help a person meet this Jesus and be able so say, "Aha, I see the truth for myself in the portrayal of the life of Jesus."

### Why exposition?

Exposition is an invaluable gift to teaching in a classroom, church or small group study because participants are exposed to the possibility of discovery. This is true not only for comprehension of content, but also because it can be the doorway into the larger whole of scripture...This form of teaching and preaching I call joyous for experienced and beginning readers [of the Bible].

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I would like to extend special appreciation to the members of the Earl Palmer Ministries Board and those whose contributions made this event available today at no cost for the attendees. Earl Palmer Ministries would like to thank University Presbyterian Church for their gracious hospitality.



Thank you for attending this event and taking time to focus on the teaching of Paul, a follower of Jesus, and examine the Biblical theology that serves to give guidelines for our lives as we strive to be a people of the Gospel. We welcome and are grateful for your support of this ministry. We invite you to "Partner" in this outreach through prayer and as you are able by making a financial donation. To make a tax deductible contribution, please send a check made out to Earl Palmer Ministries, PO Box 85117, Seattle, WA 98145. Or for giving online, see form at the EPM website at [www.earlpalmer.org](http://www.earlpalmer.org).

Earl Palmer Ministries is Pleased to Present

# A Morning with Earl Palmer: *Called to be a People of the Gospel*



As followers of Jesus we are encouraged to imitate, copy and test the truth of the Gospel. It is almost a dare from the apostle [Paul] to try on for size the love that God has shown us as children and then to live in that love... it is the gift revealed in the person of Jesus....It is a telling of truth, not of our own creation but of our discovery. What does God do in the circumstances as shown through the life of Christ?

Palmer, Earl. *Called to be a People of the Gospel*, Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books. 2022. Page 91. (Commentary on Ephesians 5:11)

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**Saturday, January 21, 2023**

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Larson Hall, University Presbyterian Church

## Morning Schedule

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Arrival/Pick up Name Tags

Welcome: Tony Whatley

Opening Prayer: Tony Whatley

Interview of Earl: Jon Palmer

*As I have immersed myself in the study of Ephesians over this past year, I am drawn to Paul's realistic optimism in the face of his circumstances. His centered faith brings hope for the world in the face of whatever conditions seem to prevail. Paul calls each one of us to invite God's presence into our lives and to stand with the truth of God's power of love. As I see it, we need to listen to these words today. Citing Palmer (2022) 123.*

Introduction of Responders: Jon Palmer

Ken Sunoo

Section I – The Journey of a Man from Tarsus

Part 1: A Life-Changing Discovery

Renee Sundberg

Section II – Paul Reaches Out to the People of the Gospel

Part 6: Grace Intervenes (Ephesians 3)

John Medina

Section III – Paul Offers Advice for the People of the Gospel

Part 7: The Truth of the Gospel is the Axiom (Ephesians 4)

Part 8: Walk in the Light (Ephesians 5)

Daniel Triller

Section III – Paul Offers Advice for the People of the Gospel

Part 9: Stand with Strength (Ephesians 6)

## Concluding Remarks: Earl Palmer

*Paul, in his prayer, now thanks the Lord for men and women who once far off but have now been brought near by the blood of Jesus Christ. This means that Jesus Christ himself is the one who has “broken down the dividing wall.” Because of his death on a Roman cross, he has proclaimed “Peace to you who were far off and peace to those who are near” (Ephesians 2:17).*

*What we see happening in this text is Paul drawing us toward the most significant breakthroughs. The reason dividing walls can be broken is that Jesus Christ stands at the center of every human encounter, whether or not we or the others around us fully understand the beloved mediator role of Jesus, who loves us and our neighbor... Christ's act on our behalf brings peace by breaking down the walls with his presence. If we trust and live by this good truth, we can become peacemakers too– in our neighborhood, city, country and world. Citing from Palmer (2022) 43.*

Closing Prayer: Mary Snyder

Benediction: Earl

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## Educational, Professional Background & Mention of Honors

### Earl F. Palmer

1953 – B.A. University of California Berkeley

1956 – B.D. (Now M. Div.) Princeton Theological Seminary

1956 – University Presbyterian Church, Seattle Youth/College Pastor

1964 – Union Church of Manila, Senior Pastor

1970 – First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, Senior Pastor

1987 – Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree awarded by Whitworth University

1991 – University Presbyterian Church, Seattle, Senior Pastor

1999 – Distinguished Alumnus Award, Princeton Theological Seminary

2008 – Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree awarded by Seattle Pacific University

2008 – National Presbyterian Church, Washington D.C., Preaching Pastor in Residence

2008 – Pastor at Large, Earl Palmer Ministries

*He [Earl] is viewed as one of the most gifted teachers of the Bible, with a unique style that unfolds the text and allows the listener to make great discoveries. As such, Earl has gained a reputation as a great expositor.*

*Old, Hughes Oliphant. The Reading and Preaching of the Scriptures in the Worship of the Christian Church. Vol. 7. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans Publishing, 2010. 108.*

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*Earl Palmer Ministries is deeply appreciative of those who came forth to be on the team who made this event possible, especially Dale Whitney, Director of Facilities/Hospitality; Kate Littlefield, former Associate Director of Hospitality; Tate Busby, Media and Photography; Renee Sundberg, Coordinator of Event; and for the many who served on the crew of volunteers*